

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVES APPENDIX AND NEW INITIATIVE

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) received an update on the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Initiatives Appendix and new Initiatives from Dr. Kit Dahl. We support approval of the draft updates to the FEP Appendix.

Acknowledging that science is the underpinning of our fisheries management process, we support the initiatives focused on improving the quantity and quality of the science which informs our discussions and your decisions. The HMSAS reviewed the candidate initiatives and recognized that many of the goals articulated can be addressed by:

- Initiating a range of science-focused activities focused on current trends;
- Implementing revisions to ongoing management processes that takes into consideration a wide array of data including information gathered from fishery participants; and
- Continuing collaboration with agencies and stakeholder groups with a focus on providing the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to food production and recreational opportunities, and taking into account the protection of marine ecosystems.

Fishery participants are on the water and there could be opportunities to collaboratively gain important data. For example, albacore fishery participants have been utilized by the SWFSC to deploy tags to assist in gathering important information.

Further, the HMSAS emphasizes that collaboration with participants in the fisheries and their communities will increase the potential for successfully achieving the goals articulated by the candidate initiatives.

We support prioritizing Initiative 2.2 - Science Policy and Planning for Understanding the Effects of Oceanographic Conditions and Recruitment on Council-Managed Finfish Species. We acknowledge this could be incorporated under Initiative 2.1 - Ecosystem and Climate Information for Species, Fisheries, and Fishery Management Plans.

A majority of the HMSAS encourages taking a cautious approach that guards against over-reactions based solely on forecasted climate trends and model projections that are not supported by observed evidence.