

## FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 2: ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

At the April 2009 Council meeting, initial scoping occurred on developing a fishery management plan (FMP) amendment to address revised National Standard 1 guidelines as described in the Final Rule published on January 16, 2009 (74 FR 3178, see Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachment 1, April 2009). Initial scoping focused on the need to classify stocks or species identified in the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) FMP, because (1) the National Standard 1 guidelines contain an “international exception” for “stocks or stock complexes subject to management under an international agreement” and (2) the HMS FMP includes a list of “monitored species,” which, under the guidelines could be reclassified as ecosystem component (EC) species. Only maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and status determination criteria (SDCs) need to be identified for management unit species subject to the international exception. EC species are not considered “in the fishery” and no reference points need to be established.

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) met June 12 and September 14 2009; the second occasion was a joint meeting with the Scientific and Statistical Committee’s (SSC’s) HMS Subcommittee. During these meetings the HMSMT developed alternatives to address these classification issues (see Agenda Item F.3.b, HMSMT Report). In doing so, they recommend a broader evaluation of management unit and monitored species in the FMP to consider re-classifying from one category to other (with monitored species becoming EC species) or dropping selected species from the FMP altogether. Another issue that was identified was assigning “primary FMP” status for selected species. The guidelines state that “Councils should choose which FMP should be the primary FMP in which management objectives, SDC, the stock’s overall ACL and other reference points for the stock are established” (§600.310(d)(7)). Since all the HMS FMP management unit species and many of the monitored species are managed species in the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council’s Pelagics FMP coordination to identify the primary FMP may be needed. In cases where the Pelagics FMP is chosen as the primary FMP the Pacific Council would not identify reference points for those stocks.

Because of these classification issues, the HMSMT has not yet developed specific recommendations or alternatives for the development of acceptable biological catches (ABCs)/annual catch limits (ACLs) and seeks further guidance from the Council. If the Council confirms the range of alternatives proposed in the HMSMT Report, then methods for identifying ABCs/ACLs will be developed for those stocks for which they may be required (i.e., not classified as an EC species, not deferred to the Pelagics FMP, and not subject to the international exception under one or more of the alternatives). Based on this guidance, a fully developed and analyzed set of alternatives would be brought to the Council in April 2010. Adopted alternatives would then be available for public review before Council final action in June 2010.

At their September 2009 meeting, the Council requested staff prepare a report on the application of new National Standard 1 guidelines across the Council’s four FMPs in order to determine how consistently they are being applied. Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental Attachment 1 is this

report. Although it is presented under this agenda item, it relates to Agenda Item I.2 (coastal pelagic species) and G.5 (groundfish).

**Council Action:**

**Provide guidance on alternatives for the application of revised National Standard 1 Guidelines to the HMS FMP.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental Attachment 1: Consistency Analysis for ACL FMP Amendments.
2. Agenda Item F.3.b, HMSMT Report: HMS FMP Amendment 2, Application of National Standard 1 Guidelines.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Christopher (Kit) Dahl
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Provide Guidance on Alternatives for Public Review Draft

PFMC  
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