

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FUTURE
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) notes that there are a number of substantial HMS items on the June Council meeting agenda, including international issues and selection of a drift gillnet (DGN) hard caps preliminary preferred alternative. With respect to international issues, further development of a North Pacific albacore harvest strategy by the Northern Committee is expected, and the ISC is conducting a full benchmark stock assessment for Pacific bluefin, which could influence current stock rebuilding measures. Given these topics, the HMSAS recognizes that some items may have to be deferred to the September Council meeting.

The HMSAS also requests a one-day online meeting the week before the June Council meeting. This would help the HMSAS begin developing reports that would be further developed and finalized as part of its regular meeting occurring in conjunction with the June Council meeting. There are issues beyond HMS, such as marine planning and ecosystem, that are occurring with increasing frequency on Council agendas. In some cases, the HMSAS has had limited opportunities to develop recommendations for these items because of how they are scheduled on the Council agenda. For example, at this meeting, Marine Planning, Agenda Item C.2, is on the agenda the day following the start of the HMSAS meeting, giving limited time to develop a report absent advance work by email. Having a one-day online meeting a week in advance of the Council meeting would help the HMSAS in this regard.

Given the high likelihood of items of interest being discussed in April related to marine planning, the **HMSAS recommends the Council add Marine Planning to the April Agenda**. For example, publication in the Federal Register of: (1) Call Areas off Oregon, (2) a Draft Environmental Assessment for the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area, and (3) a Notice of Intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Aquaculture Opportunity Areas off Southern California. The Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee is planning to meet on the afternoon of April 5 and the **HMSAS would request a one-day online meeting of the HMSAS be scheduled shortly thereafter** to allow the Council to receive our comments and/or recommendations on items the Council may be considering or discussing.

PFMC
03/11/22