

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON NATIONAL
MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) welcomes and supports the National Marine Fisheries Service Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that will support exempted fishing permits (EFPs) and new fishing practices to support the required transition program when drift gillnet (DGN) is phased out in December 2027 per the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act. As we know it takes time to develop new fishing practices, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) needs to give fishermen the chance to try new fishing practices with EFPs so there are economically viable options to replace DGN. The Council needs to support U.S. fishermen who, with innovation, can harvest underutilized HMS stocks off the three west coast states with less environmental impact than fishing practices utilized in harvesting HMS species elsewhere (*transfer effect/trade leakage*). The DEIS, when finalized, will support two of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Seafood Strategy goals: maintaining or increasing sustainable U.S. wild capture production and strengthening the entire U.S. seafood sector.

PFMC
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