

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) discussed its upcoming workload. An in-person HMSMT meeting in advance of the June 2020 Council meeting is necessary to complete requested analyses for the Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan Report and Review, as well as other HMSMT assignments.

The HMSMT would also like to reiterate its concern with the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) review timeline (see [Agenda Item I.2.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report 1, March 2020](#)), currently scheduled for September, especially in light of potentially combining efforts with the Coastal Pelagic Species EFH.

The HMSMT and Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel held a joint webinar on February 26, 2020, where a concern was raised that ecosystem and habitat agenda items are typically scheduled before all advisory bodies have the opportunity to meet, discuss, and provide input. The HMSMT requests the Council consider structuring future Council meeting agendas to allow advisory bodies the opportunity to discuss and report on ecosystem and habitat agenda items.

Additionally, the HMSMT would like to restate its interest in having a participating Washington representative on the HMSMT. With the extensive workload, albacore related issues, and other recent staffing changes, having a complete roster is important for team effectiveness.

PFMC
03/08/20