

HABITAT COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON
GUIDELINES FOR REVIEW OF MARINE RESERVES ISSUES

The Habitat Committee (HC) appreciates the Scientific and Statistical Committee has addressed many of our concerns regarding the marine reserves white paper. In order to address persistent questions and issues regarding regulatory authority and policy considerations related to marine reserves, the HC recommends the Council encourage the writing of an additional paper dealing with policy and the Council's authority in addressing marine reserve issues. For example, there are questions about whether the Council can prohibit fishing for a species not under a fishery management plan. Other elements could include:

- an overview of organizations, interests, and authorities,
- how other authorities intersect with the Council (e.g., National Marine Sanctuaries, states),
- authority and limitations of Council under the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act to implement marine reserves,
- implementation mechanisms (depending on goals)
- catalog of ongoing science efforts that relate to evaluating proposals in a management context, and
- establishment of common terminology.

PFMC
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