

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT UPDATE:
HIGH SEAS LONGLINE LIMITED ENTRY AND OTHER ISSUES

Situation: At the June 2003 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) requested the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) provide an initial review of elements needed to develop a limited entry program for the high seas longline fishery. The HMSMT met October 1-2, 2003 to review analytical approaches and discuss data requirements for a limited entry program. Their report (Exhibit G.2.c, HMSMT Report) summarizes their initial findings and recommendations. More detailed information is available in the draft HMSMT meeting summary (Exhibit G.2, Attachment 1).

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) will meet November 4, 2003 to review the HMSMT information and discuss initial considerations. The HMSAS recommendations will be provided in a supplemental report (Exhibit G.2.c, Supplemental HMSAS Report).

The Council will review the HMSMT and HMSAS reports, and consider public comment. Based on this information, the Council is scheduled to provide guidance for further work on a limited entry program, which could include formal initiation of a fishery management plan amendment.

Council Action:

1. Provide guidance on amendment development.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit G.2.c, HMSMT Report
2. Exhibit G.2, Attachment 1 – Draft HMSMT Meeting Summary
3. Exhibit G.2.c, Supplemental HMSAS Report

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. NMFS Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Provide Guidance on Amendment Development

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