

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

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) discussed the scheduled and tentatively scheduled HMS agenda topics for the March meeting, as well as those on the Year-At-A-Glance calendar. In relation to the discussion topics during this meeting, the HMSMT recommends some changes to these proposed agendas.

March 2021	April 2021	June 2021	September 2021	November 2021
NMFS Report		NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report
International Issues		International Issues	International Issues	International Issues
Biennial Management Measures and Harvest Specs		EFPs: Preliminary Recommendations	EFPs: Final Recommendations	<u>Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP)</u>
Review of Essential Fish Habitat – Phase 2 Scope of Work		DGN Bycatch Performance Report	<u>DGN Hard Caps (PPA/FPA?)</u>	
Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan		<u>DGN Hard Caps (Scoping/ROA)</u>		
<u>DSBG Qualifying Criteria</u>				

Underlined items are HMSMT proposed additions and shaded items are candidates for rescheduling.

Rationale for HMSMT Recommendations

Schedule final biennial management measures and harvest specifications for March

- Consider stock status for eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) tropical tunas.
- Consider whether the outcomes of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission annual meeting for 2020 satisfy management needs for Pacific bluefin and EPO tropical tuna stocks.
- Evaluate the need for additional recommendations for domestic and/or international measures.

Schedule Council clarification of qualifying criteria for a limited entry deep-set buoy (DSBG) gear permit in March

- Authorization of DSBG is regarded as high priority under the SMMP; the HMSMT wishes to avoid delaying implementation.
- The HMSMT will need to schedule a webinar/meeting prior to March to prepare recommendations should the Council schedule this item for March.

Schedule agenda items for revising hard cap regulations, starting with the June 2021 meeting

- Prioritizes clarification of DSBG qualifying criteria which could be accomplished in one meeting.
- Council review of DGN bycatch performance metrics are also scheduled for the June 2021 meeting, and the time leading up to the meeting may provide more clarity on other factors affecting the fishery (e.g., pending litigation and legislation).
- Identified in the SMMP, hard caps were a high priority topic prior to the Council's consideration of authorizing DSBG; plans for hard caps may be critical to determining next steps in updating the SMMP.

Schedule the SMMP agenda topic at a future meeting after agenda topics dedicated to revising hard cap regulations are complete

- There are several pending data needs with respect to fulfilling the Council's request from the November 2019 Council meeting for more information concerning swordfish imports and associated environmental impacts, including some that were identified at the current meeting.
- If meeting in-person is possible by November 2021, a Council meeting in Costa Mesa, California could maximize participation by members of the swordfish fleet.

Scheduling of Advisory Body meetings

As requested during the September Council meeting the HMSMT reiterates its request that for future virtual meetings, the Council spread advisory body meetings out over a longer time period prior to the Council's discussion. Staggering of these meetings could reduce overlap of advisory body meeting obligations and provide opportunity for inter-advisory body participation, statement reviews, and responses.

PFMC
11/17/20