

## CORALS AND LIVING SUBSTRATE REPORT

Situation: There will be no report on West Coast corals and living substrate at this meeting.

Dr. Elizabeth Clark of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest Fisheries Science Center will update the Council on the status of ongoing efforts by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the area of research on West Coast corals and living substrates, and the potential of a progress report at some point in the future.

NOAA's Office of Protected Resources commissioned a report by the Marine Conservation Biology Institute on habitat-forming deep sea corals in the northeast Pacific Ocean. The report is included as Exhibit G.2.a, Attachment 1.

Legislation has been introduced to protect deep water corals and sponges (Exhibit B.2a, Attachment 4, S.1953).

### **Council Task**:

#### **1. Discussion.**

#### **Reference Materials**:

1. Exhibit G.2.a, Attachment 1: *Occurrences of Habitat-forming Deep Sea Corals in the Northeast Pacific Ocean*.
2. Exhibit B.2.a, Attachment 4: S. 1953.

#### **Agenda Order**:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. NMFS Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Discussion

Jennifer Gilden  
NMFS

PFMC  
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