

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

Swordfish Monitoring and Management Plan

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) recognizes as a precautionary note that there is an increase in the use of deep drop hook and line by recreational fishermen to harvest swordfish. We look forward to the state moving forward on further limitations on this sport fishery, and we highly recommend stakeholder involvement in that process. We recommend increased accountability (tags or report cards, etc.), because we have concerns that recreationally caught swordfish has been and will be going into the commercial markets.

Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

As a caution, in approving additional EFPs for this fishery, we need to recognize this potential problem.

Ecosystem and Habitat

The HMSAS would like to request that items which could impact all fishery management plans (FMPs) (ecosystem and habitat) be moved to the end of future Council meetings. As with this meeting, ecosystem and habitat items were concluded before we met – effectively keeping the HMSAS from commenting on these important matters.

Scheduling

The HMSAS would like to mention that more attention should be paid to the timing of meetings. It is difficult to prepare comments when our meeting starts only a few hours before the agenda item is on the Council floor. Hopefully this was an oversight and will not happen in the future.

PFMC
03/08/20