

AMENDMENT 4 TO THE HMS FMP

Review of Proposed Changes



Background

- Combined FMP and EIS (August 2003) partially approved in February 2004 (800+ pages) – plus appendices (350+ pages)
- Amendment 1 (2007) incorporates bigeye tuna rebuilding plan and moves a lot of descriptive material in FMP and appendices (much now dated) to Appendices A - H
- Amendment 2 (2011, revised NS1 Guidelines) and 3 (2016, forage fish protections)
- Current FMP: 104 pages



Context for Amendment 4

- Although FMP streamlined through Amendment 1, HMSMT identifies need for more updates to descriptions (March 2016)
- Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 1 not changed from version presented in March 2017 (Agenda Item J.4, Attachment 1)
- If changes incorporated, the FMP would be shortened by about 35 pages
- Additional changes identified in March 2017
 - Align stock status determination process with Council biennial management process (H.2.a HMSMT Report)
 - Description of MSY specification related to status determination criteria specified in FMP Chapter 4 (H.2.a, Supp. HMSMT Report)



Overview of Changes

- Updated and Reorganized:
 - Chapter 1 (Introduction)
 - Chapter 4 (Preventing Overfishing and Achieving Optimum Yield)
 - Chapter 6 (Management Measures)
- Deleted:
 - Chapter 8 (Research and Data Needed for Management)
- Additional Changes not in Attachment 1 found in Supplemental HMSMT Reports



Chapter 1 Changes

- Minor edits in sections 1.1 (Purpose of this Document), 1.2 (How this Document is Organized), and 1.3 (Application of Federal Authority)
- Section 1.4 (Complexity of HMS Management) revision of dated discussion
- Section 1.5 (History of FMP) substantially shortened; contents of March 2001 letter from NMFS on “recent” management issues deleted
- Section 1.6 (Management Context) collapsed from 9 into 5 subsections: International Entities and Agreements, HSFCA, WPFMC FMP, Relationship to Existing Fishery Management, and Treaty Indian Fishing Rights



Chapter 4

Substantially Revised and Reorganized

- Remove discussion of MSY and OY control rules, revise discussion of specifying OY (and MSY in HMSMT report)
- Add new discussion about assessment of stock status including more information relative to international overfishing (MSA §304(i)) including “appropriate council,” revised summary of additional specifications if domestically managed (ABCs, ACLs, ACTs, AMs), new description of precautionary management
- More clearly specify SAFE contents (including research and data needs to replace Chapter 8)
- Remove bigeye tuna rebuilding plan (from Amendment 1, pre 2007 MSA reauthorization)
- Remove tables with dated information and figure depicting control rules



Chapter 6

Reorganized into major subsections; dated and descriptive material removed

- 6.1, Legal Gear and Gear Restrictions
- 6.2, Fishery Monitoring: Permits, reporting requirements, observers
- 6.3, Bycatch Monitoring and Minimization: Standardized bycatch reporting methodology, minimizing bycatch and bycatch mortality, protected species, prohibited species
- 6.4, Controlling Catch: Quotas and harvest guidelines (ACTs), allocation, incidental catch allowance, striped marlin prohibition
- 6.5 Other Measures: Treaty Indian fishing; reviewing state regulations; EFPs; weather; safety; DAH, TALFF, and DAP
- 6.6, Fishery-Specific Conservation and Management Measures: DGN, pelagic longline, purse seine; simplified and aligned with current Federal regulations

