

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON UPDATE ON
OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY (OCNMS)
MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW PROCESS

The Habitat Committee (HC) received a status update on the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary's (OCNMS) Management Plan Review (MPR) process from Mr. Liam Antrim, resource protection coordinator of the OCNMS. Mr. Antrim presented an overall update of the MPR process and timeline, and noted the Scoping Report, Topics Analysis Report, Advisory Council Issue Prioritization Workshop Report, and Prioritization Issue Work Plan in the briefing book. The OCNMS is seeking advice from the Council on how best to collaborate in addressing prioritized issues of the MPR of mutual interest and shared management responsibility, such as collaborative and coordinated management, research and monitoring, habitat characterization (e.g. seafloor mapping), and living resources monitoring and conservation.

The HC recommends the Council remain engaged with the MPR process and seek out opportunities for productive collaborations on those issues of mutual interest. It may be appropriate for the HC or other Council Advisory Bodies to engage with the OCNMS on specific MPR items and seeks Council guidance on how best to proceed.

In addition, the HC discussed availability of Navy data to inform the MPR and discovered that the restriction on Navy data had been lifted in December 2008. This development should allow for habitat research in areas that were previously unavailable and will allow existing University data to be released. This data will be useful for the five-year review of essential fish habitat.

PFMC
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