

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
STANDARDIZED BYCATCH REPORTING METHODOLOGY

This report addresses the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff recommendations for necessary updates, as well as the Highly Migratory Species Management (HMSMT) suggestions for next steps.

The HMSMT agrees with Council staff recommendations incorporated within the scoping report ([Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 2](#)) that the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and potentially supporting documents, need to be updated and text needs to be added to comply with Standardized Bycatch Report Monitoring (SBRM) requirements. Consequently, the HMSMT suggests that an FMP amendment be considered to succinctly incorporate SBRM requirements. The FMP amendment may include a description of SBRM for each HMS fishery, including new language to better characterize and update the FMP with more recent practices of the Council and/or Regional Fishery Management Organizations that relate to SBRM requirements. Drift Gillnet (DGN) Performance Metrics may be an example of the latter by addressing data uncertainty in finfish bycatch. In effort to be succinct, such descriptions could include cross references and document relevant reporting in the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) and other reports (e.g., information more regularly updated).

The HMSMT anticipates needing a virtual meeting in advance of the upcoming September Council meeting to discuss and draft proposed language to amend the FMP, and construct relevant text and reference to supporting documents (e.g., SAFE) for Council consideration, as appropriate. Additionally, the HMSMT sees a need for the Council to consider proposed amendment language for meeting SBRM requirements at the September meeting to provide feedback to the HMSMT in advance of taking final action on an FMP amendment at the November meeting.

PFMC
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