

CURRENT HABITAT ISSUES

The Habitat Committee (HC) will meet on Wednesday and Thursday, June 8-9, 2022, to discuss Marine Planning activities, the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Action Plan, the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) Report, and other habitat-related topics. The HC will produce a supplemental report for the Council's consideration.

There are three primary Marine Planning topics the HC will be discussing. The first is a draft comment letter on the Oregon offshore wind energy [Call Areas](#), which were announced by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on April 29, 2022 with a comment period ending June 28, 2022. BOEM's next step in the process is to identify Wind Energy Areas, which are a subset of Call Areas. The second Marine Planning topic is a draft guidance document on ocean development activities to explain important Council concerns and expectations regarding analyses that should be conducted related to ocean development activities. The Council may adopt the guidance document or provide further direction. The third Marine Planning topic is the pending Notice of Intent (NOI) to develop a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Aquaculture Opportunity Areas. The NOI is expected to be published in late May, with a 60-day comment period. The HC should advise the Council on a process for developing comments.

The HC will also consider a proposed Action Plan to guide the next phase of the CPS EFH review and may provide comments. The HC will also receive a briefing on a report developed by the Area-Based Management Subcommittee of the CCC. The report is a compendium of spatially-defined conservation areas established by each of the eight regional fishery management councils. The report would ultimately be transmitted to NOAA and the Department of the Interior in support of efforts related to [Executive Order 14008](#) and the America the Beautiful Initiative.

Finally, the HC developed a comment letter on the pending Klamath Dam Removal project, which was sent on April 18, 2022 and is available on the Council's Correspondence [webpage](#).

Council Action:

Consider comments and recommendations developed by the HC.

Reference Materials:

1. *Agenda Item C.1.a, Supplemental HC Report 1.*
2. If received, public comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

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| E.1 | Current Habitat Issues | Kerry Griffin |
| a. | Report of the Habitat Committee | Correigh Greene |
| b. | Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| c. | Public Comment | |
| d. | Council Action: Consider Habitat Committee Report and Recommendations | |