

## UPDATE ON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT

**Situation:** The Highly Migratory Species Plan Development Team (HMSPDT) continues to make progress in developing the highly migratory species (HMS) fishery management plan. A report summarizing their most recent work is included herein (Exhibit G.1.a). The HMSPDT last met in September 2000, and will hold its next meeting November 14-16, 2000 in La Jolla, California.

Numerous public comment letters were received and are included herein (Exhibit G.1.b). Form-letters made up the bulk of this correspondence, when multiple copies of the same letter were received, a single copy of the letter is included with a notation describing the total amount received. This correspondence focuses solely on the subject of pelagic longline gear, and includes two lengthy analytical papers and many brief letters. The majority of the comments are in opposition to the use of pelagic longline gear in the West Coast HMS fishery. As of October 16, 2000, the Council received approximately 1,083 letters that oppose the use pelagic longline gear and 1 in support of this proposal; this is in addition to the approximately 3,000 opposition letters (the bulk of which were also form-letters) received prior to the September 2000 Council meeting.

**Council Action: None.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Exhibit G.1.a, HMSPDT Report.
2. Exhibit G.1.b, Public Comment.

PFMC  
10/17/00