

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Habitat Committee (HC) would like to make the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) aware of two upcoming comment opportunities.

As requested by the Council, the HC is tracking the release of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Columbia River Dredge Materials Management Plan draft Environmental Impact Statement. It is currently scheduled for release on January 11, 2024, with a 45-day comment period. Because the comment period would not coincide with a Council meeting, the HC is prepared to develop a comment letter following the Quick Response process. The Council may want to consider requesting a 60-day comment period to allow some overlap with the March Council meeting.

In addition, the Hells Canyon Hydropower Complex is going through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing process. FERC anticipates releasing a draft supplemental Environmental Impact Statement in February 2024. The 60-day comment period would extend through April 2024, thereby overlapping with at least one Council meeting, if that schedule holds. The HC anticipates developing draft comments for Council consideration.

PFMC
10/30/2023