

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
REVIEW OF ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT - SCOPING

Kerry Griffin presented to the Habitat Committee (HC) on scoping for the highly migratory species essential fish habitat (HMS EFH) review. The HC supports this effort and makes the following suggestions:

1. A table accompanying the revised document should highlight the changes that would be made to the various sections.
2. The Council should consider the pros and cons of combining the coastal pelagic species (CPS) and HMS EFH reviews, given the high degree of predator-prey interactions and spatial and temporal overlaps among HMS and CPS species. The HC identified potential benefits of combining the reviews, including improved efficiency in reviewing the literature and analyzing EFH for the two fishery management plans.
3. In addition, as the Phase I review is completed, if changes to the HMS EFH document are warranted, then the Phase I reviewers should propose updated goals and objectives. The Council can use these to help inform their Phase 2 directives.

PFMC
3/04/2020