

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Habitat Committee (HC) anticipates a busy workload for the June meeting and would like to highlight some emerging issues for the September meeting.

Both Hell's Canyon Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Dredge Material Management Plan draft EIS are expected to be completed late April to mid-May, and comment periods are expected to overlap with the June Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting. In addition, the Council will take final action on creating areas closed to groundfish fixed gear fishing in areas within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to support deep sea coral research and restoration activities. June topics will also include the Committee of the Whole's Operations and Priorities recommendations, equity and environmental justice, marine planning, and the report from the Council Coordination Committee's May meeting. This report discusses the Fisheries Habitat Climate Resilience Innovations Workshop held in January. In addition, the HC would appreciate celebrating the hard work of Fran Recht (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission rep), the HC's former co-Chair and longest serving member, as she is retiring after the June meeting. For all these reasons, we request an in-person meeting in June as currently scheduled.

The HC would also like to flag for the Council's attention several habitat-relevant issues that will likely arise near or before the September meeting.

1. There are a number of upcoming Marine Planning issues for which the HC typically develops comments, including the draft programmatic EIS for California's offshore wind leases, the Humboldt Bay Environmental Impact Report for the deep draft terminal project, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's proposed sale notice for Oregon Offshore Wind Lease Areas, the draft programmatic EIS for Southern California Aquaculture Opportunity Areas, and BOEM's Environmental Assessment on site assessment and characterization for Oregon offshore Wind Energy Areas expected this spring.
2. The Queets Rebuilding plan range of alternatives will also be considered. Given the low harvest levels on this stock, nonfishing/habitat impacts may be under consideration.