

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON BIGEYE TUNA
OVERFISHING RESPONSE

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) reviewed the list of options presented in Agenda Item J.2.a, Attachment 1 and support Option 3, which includes the list of recommended management measures listed under Option 2 and additionally would exempt fleets that catch one percent or less of the total Pacific bigeye tuna landing in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and establish an annual international quota divided amongst nations fishing in the EPO. It was noted that there would not be an objection to Option 4, which additionally includes revision of the current control date, but the rationale for such an action was not clear to the HMSAS. Furthermore, the HMSAS supports the recommendations made by the Highly Migratory Species Management Team to clarify some of the measures included in the options, such as whether the two-month purse seine closure is a consecutive period and whether the one percent exemption applies to all U.S. fleets or subnational fleets defined by location, gear type, etc.

PFMC
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