

ADOPTION OF FINAL HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Situation: The Council is scheduled to take final action on the fishery management plan (FMP) for West Coast highly migratory species (HMS) fisheries. This action was delayed from March 2002 when it was decided that additional information and analyses should be developed prior to final Council action. In June 2002, the HMS Plan Development Team provided a progress report to the Council. In August 2002, in internal review draft was distributed for Council and advisory body review. The current draft (September 2002) contains revised and additional information. These revisions are summarized in Attachment 1. Draft implementing regulations and regulatory impact review are provided as supplemental attachments.

Prior to the March 2002 Council meeting, the FMP, with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), was distributed for public review beginning January 5, 2002. From January 28-February 4, seven public hearings were held to provide interested individuals opportunity to comment on the FMP and DEIS; summaries from these hearings are included as attachments. These hearing summaries were presented in March and are part of the March 2002 Administrative Record.

At this meeting, the Highly Migratory Species Plan Development Team (HMSPDT) will review the proposed management actions and alternatives. The HMS Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) will provide their comments.

In the draft plan, the Council has specified preferred options in some cases, and not specified preferences in others. At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to select options for final recommendation to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Public comments on the draft FMP are enclosed. Prior to October 15, 2002, approximately 1,400 letters, faxes, and email were received. Most all of this correspondence expresses opposition to the use of pelagic longline gear. Previously (September 2000-June 2002), the Council received approximately 7,000 letters specifically in opposition to the use of pelagic longline gear.

Council Action:

1. Adopt Final HMS FMP.

Reference Materials:

1. Draft Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan, Including Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Regulatory Impact Review (**please bring your copy with you**).
2. Exhibit D.2, Attachment 1 – Summary of revisions.
3. Exhibit D.2, Supplemental Attachment 2 – Draft regulations.
4. Exhibit D.2, Supplemental Attachment 3 – Regulatory Impact Review.
5. Exhibit D.2.b, Supplemental HMSPDT Report.
6. Exhibit D.2.d, Supplemental HMSAS Report.
7. Exhibit D.2.e, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. HMSPDT Report
- c. Agency and Tribal Comments
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. **Council Action:** Adopt Final HMS FMP

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PFMC
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