

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
APRIL 2006 COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) would like to point out that our next HMSMT meeting is scheduled for mid-May; therefore, we would like to offer the following comments on the Council's April 2006 meeting agenda:

G.1. Bigeye Tuna Overfishing Revised Analysis

The HMSMT would like to request that the National Marine Fisheries Service submit the revised analysis to the Council for the April briefing book and that Council staff distribute the revised analysis to the HMSMT (via e-mail) as soon as it is received. This would allow the HMSMT time to review the document, communicate via e-mail, and develop a report prior to the April Council meeting.

G.2. Recommendations to IATTC and U.S./Canada Treaty

The HMSMT would like to request that the final resolution of the U.S./Canada Treaty portion of this agenda item be reached via the fast-track process after the Team's meeting on May 8-9. The HMSMT did not discuss the U.S./Canada albacore treaty at our meeting this week, but we will discuss this issue in May and will be able to review the available data and make a recommendation that could be circulated through the Council via e-mail (e.g., on May 10). In May, we are also planning to review the available albacore landings data for both U.S. and Canadian vessels fishing under the treaty; these data would then be included in our next Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) document—we will have a draft SAFE to present to the Council in June and a final for September.