

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS FOR HMS AGENDA PLANNING

As the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) outlined in [Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report](#), there are several items which the team believes would be beneficial for the Council to consider when planning the future HMS agenda. A more complete explanation or reasoning is available in the G.2 report. Below is a list to remind the Council of items the HMSMT suggests taking into consideration.

Gear composition in the future swordfish fishery should be evaluated based on the following considerations:

- 1) Balance domestic production with bycatch mitigation.
- 2) Consider a goal of supplying as much U.S. swordfish demand as possible from U.S. West Coast product harvested within Council management objectives.
- 3) Consider whether to establish a timeline for authorization of deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) that initiates steps for DSBG authorization while the gear is still under evaluation under the terms of the current exempted fishing permit (EFP) to minimize any time lag between completion of the EFP and final authorization.
- 4) Decide whether to initiate consideration for authorizing shallow-set longline outside the Exclusive Economic Zone in concurrence with ongoing DSBG EFP trials.

In considering how permitting would be achieved, the Council may want to address the following questions:

- 1) Is a global swordfish permit with gear endorsements the most effective approach to permitting the fishery?
- 2) Should permitting (and moving to Federal DGN permitting) wait until all gear types under consideration have been authorized?

In light of the Council setting hard caps on high-priority protected species and given new bycatch reduction methods under development, re-opening part or all of the Pacific Leatherback Conservation Area could be considered.

The HMSMT requests the Council's guidance regarding ranges of alternatives and required analysis to support future Council action, including timing of agenda items and any specific elements to include.