

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE TASKS

The Habitat Committee (HC) received a briefing from Kit Dahl, Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff, regarding this agenda item, including the Council action to review the initiative outcomes and prioritize future actions. The HC provides the following recommendations related to the list of ideas identified in Appendix A of Agenda Item H.3.a, EWG Report 1:

- We would like to reiterate the importance of focused research to evaluate the effectiveness of areas closed to certain fishing activity or gear types. This task would be consistent with #5 under “*Council Processes.*”
- To account for ecosystem considerations in salmon harvest management, the HC supports evaluating how to translate salmon indicator information (i.e., “stoplight tables”) into numeric or categorical measures of risk that adjust harvest levels (e.g., see our comments under H.2 related to salmon indicators). This challenging task would benefit from some of the available Inflation Reduction Act funding and would support #6 under “*Council Processes.*”
- We support the actions identified in #1 under “*Science in support of the Council process*” related to shifting stock distribution as this is the clearest indication of how stocks are responding to changing ocean conditions.
- Better understanding and accounting for non-fishing effects will become increasingly important, especially as emerging uses like offshore wind energy development increase. Therefore, also under “*Science in support of the Council process,*” we’d like to highlight the importance of 2c, 2d, and 2e related to “*Effects of Fisheries Management.*” The collection of high-resolution fisheries data for all fisheries (particularly commercial) should be prioritized to complete these tasks.