

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES (ONMS) REPORT

The Habitat Committee (HC) received a briefing from HC member and Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) West Coast Regional Policy Analyst Laura Ingulsrud on the annual ONMS Coordination Report that is prepared for the Council. The report provides updates on relevant activities undertaken in 2025 and 2026 as well as potential future activities. The report includes numerous noteworthy updates. Of particular interest to the HC are the habitat-related activities described in the report. These include:

- The Sanctuary Watch Condition-Tracking Tools.
- Kelp forest research and restoration efforts in Monterey Bay NMS and Gulf of Farallones NMS.
- Eelgrass restoration at Channel Islands NMS to recover eelgrass damaged by a decade of physical disturbances.
- The association between deep-sea corals and commercial fisheries and pending economic analysis.
- West Coast Passive Acoustic Monitoring to track underwater noise and overlapping interactions among marine animals and human uses in the sanctuaries.
- Oceanographic Monitoring in the Olympic Coast NMS of real-time oceanographic data.

The HC appreciates the focused efforts of ONMS on habitat and oceanographic monitoring that are important to fisheries resources in the region.

PFMC
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