

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 2—ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS AND
ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) had a long discussion about HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment 2 and concurs with the Highly Migratory Species Species Management Team (HMSMT) on classifying stocks and determining the primary FMP. However, on applying Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) international exception to the annual catch limits (ACL) and accountability measures (AMs), all of the management unit species (MUS) should qualify for the international exception including thresher shark and mako shark. We based this decision on the HMSMT statement on page 12 of the HMSMT Report that says “The recapture data for the common thrasher shark also provides evidence of a shared stock between U.S. and Mexico coastal waters where as mako and blue shark stocks go well beyond the national Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) into international waters.” The HMSAS suggests that the U.S. initiate joint management of thresher shark with the Mexican Government.

On establishing reference points, the HMSAS suggest the council use caution in determining an interim reference point for North Pacific albacore until the North Pacific albacore stock assessment in 2011 and the international reference point for North Pacific albacore is determined in the future.

Considering the accountability measures, the HMSAS would like to point out that we have suggested that all of the management unit species (MUS) should qualify for the international exemption and will **not** require accountability measures or annual catch limits.

PFMC
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