

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON THE
ECOSYSTEM AND CLIMATE INFORMATION INITIATIVE

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) recommends two pathways for the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to incorporate ecosystem and climate information into the HMS management process by:

- sharing that information with the U.S. delegations to relevant international Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, and
- incorporating ecosystem and climate information when developing the HMS Roadmap goals and actions.

Efforts are underway both at the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) to address climate change ([HMSMT September 2021 Supplemental Report 1](#)). For example, a standing climate change agenda item has been added to WCPFC- Northern Committee meetings ([1.2, Attachment 1](#)). The HMSMT could offer suggestions for how the Council could provide information on climate change impacts to HMS and HMS fisheries to the U.S. delegation during regularly scheduled Council meetings.

Finally, the HMSMT developed a draft goal for the HMS Roadmap to “promote Climate-Ready Fisheries and fisheries resilience by supporting flexibility in management to account for changes in HMS distributions, ecosystems, and the communities dependent on HMS fisheries” ([Agenda Item I.3a, HMSMT Report 1](#)). This report also includes draft action items that have been developed jointly with the HMS Advisory Subpanel to address this proposed goal. An example of a proposed action item is to “identify fleets, fishing practices or gears that may be more flexible and/or adaptable given climate change.” The HMSMT therefore recommends that as the Council develops the HMS Roadmap goals and action items, it consider climate and ecosystem information.