

## FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) recognizes the importance of the Council's time dealing with a number of complex and diverse issues at each of its five annual meetings. The preliminary Year-at-a-Glance Summary ([Agenda Item I.5, Attachment 1](#)) identifies drift gillnet (DGN) hard caps revisitation as a possible candidate for rescheduling (a shaded item in the preliminary Year-at-a-Glance Summary). Given recently enacted state legislation (California) and pending Federal legislation, we believe the Council's time would be better spent elsewhere. We agree with the statement made by Mr. Ugoretz in response to public comment given during Agenda item J.1 that the Council is not obligated to revisit hard caps; but can do so if it desires. If the Council decides to revisit and consider a new suite of scientifically based hard caps it is likely the DGN fishery would be eliminated by the time hard caps would be implemented.

Removing DGN hard caps from the Year-at-a-Glance would allow continued scoping conversations on authorizing a shallow-set longline fishery outside the Exclusive Economic Zone to take place during the March meeting. Being cognizant of demands currently facing the Council's March meeting, waiting until June of 2020 (given it will be held in San Diego) would be our second choice.

PFMC  
11/18/19