

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM COMMENTS ON COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND REPRESENTATION

Per the Council's request, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) discussed committee structure and representation at our recent meeting.

Generally, the current composition of the committee is in line with the needs of managing West Coast highly migratory species (HMS) fisheries. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)-Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) recently appointed a population dynamics/stock assessment researcher to replace Dr. David Au, who retired.

The HMSMT is aware that Mr. Jim Morgan has retired from NMFS-Southwest Region (SWR). The HMSMT was informed that SWR intends to continue providing technical and policy advice to the HMSMT, and that Mr. Craig Heberer (SWR) would replace Mr. Morgan in an advisory capacity.

Beyond this current advisory role, the HMSMT is generally supportive of having formal SWR representation on the HMSMT because of the usefulness of this policy and regulatory perspective. The HMSMT recommends the Council consider adding a SWR seat to the HMSMT, and request NMFS nominate a formal representative to the committee.

An important consideration in management of HMS fisheries is ensuring that management information (notably, PacFIN) is timely and accurate. In that regard, the HMSMT believes there is compelling need for a HMSMT representative to act as a liaison on PacFIN-related data issues. Dr. Herrick (SWFSC), with the assistance of Ms. Donna Dealy (SWFSC), currently acts as a liaison between the HMSMT and PacFIN. For the Council's information, the HMSMT notes the importance of resolving HMS-related PacFIN issues and recommends close coordination between the HMSMT and PacFIN representatives.

PFMC
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