



Council Coordination Committee

Habitat Work Group

2017 Overview

Role: The dual roles of the workgroup are to improve our work individually, and create products to advance habitat management with the help of the CCC. This group is useful for allowing Council staff to share the types of habitat related work we all do, identify collaborators, figure out common problems and solutions, and make our work more effective. For example the Swept Area Seabed Impact (SASI) model collaboration we are planning with the North Pacific Council is partly an outgrowth of this workgroup and conversations started at the summit last year.

Current Projects: The work group looks at issues across regions and can provide some new products and ideas that can move habitat management and science forward. This spring the work group is looking at the research priorities identified by individual Councils and will compare habitat-related needs across regions to identify common themes. Related to this, we started a discussion in January and want to continue to investigate how different regions coordinate on science needs between Councils/Regional Officers/Science Centers. The North Pacific, for example, has a very structured process that seems to work well for them, whereas other Councils are less structured.

Reports: The work group will provide the CCC a report of their findings on habitat-related research needs at the May CCC meeting.

Meetings: The work group held a conference call January 23, and plans to hold calls every two-three months this year. These calls will include presentations on items of interest that are intended to inform and spark discussion (new research, specific Council initiatives of broad interest, etc.), as well as time to work on ongoing initiatives.

Other: Parallel to but often related to topics of interest to this group, NOAA Office of Habitat Conservation is planning webinars/educational sessions on an ongoing basis.