

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK, DRAFT SEPTEMBER 2006 COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA, AND WORKLOAD PRIORITIES

In an effort to develop a Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) workplan for the next year, the HMSMT identified the following HMS management issues and tasks to be addressed:

Management Issues

1. Albacore management
 - a. U.S./Canada
 - b. Response to IATTC and WCPFC resolutions
2. Bigeye tuna overfishing response
3. Potential yellowfin tuna overfishing (based on 2005 stock assessment)
4. Development of biological reference points for stocks with MSY proxies
5. High seas longline limited entry
6. Coordination with Western Pacific Council's Pelagic Management Team

Routine Tasks

1. Management measures for 2007-08 season
 - a. Vessel Marking Requirements
 - b. Drift Gillnet Turtle Closure Northern Boundary
 - c. Drift Gillnet Gear Requirements
 - d. Recreational Bag Limits for Washington and California
 - e. Recreational Thresher Shark Harvest in California
2. Exempted fishing permits for 2007-08
 - a. Drift gillnet EFP
 - b. Longline EFP
3. SAFE document
4. Council guidance on level of observer coverage for HMS fisheries

The HMSMT also reviewed the Council's current three-meeting outlook, the timing of the issues listed above, and the processes needed to address them, and came up with this revised outlook:

Sept 2006

1. Provide alternative management measures for 2007-08 season and draft EA (for 1a-e); Council approve for public review
2. Develop alternatives for albacore management
3. Address bigeye tuna overfishing (implement IATTC action from June)
4. Present final SAFE document to Council for 2005 season

Nov 2006

1. Provide final management measures and EA for 2007-08 season; Council adopt measures (final action)
2. Provide draft preliminary report on drift gillnet EFP; Council consider whether to proceed with drift gillnet EFP in 2007

3. Present alternatives for longline EFP; Council consider whether to proceed with longline EFP in 2007
4. Provide draft alternatives for HMS biological reference points
5. Potentially address yellowfin tuna overfishing

Mar 2007

1. Present final report on drift gillnet EFP; provide EFP modifications; Council approve for public review
2. Present draft EA for longline EFP; Council adopt preferred alternative (final action)
3. Provide revised recommendations for HMS biological reference points; Council approve for public review

The workload associated with the plan described above is considerable for Team members, Council staff, and the Council, especially given the other items already scheduled on the Council's upcoming agendas. Therefore, HMSMT would appreciate constructive guidance from the Council on workload priorities, and the proposed schedule to address them.

HMSMT Recommendation:

1. Provide guidance to the Team on HMS workload priorities and the proposed schedule