

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT REGARDING HIGH SEAS LONGLINE LIMITED ENTRY AND OTHER ISSUES

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) received a report from Dr. Sam Herrick and Dr. Dale Squires of the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT). They reported on the HMSMT's initial considerations for developing a limited entry program for the high seas pelagic longline fishery.

The HMSAS recommends the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) formally initiate an amendment to the highly migratory species (HMS) fishery management plan (FMP) to address limiting entry in the high seas pelagic longline fishery. In developing the FMP amendment, the HMSAS requests the Council task the HMSMT with considering the following criteria:

- Recent landings of HMS to West Coast ports, e.g., the past 10 years;
- minimum landing requirements;
- possession of a Western Pacific Fishery Management Council Pelagics FMP limited entry permit;
- possession of a California pelagic drift gillnet permit;
- history of individual vessel observer coverage; and
- history of individual vessel catch of protected resources, e.g, sea turtles.

Currently, relative to this limited entry program, the HMSAS generally supports full transferability of permits.

The HMSAS also recommends the Council schedule reconsideration of the March 9, 2000 control date for a future meeting, possibly March 2004. Reconsideration of the control date would be limited to the high seas pelagic longline fishery and the surface hook-and-line commercial albacore fishery.

Finally, one member of the HMSAS raised the issue of vessels failing to properly display commercial licenses when harpooning swordfish. The Council may want to consider asking the Enforcement Consultants to look into the issue of requiring vessels to permanently affix commercial fishing numbers to a vessel's hull or house.