

CHANGES TO ROUTINE MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2011-2012

Section 5.2 in the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) describes the biennial management cycle. Under this process Council decision-making occurs at the June, September, and November Council meetings to establish or adjust harvest specifications and management measures for a two-year period beginning on April 1 of the following year—the start of the next fishing year. This agenda item commences the third biennial management cycle since FMP implementation, with any regulations proposed by the Council becoming effective on or after April 1, 2011. Such regulations continue in effect for at least two years unless subsequently modified through the Council process.

At this meeting, the Council will review any regulatory changes proposed by advisory bodies and management entities. According to the FMP, if the Council decides to proceed with any such changes the Council then directs the Highly Migratory Species Management Team to prepare a draft regulatory analysis for the measures identified by the Council. This analysis will support Council decision-making at the September meeting—when the Council adopts proposed actions for public review—and the November meeting—when the Council takes final action.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) submitted a report proposing the placing of a per-trip limit on the Washington recreational albacore tuna fishery. In addition, as discussed in the situation summary for Agenda Item E.2, if the Council decides to adopt annual catch limits (ACLs) for any of the stocks managed under the HMS FMP, then the current agenda item would present an opportunity to initiate the process for determining what those ACLs should be.

Council Action:

Identify potential changes to harvest specifications and management measures for future consideration.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.3.b, WDFW Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Initial Identification of Preliminary Management Changes for Further Consideration

Kit Dahl

PFMC
05/25/10