

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

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) discussed the March agenda ([Agenda Item C.10, Attachment 2](#)) and Future Year-At-A-Glance (YAG) ([Agenda Item C.10, Attachment 1](#)). The table below summarizes the HMSMT’s recommendations for scheduling Council agenda items for meetings in 2023. The HMSMT has indicated proposed items for removal by strikethroughs.

March (proposed virtual)	June	September	November
NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS report	NMFS report
International	International	International	International
<del>Biennial Mgt</del>	EFP preliminary	EFP final	EFH-FPA
<del>Measures &amp; Harvest</del>	DGN Bycatch	EFH - ROA/PPA	<del>Biennial Mgt</del>
<del>Spex - Final</del>	Performance Report	Opah stock considerations	<del>Measures &amp; Harvest</del>
<del>EFPs - Criteria</del>	SMMP Workshop Planning <b>OR</b> Hard Caps	EFPs - Criteria	<del>Spex - SDC</del>
			<del>Recomm. Prelim</del>

We offer the following comments and recommendations for Council consideration.

- It is the HMSMT’s understanding that the remaining work under the Biennial Management Cycle was completed at this November meeting, and there is no need for that agenda item on the March meeting.
- With respect to Council direction to the HMSMT to consider criteria in March for modified Deep Set Buoy Gear (DSBG) applications, the HMSMT recommends postponing that work until after authorized DSBG permits have been issued (i.e., at least the first batch of limited entry permits).
- Looking ahead to June, the HMSMT requests that the Council postpone consideration of additional standard and linked DSBG Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) (as proposed for authorization) until after authorization occurs and related permits are issued. However, the Council could still entertain EFP applications for other activities in 2023.

- The HMSMT requests that the Council consider rescheduling Hard Caps until after the March meeting to allow for development of the additional analyses requested by the Council at this November 2022 meeting and to allow for implementation of DSBG authorization.
- The HMSMT notes that due to the workload associated with completing analyses and reports for discussion of final action on Hard Caps, there was insufficient time to also discuss the Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP) and associated workshop planning at this November meeting.
- The HMSMT requests that the Council prioritize either Hard Caps or the SMMP Workshop Planning and not seek to schedule both for the same meeting. This is due to the complexity of both Hard Caps and the SMMP agenda items, and recognition for the HMSMT workload in preparing for the Council's Essential Fish Habitat review next fall. The HMSMT also discussed the relationship between the Hard Cap and SMMP agenda items, and whether Council Workshop Planning and consideration for SMMP goals, future EFP criteria, and performance metrics may be helpful to the HMSMT's tasks under Hard Caps. The HMSMT requests an in-person meeting for the discussion of either of these agenda topics.
- The HMSMT suggests postponing the Biennial Management Cycle agenda item slated for the November 2023 meeting.
- Depending on the Council's final version of the March 2023 meeting agenda, the HMSMT may wish to schedule an interim meeting in January 2023 to prepare.

PFMC  
11/07/22