

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON HIGH SEAS  
SHALLOW-SET LIMITED ENTRY LONGLINE FISHERY

A majority of the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) agreed that there is enough interest by West Coast based vessels for further effort to be taken by the Council and other regulatory bodies in exploring the feasibility of a highly migratory species shallow set longline fishery outside of 200 nm. Some of the HMSAS members suggested that such a fishery could involve or be limited to a certain number of vessels based on certain criteria to be established, and the fishery could operate under the same type of rules as does the Hawaii shallow-set longline fishery that at this time can fish to within 200 nm of the West Coast. Concern was expressed over the process required to implement a management framework and how the time and effort thus expended could be thwarted at the very end, as has occurred with other proposals. The HMSAS recommends establishing a transparent set of standards on how to create a fishery.

Developing a coordinated conservation and management strategy and a joint pelagic fisheries management plan with the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC) would be helpful, but not a necessary prerequisite to establishing a high seas shallow set longline fishery of the U.S. West Coast.

A minority of the HMSAS (Bob Osborn, United Anglers of Southern California, and Meghan Jeans, Ocean Conservancy) recommend that the Pacific Council not take unilateral action to establish a high seas shallow-set longline fishery but instead should only pursue collaboration with the WPFMC to establish a common management framework for the fishery.

PFMC  
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