

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) REPORT
ON HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS) ACTIVITIES

**Proposed Rule to Implement Amendment 5 to the HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP):
Federal Limited Entry (LE) Drift Gillnet (DGN) Permit**

NMFS published a proposed rule on October 31, 2017 ([82 FR 50366](#)) to implement Amendment 5 to the HMS FMP. The proposed regulations would implement a Federal LE permit for the DGN fishery. The public comment period on the proposed rule closes on December 15, 2017. On September 15, 2017, NMFS published a Notice of Availability (NOA) ([82 FR 43323](#)) and requested public comment on Amendment 5 to the HMS FMP. The publication of this NOA initiated Secretarial review of the amendment: NMFS has until December 14, 2017 to approve, disapprove, or partially approve the proposed changes to the FMP. Following the Secretary of Commerce's decision on whether to approve Amendment 5, NMFS could then publish final regulations to implement the amendment and issue federal DGN permits before the start of the Council's 2018/2019 fishing year (i.e., April 1, 2018).