

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

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has been developing an amendment to the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to address revised National Standard 1 guidelines as described in the Final Rule published on January 16, 2009 (74 FR 3178). At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to adopt a range of alternatives for public review. Final action to adopt a preferred alternative is scheduled for the June 2010 meeting. The Council and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are striving to have the FMP approved and implemented by 2011, the deadline established in the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act. (MSRA).

At the November 2009 Council meeting the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) provided initial recommendations for these alternatives. The Council provided guidance to the HMSMT relative to refining the alternatives further. They also directed the HMSMT to conduct a vulnerability analysis on shortfin mako, common thresher, and blue shark to assist in decision-making. The HMSMT met February 23-25, 2009, to review Council guidance, discuss the vulnerability analysis assignment, and further refine the alternatives per Council direction.

The HMSMT Report contains the results of the vulnerability analysis along with proposed alternatives for consideration by the Council. The alternatives are organized around five topics:

- 1) Classifying stocks in the FMP as management unit species (MUS) or ecosystem component (EC) species. Currently the FMP contains monitored species, which could be classified as EC species, MUS, or dropped from the FMP altogether. Likewise, some MUS could be reclassified as EC species.
- 2) Applying the MSA international exception to annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) for MUS. The Council directed the HMSMT to develop two options (in addition to No Action), one where the international exception would apply to all MUS and the other where it would apply to all MUS except for shortfin mako and common thresher shark.
- 3) Determining the primary FMP for MUS also addressed by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's (WPFMC) Pelagics FMP. All HMS FMP MUS are also part of the Pelagics FMP. PFMC and WPFMC staff met in December 2009 to discuss this issue and came to preliminary agreement. The HMSMT talked with WPFMC staff and the Pelagics Plan Team Chair to further refine the division of responsibilities.
- 4) Establishing reference points, including maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and status determination criteria (SDCs) for all MUS, and ACLs for shortfin mako and common thresher shark.
- 5) Determining appropriate accountability measures necessary to prevent ACLs from being exceeded, per the revised National Standard 1 guidelines.

The HMSMT is scheduled to meet with the SSC's HMS Subcommittee on Friday, April 9, 2010. Based on that meeting the HMSMT may include additional information on establishing reference points and ACLs to be considered under the alternatives.

**Council Action:**

1. **Adopt a range of alternatives for public review.**
2. **If appropriate, identify a preliminary preferred alternative.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item G.2.b. HMSMT Report.

**Agenda Order:**

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Alternatives for Public Review, Including Consideration of Identifying a Preliminary Preferred Alternative

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PFMC  
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