

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Situation: Attachment F.1.a. is a progress report from the Highly Migratory Species Plan Development Team (HMSPDT). The HMSPDT has met twice since the November Council meeting, in December 1999 and February 2000. The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) is meeting on March 8, 2000 and will have comments on the HMSPDT's report. The HMSPDT seeks guidance from the Council on a number of issues:

Management Unit – Does the Council agree with the HMSPDT's initial list of management unit species? Does the Council support the concept of management unit species and associated species, with a framework procedure to move species between lists based on criteria?

Regulations – The HMSPDT has documented and compared existing state regulations for highly migratory species (HMS) fisheries. What is the next step for the HMSPDT on this matter? For example, are federal regulations needed? Should the Council defer to existing state regulations, which differ?

Schedule – The HMSPDT's recommended plan development schedule calls for Council approval of a draft plan in November 2000, public hearings in early 2001, and final approval no earlier than April 2001. Is this schedule appropriate?

Public Involvement – There is substantial public interest in this plan development process. Efforts are being made by the Council staff, states, and the HMSPDT and HMSAS to get the word out. The HMSPDT seeks guidance on the most effective means to interface with the public.

Limited Entry – The HMSPDT has a number of questions about limited entry should the Council decide to proceed with this issue. The Council may want to address these questions under agenda item F.3. – Control Date for Limited Entry.

Council Action: Provide guidance to the HMSPDT.

Reference Materials:

1. HMSPDT progress report and appendices (Attachment F.1.a.).
2. HMSAS recommendations (Supplemental Attachment F.1.b.).
3. Letter from Mr. Daniel L. Erickson, Wildlife Conservation Society, February 7, 2000 (Public Comment F.1.).

PFMC
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