

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL
STATEMENT CONCERNING CONTROL DATE FOR LIMITED ENTRY

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) met on March 8, 2000 to consider, *inter alia*, the control date for limited entry for highly migratory species (HMS) fisheries. The HMSAS recommends the Council establish a control date of March 9, 2000 for limited entry in HMS fisheries as a precautionary measure.

The HMSAS has not yet met to specifically discuss the advantages and/or disadvantages of the Council's adoption of a limited entry program; and, therefore, has no HMSAS recommendation in that regard. However, the HMSAS does recommend the collection and tracking of economic and other data trends by the Highly Migratory Species Plan Development Team (HMSPDT) continue for possible future reference in setting the parameters of a possible limited entry program.

As the HMSAS recommended under Agenda Item F.1., the Council should direct the HMSPDT to concentrate on the collection of the necessary data for the formulation and the drafting of the various documents required by the "Operational Guidelines Fishery Management Plan Process," NMFS, Silver Spring, MD, 20910, revised May 1, 1997 for the creation of an FMP. The HMSAS believes spending limited human and monetary resources on the various criteria that might become part of an HMS limited entry program would be premature at this point.

PFMC
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