

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
THE NMFS REPORT

MOU Regarding Regional Fishery Management Organizations

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) is concerned with the lack of review of the *Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Regional Fishery Management Council Participation in International Regional Fishery Management Organizations Governing Pacific Ocean Highly Migratory Species* (MOU). The last draft that we are aware of is dated April 2007. We have heard that emails have circulated concerning the MOU, but we have not received an update on the MOU that will be very influential in our fisheries representation in the international management organizations. One of many concerns in the 2007 document is the proposed representation on the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Advisory Committee. In our view, having five representatives from the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (Council) and ten representatives from the regions and fisheries of the Western Pacific Council will not be equitable and balanced to the interest of the Council.

Bluefin Tuna Transshipment

The HMSAS recommends that the Council submit comments to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding Pacific bluefin tuna trans-shipment permits. Currently, NMFS is accepting public comment on bluefin tuna transshipment permits to the five Mexican vessels that wish to receive, within the Pacific waters of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), live Pacific bluefin tuna from U.S. purse seiners for the purpose of transporting the tuna to an open water grow-out facility located in Baja California, Mexico. This type of permit has been applied for and issued by NMFS for many years; the HMSAS is concerned about access to total catch data for bluefin caught in U.S. waters and transshipped to Mexico. NMFS should explain how catch information will be communicated to the Pacific Council.

PFMC
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