

## HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Habitat Committee (HC) discussed the draft quick reference agenda (C.7, Attachment 2) for the September 2024 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting in Spokane, Washington. The HC requests to meet virtually for two days prior to the September Council meeting to discuss the following topics:

- The HC plans to discuss the upcoming salmon essential fish habitat (EFH) review, including the HC's involvement in that process, in anticipation of a possible early 2025 kickoff.
- Based on previous Council discussions and comment letters on California salmon matters, the HC anticipates providing the Council with updated information on California water quality management issues.
- The Columbia River Dredge Material Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is expected in June and the Hells Canyon FERC relicensing Supplemental Draft EIS is expected in July. Both documents will have a 60-day comment period. The HC is tracking both of these projects and is ready to draft comment letters for the September briefing book, or via the quick response process, as appropriate.

Other agenda topics for the September HC meeting that may be of interest to the Council and other Advisory Bodies include:

- A presentation on a national fishing effects database that was funded by the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Habitat Conservation and administered by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. The database originally focused on fishing effects on the East Coast and is now being expanded to include information from other regions, including the West Coast. The HC anticipates this online tool will help with future EFH reviews.
- A presentation from Dr. Clare Reimers (Oregon State University) on research that evaluated changes in biological communities, seabed characteristics, and sediment biogeochemical cycling associated with removal of the trawl Rockfish Conservation Area in Oregon.