

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT
ON DRIFT GILLNET HARD CAPS UPDATE

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) offers the following comment and recommendation on Drift Gillnet (DGN) Hard Caps. The inclusion of the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act in the omnibus spending package will result in the phasing out of the DGN fishery in Federal waters within 5 years. This coupled with the workload required upon National Marine Fisheries Service to both implement any hard caps and develop and implement a transition program, leads us to recommend the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) discontinue the proposed action.

We do wish express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Dr. Steve Stohs and the other members of the HMFS Management Team for their tireless efforts and detailed analysis.

PFMC
3/08/23