

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES REPORT ON THE NMFS REPORT

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) welcomes the data that would be gathered by the proposed Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) albacore project. This project is supported by the recreational fisheries people, who would be happy to aid in the collection of effort data. We hope that caution will be used in the interpretation of the results due to the small geographic size of the fishing area and the effects oceanographic conditions might have on the data.

The presentation of the White Paper on albacore management options has been delayed. If there is a time schedule to discuss various albacore management measures (we are unaware that there is one), we would ask the Council not to allow this six-month delay in the presentation of the draft report to compress the time within which the HMSAS and Highly Migratory Species Management Team have to discuss the draft report and its recommendations. The HMSAS would also like to emphasize that it is important to schedule time for the HMSAS to meet and discuss the White Paper while it is in its draft form before it is submitted to the Council. If the White Paper is to be submitted to the Council, this should be done after the close of the 2009 albacore troll and baitboat fishing season, perhaps at the November Council meeting.

PFMC
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