



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Brad Pettinger, Chair | Merrick J. Burden, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 13, 2023

TO: Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel, Highly Migratory Species Management Team, and Interested Persons

FROM: Dr. Kit Dahl, Staff Officer for Highly Migratory Species

SUBJECT: November 2023 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet November 1-8, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Orange County in Garden Grove, California. Both the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) and the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) are scheduled to meet **in person**. The HMSAS will meet Friday and Saturday, November 3-4, and the HMSMT will meet Friday through Sunday, November 3-5. Note that your meetings start on November 3 at 1 p.m. Further note that on that first afternoon you will begin in joint session to continue discussing the HMS Roadmap (Agenda Item F.3 on the November Council agenda). HMS topics are on the Council agenda on Sunday, November 5. Additional meeting information can be found on the Council's [November 2023 Meeting webpage](#).

Summaries of HMS topics and other items of interest on the Council agenda are listed below.

F.1 National Marine Fisheries Service Report

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will brief the Council on recent regulatory activities.

F.2 Highly Migratory Species Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)

At its September meeting, the Council adopted proposed EFH modifications for public review. Based on comments received, revised versions of proposed fishery management plan (FMP) amendment text for the body of the FMP (Chapter 7) and the EFH Appendix are available in the briefing materials. At this meeting, the Council is slated to take final action to adopt the changes.

F.3 Highly Migratory Species Roadmap Workshop

The HMSAS and HMSMT met at the September Council meeting to discuss the design and logistics of a workshop to discuss an HMS Roadmap document and potential workshop based on Council guidance from June 2023. A workshop could take up follow-on activities related to developing new gear designs using exempted fishing permits and elements of a transition program as mandated by the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act. The HMSMT submitted

a report for the advance briefing book reflecting the outcomes of your September discussions. As noted above, a joint meeting is scheduled on your agendas to continue developing recommendations for the HMS Roadmap document and a related workshop. Additional recommendations may be presented in supplemental reports.

C.3 Marine Planning

The Marine Planning Committee will update the Council on recent developments.

Finally, as usual, I have included Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning (Agenda Item C.8) in case you wish to comment on the scheduling of HMS items on future agendas.

In addition to the enclosed briefing materials, you may obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website as they become available after distribution of the advance briefing book. Public comment is available only in electronic form through the Council's [e-portal](#). Visit the [November 2023 Meeting webpage](#) to access these materials.

As always, thank you for your service to the Council process.

KRD:rdd

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A: Council Meeting Agenda and Executive Director's Report
2. Agenda Items C: Administrative Matters
3. Agenda Items F: Highly Migratory Species Management
4. HMSAS and HMSMT Meeting Agendas
5. Informational Reports
6. General Information and Council Roster

PFMC
10/05/23