

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES FMP IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

National Marine Fisheries Service-Southwest Region (NMFS) will provide information about funding necessities for implementation of the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Notably, because of funding shortfalls, work is pending on implementing the FMP including development of an FMP amendment related to sea turtle protection measures in the high seas longline fishery (targeting swordfish) and inter-Council coordination issues (see Western Pacific Fishery Management Council letter, Agenda Item F.1.a, WPFMC Letter). At the September meeting, the Council expressed frustration and concern about not being able to address HMS fishery issues. NMFS was asked to investigate securing necessary funds and resources for fully implementing the HMS FMP.

Based on information provided by NMFS, the Council will consider when to move forward with implementation of the HMS FMP.

Council Task:

Discussion.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.1.a, WPFMC Letter.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. NMFS Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Guidance on Implementation Issues

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