

## HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS

The Habitat Committee (HC) commends the effort involved in creating this very helpful and organized database. It is exciting to have this tool available to document and guide research priorities. The HC recommends scheduling a yearly review of this document. The HC appreciates the effort to incorporate our concerns to date. After review, we have the following suggestions to improve clarity for accessing habitat research priorities and data needs:

- There should be a separate Habitat topic under the Research Focus category. If not a separate category, the topic under Research Focus could be called “habitat and ecosystem” since there is a lot of overlap between these topics.
- The HC considers all the habitat issues that are currently under Council Action to be research topics and should be placed under the Research Focus heading. For example, the role of deep sea coral and sponges as habitat for managed species is a research topic, not a Council action. This would be important so that external researchers looking to understand Council’s priorities for habitat research would be able to easily find these topics.
- We note that searches on habitat under different categories turn up different counts of unique records. By putting a habitat topic under the Research Focus heading, the full suite of habitat topics would be included.

PFMC  
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