

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES DRAFT FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Situation: The Highly Migratory Species Plan Development Team (HMSPDT) will present a progress report detailing revisions to the draft fishery management plan (FMP) for West Coast highly migratory species (HMS) fisheries.

At the March 2002 meeting, the Council opted to delay final action on the HMS FMP until the November 2002 Council meeting. The delay is intended to provide time for the HMSPDT to complete additional information and analyses requested by National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and Western Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Based on their review of the information developed by the HMSPDT, the HMS Advisory Subpanel will also provide a report to the Council.

Since the March 2002 meeting, the Council has received approximately 180 public comment letters, emails, and faxes. Most (approximately 165) of this correspondence focused on concern about pelagic longline gear. One comment was received in support of commercial HMS interests. Several of the remaining comments asked for conservation-minded management. Public comments are included in the briefing book at Exhibit D.2.d.

Council Task: Discussion and Guidance.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit D.2.b, HMSPDT Status Summary
2. Exhibit D.2.d, Public Comment

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Report of the HMS Plan Development Team
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Discussion and Guidance

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