

## HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) received a presentation from Mr. Kerry Griffin on Agenda Item C.4, Marine Planning. We also reviewed statements submitted by other advisory bodies and the public. After discussion and deliberation, the HMSAS agrees with the Habitat Committee's recommendations and recommends Option B (with clarifications) as a short-term option to address the immediate marine planning issues requiring Council attention until a new advisory body is formed. For the long term, we support the formation of an independent advisory body that provides a strong stakeholder/conservation presence.

We understand that formation of a new advisory body will take time; and not likely be functional and operational in the near term. Given the speed with which new information is being made public, time is of the essence. Just this past Monday it was revealed that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management intends to conduct lease sales off the California Coast in both the Humboldt Wind Energy Area and the newly-expanded Morro Bay Call Area next summer. Coupled with the imminent announcement of additional Call Areas as well as the recent interest expressed in placing an offshore wind farm off the Washington coast, time is not a luxury we have.

Regarding Option B, we could not center on what was meant by "liaison model" so we offer the following as a replacement, "Add positions from each Subpanel to ensure fishing industry/community expertise." We also believe the Council would benefit from considering whether:

- the addition of someone from National Marine Fisheries Service with a background in fisheries economics is appropriate. Ex-vessel revenues are easy to find, but the true economic contribution/impact of our fisheries is more difficult to quantify.
- the addition of someone from the United States Coast Guard is appropriate, as navigational issues will surely be implicated.

We thank the States for submitting the Report in April and thank the Council for addressing this important matter. As one of our members said during our deliberations, "there has never been a bigger threat to our fisheries than offshore wind."

PFMC  
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