

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT
ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Representatives from the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) attended the Legislative Committee meeting on Thursday, November 12. We very much appreciate the thorough presentation given by Jennifer Gilden on the Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act (OBCSA). The HMSAS is very concerned about the potential impacts of the OBCSA on our abilities to harvest seafood. As Section 401(1) states, “American wild-caught seafood is integral to the nation’s food supply and to American food security.” It is difficult to reconcile this statement supporting our activities with the Act’s other Titles which will greatly hinder our ability to provide American wild-caught seafood.

We agree that this legislation will not move during the 116th Congress. We hope the authors and sponsors would engage the fishing industry as it prepares to reintroduce this Act in the next Congress. We are also mindful that the incoming Administration may be considering an Executive Order implementing some of the Act’s Titles – in particular, Title II – Marine Protected Areas. If the Council is asked to weigh-in on any potential Executive Order we would hope you would question any language which would subvert the purpose of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

PFMC
11/17/20