

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) is concerned about a recent announcement to expand the national monument surrounding Johnson Island and six other islands and atolls in the Western Pacific Ocean. This is an exceptionally large area exceeding 782,000 square miles. Part of the U.S. commercial tuna fleet fishes in this area. This sustainable Federal fishery would be completely eliminated from the entire area due to the “non-extractive” nature of this Executive Order.

The HMSAS would appreciate the Council taking advantage of the proposed public comment period by voicing our concerns about this complete closure to all uses over such an incredibly large area of the Pacific Ocean without any due process at all. To do so the HMSAS recommends that the Council schedule this topic on a future Council meeting agenda so that comments on the proposed designation can be submitted.

PFMC  
06/21/14