

HABITAT COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON
UPDATE ON MARINE RESERVES ACTIVITIES

The Habitat Committee plans to review the report by Dr. Richard Parrish before the April Council meeting, and will have comments at that time.

Second, the HC has some concerns with the report by Dr. Shipp, specifically that there may be some misleading statements concerning West Coast species.

Third, the HC reviewed the proposal by the National Fisheries Conservation Center. Members were concerned the questions raised in the proposal didn't fully capture the scope and breadth of the issues. The HC will discuss this further at the April meeting.

Fourth, the HC heard a report that Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is considering prohibiting krill harvest within the Sanctuary. Krill are used as a colorant for farmed Atlantic salmon. There is no current krill fishery in this area, but the Council should be aware there may be interest in developing such a fishery.

Finally, the HC urges the Council to continue to follow marine reserve issues. Marine reserves have considerable support outside the Council process, and it would behoove the Council to stay involved and consider taking a leadership role. Marine reserves should be considered as a tool during the programmatic and essential fish habitat environmental impact statement processes.

PFMC
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