



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 25, 2015

TO: Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel, Highly Migratory Species Management Team, and Interested Persons

FROM: Dr. Kit Dahl, Staff Officer for Highly Migratory Species

SUBJECT: September Council Meeting

The Council meeting begins Friday, September 11, 2015, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento, California. The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) and Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) will meet Friday and Saturday, September 11-12. The HMSAS will be in the Capitol A Room and the HMSMT will be in the Capitol B Room. The meetings begin at 8 a.m. each day. Three HMS topics are on the Council agenda. Briefing materials for two administrative items are also attached. Summaries of these topics follow.

### G.1 Update on International Issues

This agenda item updates the Council on outcomes from the last Inter-America Tropical Tuna Commission meeting and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee meeting, both of which occurred between the Council's June and September meetings. Materials describing several recent National Marine Fisheries Service actions related to international HMS issues are also included.

### G.2 Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan Hardcaps

Over the past year, the Council has been developing a Swordfish Fishery Management and Monitoring Plan. The Plan includes alternatives for management of the California large mesh drift gillnet (DGN) fishery for high priority protected species hard caps, fishery performance objectives, and fishery monitoring. At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to select final preferred alternatives for DGN management and may make other recommendations on a draft Plan document included in the briefing materials.

### G.3 Scoping of Amendment 4 to the FMP: Authorizing a Shallow-Set Longline (SSLL) Fishery Outside of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

The Council will again consider authorizing an SSLL fishery outside the West Coast EEZ. The SSLL fishery was included in the HMS Fishery Management Plan when it was originally developed, but this provision was disapproved by NMFS because of potential takes of loggerhead

sea turtles. The Council again considered authorizing the fishery in 2009 but ultimately decided not to move forward. Under this agenda item, the Council is slated to revisit the issue.

### Administrative Matters

Briefing materials for Agenda Item C.5, Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures and Agenda Item C.6, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning are attached. Current three-year terms for advisory subpanel members end this year, and the Council will be seeking nominations for the next term (2016-2018). The Council may also consider changes in the composition of advisory bodies. The HMSAS and HMSMT may wish to comment on these administrative topics.

Paper copies of referenced briefing materials are enclosed. In addition, you may also obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/briefing-books/>. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website as they become available after distribution of the advanced briefing book.

Fun fact about Sacramento: You can visit the grave of Senator Capitol Kitty on the state capitol grounds. This feral cat lived at the state capitol for 13 years.

As always, thank you for your service to the Council process.

KRD:kma

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.5: Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item G.1: Update on International Issues
3. Agenda Item G.2: Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan Hardcaps
4. Agenda Item G.3: Scoping of Amendment 4 to the FMP: Authorizing a Shallow-Set Longline Fishery Outside of the Exclusive Economic Zone
5. Agenda Item C.5: Membership Appointments and COPs
6. Agenda Item C.6: Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
7. Informational Reports
8. HMSAS and HMSMT Meeting Agendas
9. Hotel-related Information
10. Council Roster