

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

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) reviewed the draft September agenda ([Agenda item C.8, Attachment 2](#)) and Year-at-a-Glance ([Agenda Item C.8, Attachment 1](#)) and offers the following comments and recommendations for Council consideration.

Regarding the September Agenda:

**Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP)**- The HMSMT is concerned about having sufficient time to complete the outstanding tasks associated with the SMMP agenda item that the Council requested in 2019. Based on discussions during this meeting, the HMSMT understands that completing the hard caps analysis to support Council adoption of a preferred alternative in November is a priority. Therefore, the HMSMT proposes for the Council to schedule an SMMP agenda item after the November 2022 meeting for HMSMT reporting to the Council on the outstanding SMMP tasks.

Regarding the November Agenda:

**Drift Gillnet (DGN) Performance Metrics**- Like with the SMMP, the HMSMT is concerned about combining this workload with the hard caps workload and recommends postponing DGN Performance Metrics until after the November 2022 meeting. The HMSMT discussed that this agenda is typically scheduled for June Council meetings based on fishery data availability and related processes to estimate total DGN fishery bycatch. Further, there is a two-year time lag between the terminal year of fishery information considered and the Council's review of fishery performance. Therefore, if the Council is interested in the DGN Performance Metrics review including data through 2021, they could schedule this agenda item for June 2023.

**Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Review**- The HMSMT requests the Council to unshade and retitle the "phase II report" as a "phase II update" for the November meeting. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Council recently received funding to carry out Phase II. As a result, the HMSMT is working with Council, NMFS West Coast Region, and Southwest Fisheries Science Center staff to move forward with the HMS EFH review, per the Phase II Action Plan adopted in March 2021 (see [Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 1, March 2021](#)). The HMSMT can provide an update on progress and recommendations for further Council consideration of EFH Review work at future meetings, taking into account coordination with subject matter experts involved in the Coastal Pelagic Species EFH review.

**DGN Hard Caps**- Given that the HMSMT has yet to complete an analysis of the Council's Range of Alternatives on hard caps, the HMSMT requests reflecting the November agenda as

Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) / Final Preferred Alternative (FPA). A substantial amount of work remains to carry out the Council’s direction “to address the deficiencies NMFS identified in the original proposal and described in a June 9, 2017, letter to the Council ([Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2, June 2017](#)).” Given that, the HMSMT anticipates careful consideration of whether the analysis and supporting documentation is sufficient for taking final action during the November meeting, or whether adoption of a PPA would be more prudent at that time.

Notwithstanding Council guidance at this meeting, the HMSMT anticipates the need for additional meeting time between now and the September meeting, and again before the November meeting. The HMSMT believes they can accomplish much of this work virtually, but requests Council support for at least one in-person HMSMT meeting between now and the November meeting.

PFMC

06/14/22