

CURRENT HABITAT ISSUES

The Habitat Committee (HC) will meet on Monday, March 5, 2007, to discuss habitat issues related to the trawl individual quota program, ecosystem management planning, habitat and fishery management implications of global climate change, and other issues. The HC will also hold elections for committee chair and vice-chair.

Council Action:

Consider comments and recommendations developed by the HC at its March 2007 meeting.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental HC Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Report of the HC
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider HC Recommendations

Stuart Ellis

PFMC
2/13/07

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON CURRENT HABITAT ISSUES

Zebra mussels or Quagga mussels were found in the Colorado River System in California and Nevada in January of this year. This invasive species of mussel has caused major damage to the environment and industry throughout the Great Lakes area since it was found in 1988. Since then, billions of dollars have been spent in the control on this invasive species.

The States of Washington and California are currently taking legislative action to extend the states law enforcement authority to combat the spread of this invasive species. Law enforcement entities engaged in the Council process are employing public outreach, vessel inspection, and check station strategies in an effort to stop the rapid spread of Zebra mussels and other invasive species.

Zebra/Quagga mussels may represent a serious threat to Endangered Species Act listed salmon habitat if it continues to move across the West Coast states. The Enforcement Consultants (EC) recommends that the Council encourage the Habitat Committee to work with appropriate Council committees to conduct a brief assessment of the threat to West Coast salmon and their habitat. The EC recommends these findings, along with a summary of actions being taken by the individual West Coast states to combat the problem be reported at the April or June Council meeting.

PFMC
03/07/07