

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM
REPORT ON FINAL REGIONAL OPERATING AGREEMENT

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) discussed revisions to the Regional Operating Agreement and took note of the duties of the Council to address Federal review requirements, e.g., National Environmental Policy Act, Magnuson Stevens Act, Executive Order 12866, and Regulatory Flexibility Act. The HMSMT discussed a possibility of increasing its contribution to the Federal review workload. While the HMSMT sees the potential to increase efficiency with this approach, some members of the HMSMT questioned whether they have adequate access to necessary training and guidance to effectively interpret and navigate how the relevant Federal review requirements apply to Council actions. To this point, the HMSMT suggests that the Council, NMFS, or both, consider whether trainings or guidance documents could be provided to Council advisory body members in an effort to foster a proficient and shared interpretation of what the Federal review requirements are and how they apply to Council actions and future agenda and workload planning.

PFMC
11/18/2021