

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON SPECIAL PROJECT 1: ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND FLEXIBILITY

The Habitat Committee (HC) received a presentation from staff officer Gilly Lyons on Special Project 1: Adaptive Management and Flexibility. The HC discussed whether there are situations in which “if/then” scenarios could be applied to inform in-season management actions in response to changing habitat conditions (e.g., freshwater flows, water temperature, and bottom dissolved oxygen) that may impact Council-managed species. At the Council’s direction, the HC could explore these concepts further and report back to the Council at a future meeting.

Unrelated to fisheries management actions, the HC discussed ways to improve efficiency in developing comment letters on Federal actions with short comment periods that do not allow sufficient time to prepare detailed input. One idea considered was creating a standardized, generic comment letter that outlines the Council’s authorities and general concerns regarding potential impacts to fisheries and habitat resources, without providing detailed, action-specific analysis, for submission to the action agency. This approach would not replace detailed comment letters when sufficient time is available or when a particular Federal action warrants more comprehensive review.

The HC agreed that additional discussion is needed between the HC and the Marine Planning Committee (MPC) to evaluate how this approach would function, what content it should include, and its potential advantages and disadvantages. At the Council’s direction, the HC could explore this further with the MPC, recognizing that it could serve as an exception to the general practice of providing detailed, action-specific comments.

PFMC
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