

DRAFT HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Situation: The Highly Migratory Species Plan Development Team (HMSPDT) will present a revised draft of the fishery management plan (FMP) for highly migratory species (HMS). Per Council instructions, the HMSPDT prepared two documents: the FMP and an Initial Regulatory Document. The HMS Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) and other advisory committees will provide their comments on the draft FMP. The current schedule calls for the Council to adopt a draft for public review at this meeting and adopt a final draft at the March 2002 Council meeting.

The FMP was extensively revised following Council guidance at the June 2001 Council meeting. The HMSPDT will highlight these changes and additions for the Council. Moreover, the HMSPDT will provide information to help the Council determine if the document is ready for public review.

The Council continues to receive HMS-related public comment letters (Exhibit G.2.d). Most of the comments are in opposition to the use of pelagic longline gear inside the West Coast exclusive economic zone. As of October 12, 2001, the Council received approximately 8 new letters in opposition to the use of pelagic longline gear. Previously (September 2000-September 2001), the Council received approximately 5,750 letters in opposition to the use of pelagic longline gear.

Council Action:

1. Consider Adoption of FMP for public review.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit G.2.d, Public Comment.
2. Exhibit G.2.b, Supplemental HMSPDT Report.
3. Exhibit G.2.c, Supplemental SSC Report.
4. Exhibit G.2.c, Supplemental HMSAS Report.

PFMC
10/11/01