

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

The HC received a presentation from Dr. Lisa Wooninck on the annual report from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) aimed at enhancing coordination and collaboration among ONMS, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Council. The HC notes that national marine sanctuaries have been actively engaged in seafloor mapping and visual surveys of deep-sea corals and sponges via remotely operated vehicles or autonomous underwater vehicles. Many of these activities are part of the West Coast Deep-Sea Coral Initiative 2018-2020. Major objectives of this initiative include gathering baseline information prior to implementation of Amendment 28 of the Pacific Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; improving our understanding of known deep-sea coral and sponge bycatch hot spots; and exploring and assessing deep-sea coral and sponge resources within national marine sanctuaries with an emphasis on resource protection and other management concerns.

PFMC
3/04/2020