

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Habitat Committee (HC) supports the change in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's designation document to include Davison Seamount as part of the Sanctuary because of the Sanctuary's ability to protect this area from non-fishing impacts. Davidson Seamount has been identified as potential essential fish habitat and is known to have a diverse community of long-lived corals and sponges.

The HC has previously indicated that it is desirable to prevent fishing impacts to the Seamount. The proposed prohibition of fishing activities below 3,000 feet will not affect any current commercial or recreational fisheries. If preventing fishing impacts can be best accomplished by the proposed changes in the designation document, the HC is supportive of this. If there are other mechanisms that can achieve this, the HC would also be supportive.

We also support the proposed changes to Article 4, No. 2 regarding authority to regulate the introduction of non-native species.

Further, the HC endorses the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary's proposal to regulate ocean dumping and the introduction of non-native species.

PFMC  
03/07/05