

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA PLANNING

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) would like to comment on Agenda Item B.1.c, Public Comment 4, a letter from the Monterey National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent, Paul Michel, to the Sanctuary Advisory Council. The letter indicates their intention to move forward without coordination between the Sanctuary and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) in answering a key question: does the Monterey National Marine Sanctuary need additional marine protected areas to meet its conservation goals? The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries, in a letter to Paul Michel and Don Hansen, refers to an analysis being conducted to answer that question. We encourage further review by the Scientific and Statistical Committee and National Marine Fisheries Service Legal Counsel of this full document to better understand the analysis and report back to the Council for the April meeting MPA consideration.

The HMSAS also recommends that with respect to Agenda Item B.1.a, Attachment 2, that the item on the September 9-12, 2008 agenda, HMS – WCPFC Northern Committee Actions: “Provide Recommendations” be moved to the June 6-13, 2008, agenda under HMS. The WCPFC Northern Committee meeting is in Tokyo, September 9-11, 2008, and if the Council waits until the September Council meeting, the recommendations will not be given any consideration.

PFMC
03/09/08