

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVE SCOPING

The Habitat Committee (HC) was briefed on the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) initiative scoping and the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) Report. As the Council identifies issues to be addressed in the initiative to develop and refine indicators for the ecosystem, the HC encourages the Council to include indicators related to habitats of concern to Council processes. If the Council proceeds with a set of webinars as proposed by the Ecosystem Workgroup, we suggest the content of one webinar include ecosystem indicators and their linkage to habitat (e.g. EFH) and habitat condition. The HC supports the edits to potential FEP initiative A.2.8 (Cross-Fishery Management Plan Climate Shift Initiative) and suggests the last sentence proposed to by the EWG to be added to the initiative be changed to read: “The Council may also wish to consider whether it needs to periodically review how and whether climate shifts are affecting West Coast fish populations, fisheries and habitats.” With the continued and increasing attention to climate shift, the HC supports the suggested periodic reviews.

PFMC  
09/11/15