

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Habitat Committee (HC) supports the proposed changes in the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary's designation document as a necessary step in the process of meeting Sanctuary objectives.

Following presentations received by the Council and HC about the fragile nature of the bank and the damage caused by certain types of fishing gear, the HC agrees with moving ahead with the changes to the designation document as outlined, which will allow the Council to proceed with drafting appropriate regulations.

If unanticipated fishing gear impacts occur in the future, we welcome the opportunity to revisit this issue.

We also support the proposed changes to Article 4, No. 1 that would minimize non-fishing impacts to habitat and the change to Article 4, No. 3 regarding authority to regulate the introduction of non-native species.

PFMC
03/07/05