HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND FLEXIBILITY – SCOPING

The Habitat Committee (HC) received a report from Gilly Lyons (Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council)) staff on scoping for a Council project funded by the Inflation Reduction Act to develop adaptive management strategies for Council managed resources. The HC recognizes the need for adaptive management in Council processes and stresses the importance of using habitat information to drive adaptive decision making. For instance, identifying and characterizing periods of habitat compression along the coast as they're occurring could inform management measures, such as temporarily shifting fishery effort away from those areas to avoid or reduce bycatch. The HC also discussed existing forecasting tools, like the Salmon Stoplight Indicators, that could be integrated into adaptive management measures. For example, they could be a component of a salmon management "if-then" tool. Although the HC would need more time to consider how best to do this, in general, those indicators could augment information from traditional stock abundance forecasts to establish adaptive management measures to access more robust stocks while limiting exposure to weak stocks. Going forward, the HC will look to provide more input on potential adaptive measures that could be taken to conserve habitat.

PFMC
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