

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE WEST COAST REGION STRATEGIC PLAN

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) was briefed by Jennifer Ise and Jerry Hornoff on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries West Coast Strategic Plan. The HMSAS appreciates the opportunity to ask specific questions regarding National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) goals and objectives for the next five years. The HMSAS reviewed the Sustainable Fisheries objectives and made the following recommendations:

Objective 1- Sustainable Fishing

Participation and Co-management: The HMSAS recommends clarifying and expanding upon the term “co-managers” throughout this objective to include industry as co-managers. Create a method of discussing with Advisory Panels on issues of disagreement between Advisory Panels and Council. The HMSAS discussed a number of co-management examples and the benefits of co-management approaches. Item 6 of this objective mentions cooperative research, which is important in its own right, but is also a stepping stone to co-management.

Objective 2 – Social and Economic Contributions

When considering enhancing fishing community resilience and supporting sustainable working waterfronts, the HMSAS would like to highlight this as a particularly important and vital objective. Understanding that mechanisms have not yet been established to achieve this objective, the HMSAS encourages NMFS to involve industry and other stakeholders in the development of programs intended to support fishermen, fishing communities, and working waterfronts.

Objective 3 – Stewardship

The HMSAS recommends adding the “U.S. industry” as a partner under bullet 5 and clarifying that reductions in fleet capacity are focused on international fishing capacity, and not limited solely to the U.S. fleet. Proposed revised text is included below:

Work with international partners and the U.S. industry to improve sustainability of shared stocks, address illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, and insure identical management regulations across the North Pacific Ocean.