

CURRENT HABITAT ISSUES

Situation: The Habitat Committee (HC) will meet Monday, April 5, 2004, to develop recommendations on the following agenda items:

- C.6 Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat(EFH) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- C.13 Bycatch Monitoring Program Draft Programmatic EIS

At the March meeting, the Council approved a letter on summer spills in the Columbia River, with some edits. That letter is included as Attachment 1. In addition, the HC has proposed two letters for Council approval. Attachment 2 is a letter on Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydropower relicensing in the Klamath basin, and Attachment 3 is a letter regarding NMFS' rulemaking on EFH. A letter on the NMFS Biological Opinion on the federal hydropower system in the Columbia Basin has been postponed until June, following the expected release of a draft Biological Opinion by NMFS in May.

The HC's complete agenda is provided in Ancillary F.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider comments and recommendations developed by the HC at the April meeting.**

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit E.1.a, Attachment 1: Letter regarding summer spill requirements in the Columbia River.
2. Exhibit E.1.a, Attachment 2: Letter regarding FERC relicensing in Klamath River.
3. Exhibit E.1.a, Supplemental Attachment 3: Letter regarding rulemaking on EFH.

Agenda Order:

- a. Report of the HC
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider HC Recommendations

Stuart Ellis

PFMC
04/23/04