

## CHANGES TO ROUTINE MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2007-2008 SEASON

Section 8.3.2 in the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) describes the biennial management cycle (excerpted as Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 1). A biennial cycle is described with decision making occurring at the June, September, and November Council meetings to establish or adjust harvest specifications for a 2-year period beginning on April 1 of the following year—the start of the next fishing year.

The HMS FMP was partially approved by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on February 4, 2004, and all implementing regulations, including monitoring and reporting requirements, became effective in the first half of 2005. The Council did not consider management actions for HMS fisheries in 2004 or 2005 as part of the management cycle described in the FMP. Therefore, 2006 represents the initiation of the first management cycle under the framework, with any adjustments to management measures applicable from April 1, 2007, to March 31, 2009. According to the FMP (see Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 1) at the June Council meeting, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) provides an update to the Council on the status of HMS fisheries along with a preliminary stock assessment and fishery evaluation (SAFE) report. The HMSMT met May 8–9, 2006, in San Diego, California, and considered possible regulatory changes that could be implemented through the biennial cycle. Their report (Agenda Item E.1.b, HMSMT Report) describes these proposed regulatory changes. At their meeting, the HMSMT also reviewed the 2005 HMS SAFE document and discussed additions and changes to the information provided in the report. An outline of the proposed 2006 HMS SAFE is attached (Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 2).

At this meeting, the Council will review the regulatory changes proposed by the HMSMT and determine which changes should be considered further. The Council also has the option of identifying other, additional management measures to be implemented during the 2007–2008 biennium. According to the FMP, the Council then directs the HMSMT to prepare a draft regulatory analysis for the measures identified by the Council. This analysis will support Council decision making at the September meeting—when the Council adopts proposed actions for public review—and the November meeting—when the Council takes final action.

### **Council Task:**

**Select preliminary proposals for adjustment of management measures for further analysis by the HMSMT.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 1: Section 8.2 excerpted from the HMS FMP.
2. Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 2: SAFE Outline.
3. Agenda Item E.1.b, HMSMT Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kit Dahl
- b. HMSMT Recommendations Michele Culver/Dale Squires
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Discussion and Guidance on Selection of Preliminary Proposals for Further Consideration

PFMC  
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