

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK, DRAFT NOVEMBER 2006 COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA, AND WORKLOAD PRIORITIES

At the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) meeting in August, the Team reviewed the Council’s priority list of HMS management issues, which was developed in June, and discussed our workload and the timing of the issues to be addressed. Many of the tasks that have been assigned to the Team require analysis and, in some cases, the drafting of Environmental Assessments: routine management measures; exempted fishing permits for drift gillnet and potentially shallow set longline; addressing bigeye tuna overfishing; and developing a plan for the high seas longline fishery. In addition, the Council requested the Team work with the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) to review albacore catch and effort data in response to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Resolution C-05-02. To accomplish these tasks, the Team proposes that two joint meetings with the HMSAS be scheduled: one at the November Council meeting, and one between the Council’s November and March meetings.

With regard to the Council’s current three-meeting outlook, the timing of the issues, and the processes associated with addressing them, the Team proposes this revised outlook:

Council Meeting	Routine Management Measures	Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)	Management Issues
November 2006	Provide final mgmt measures (and draft EA, as needed) for: (a) CPFV/charter vessel marking requirements (b) drift gillnet turtle closure boundary (c) recreational limits (final action)	Provide preliminary update on drift gillnet EFP (guidance for 2007) Present alternatives for shallow set longline EFP—decide whether to proceed with EFP (preliminary action)	Present plan to develop/modify HMS biological reference points (guidance) Present alternatives to address bigeye tuna overfishing (preliminary action) Potentially address yellowfin tuna overfishing (guidance)
March 2007		Present final report on drift gillnet EFP; identify EFP modifications (if any) (preliminary action) Present draft EA for shallow set longline EFP (final action)	Adopt measures to address bigeye tuna overfishing (final action) Review plan amendment on high seas longline fishery (preliminary action)
April 2007		Present draft EA for drift gillnet EFP (final action)	
June 2007	Present draft 2006 SAFE document	Consider EFP applications for 2008 (preliminary action)	Present alternatives for HMS biological reference points (preliminary action) Adopt plan amendment for high seas longline fishery (final action)

The workload associated with the plan described above is considerable for Team members, Council staff, and the Council, especially given the other items already scheduled on the Council's upcoming agendas. Therefore, HMSMT would appreciate constructive guidance from the Council on workload priorities, especially with regard to the management issues.

HMSMT Recommendations:

1. Approve two proposed joint HMSMT/HMSAS meetings: in November and between November and March.
2. Provide guidance to the Team on HMS workload priorities and the proposed schedule.

PFMC
08/28/06