

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT REVIEW COMMITTEE (EFHRC) TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Habitat Committee (HC) heard a report on the Ad Hoc Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee (EFHRC) draft Terms of Reference that was prepared in December 2008 when the EFHRC met with Council Member Frank Warrens and Council staff. The HC also reviewed an EFHRC Statement of Intent that was developed at the same time to help clarify the HC's role in the process.

There was significant discussion about the schedule for the review process and the proposal process. HC members praised the level of detail in the Terms of Reference but felt that the required rigor was out of sync with the accelerated schedule. In addition, there was concern that the level of detail required could exclude some valid proposals from consideration. This might detract from a precautionary approach to habitat protection. There was also concern that the short time frame might not allow sufficient time for notification about the process and would not provide sufficient time for people to submit proposals.

PFMC  
03/12/09