

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON GREATER FARALLONES AND
MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES CORAL
RESTORATION AND RESEARCH PLAN – SCOPING

During the Habitat Committee’s (HC) discussion on the Greater Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries Coral Restoration and Research Plan – Scoping, Karen Reyna, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), and Jessi Doerpinghaus (PFMC) were present to answer questions. Regarding the consideration of potential fisheries that may interact with the proposed coral restoration and research areas, the HC recognizes the importance and value of conducting deep-sea coral restoration and research in areas not affected by bottom contact fishing gear.

The HC recommends moving forward with the scoping and analysis of all 10 potential areas. In addition, we recommend including a cost benefit analysis that accounts for habitat functions and integrity within the potential sites, as it would inform the final site selection for restoration and research. We also recommend that, in addition to coral observations, ONMS consider including coral habitat suitability modeling data in the public mapping portal tool and using it for future evaluations (e.g., groundtruthing model output, and comparing modeling results relative to coral outplant success).

PFMC
09/09/23