

## HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON REVIEW OF FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVES

The Habitat Committee (HC) reviewed the list of Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Initiatives and related online documents, and supports additional consideration of the cross-fishery management plan (FMP) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) initiative (2.4). The importance and utility of developing cross-FMP approaches to habitat impacts is highlighted by the emerging issues of wind power, climate impacts, and other non-fishing activities. The EWG recommends that the HC (or a new ad-hoc committee) work to review the cross-FMP EFH designations. The HC can work on this and would welcome additional expertise in the context of an ad-hoc committee if the Council so directs.

The cross- FMP initiative also has overlaps with two other initiatives: the Ecosystem and Climate Information (2.1) and Assessing Flexibility in the Fishery Management Process (2.8), which could benefit the cross-FMP EFH initiative by helping to refine static versions of EFH with dynamic management options that incorporate climate information in tools such as habitat indicators and species distribution models. There is interest by the NMFS West Coast Regional Office to apply species distribution models to topics such as dynamic habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC). Both indicators and distribution model approaches could provide opportunities for refining the cross-FMP EFH initiative in ways that could address climate issues as well as improve flexibility in fisheries management. The HC is happy to work with the EWG to provide greater specificity on relevant aspects of these initiatives for the next draft version in September.

PFMC  
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