

DRAFT HMS Roadmap Terms

(From March 2024 Agenda Item I.3 Supplemental HMSMT Report 2 and Supplemental HMSAS Report 1)

1. Bycatch¹: For the discussion here the term “bycatch” is used in a broad context and includes marine mammals and birds, as well as fish (see definition 8 below) that are harvested in a fishery but are not sold or kept for personal use, including economic and regulatory discards (see definitions 4 and 11 below).
2. Climate-Ready Fishery: A fishery that incorporates available climate and ecosystem environmental data to support management decisions and the resilience of communities that depend on it.
3. Commercial Volume of Landings: A volume of fish or seafood harvested and landed over a specified time period which is necessary for commercial operations to be practicable.
4. Economic discards²: For discussion here, fish which are a target of a fishery, but which are not retained because they are of an undesirable size, sex, or quality, or for other economic reasons.
5. Economic production: The use of technology, expert knowledge, labor and energy in the harvesting, processing, and distribution of fish and seafood products for commercial purposes.
6. Economic viability: The ability to generate sustained revenue to cover operating costs, including a source of livelihood to producers, and providing a sufficient return on capital investment such that it encourages ongoing participation in the operations.
7. Economic waste: A loss of economic value due to inefficient allocation or utilization of resources, such as using production processes with higher operating costs or which produce less catch or revenues than the most efficient methods available.
8. Fish¹: The term “fish” means finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds.
9. High quality: Fishery products that are landed/supplied in such a condition that yields above average financial return.
10. Minimize: Reduce to a level that meets the Council's conservation goals while considering the balance between conservation and economic viability, as it relates to bycatch, discards, and negative impacts to protected and prohibited species.
11. Regulatory discards²: Fish that are caught but discarded because regulations do not allow fishermen to retain the fish.
12. Supporting resilience in fishery operations: Decision making processes that encourage innovation and adaptability of fisheries, management flexibility, and promotion of economic viability.
13. Underutilized Resource: A situation where available resources are not being fully utilized or harvested efficiently to their maximum potential as allowed under applicable laws and regulations.
14. Trade Leakage/Transfer Effect: The set of aggregate shifts induced by natural resource decision-making – in activity footprints, and consequences for stakeholders and communities, target and non-target species, ecological integrity and overall performance, at whatever scale, from local to global. In the context of west coast HMS fisheries, the reduction of domestically supplied swordfish is causing an increase in imports from nations with far less stringent management regimes on protected species and other species of concern.

¹ MSA National Standard 9 requires Councils to consider the bycatch effects of existing and planned conservation and management measures (50 CFR 600.350(b)) and the definition of “fish” in MSA covers “... all ... forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds” (§3(12)). However, guidelines state “Other applicable laws, such as the MMPA, the ESA, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, require that Councils consider the impact of conservation and management measures on living marine resources other than fish; i.e., marine mammals and birds” (50 CFR 600.350(e)).

² Discard means to release or return fish to the sea, whether or not such fish are brought fully on board a fishing vessel (50 CFR 600.10). The definitions for economic and regulatory discards are consistent with the definitions provided in statute ([MSA](#)) and the [National Bycatch Reduction Strategy](#).

Council Adopted HMS Roadmap Goals (March 2024):

- A. Support innovation and development of multi-species HMS fishing methods to increase the domestic supply of and meet the demand for swordfish and other marketable species.

- B. Support and test fishing practices that have the potential to be economically viable while minimizing unmarketable, prohibited, and protected species bycatch.

- C. Support the economic viability of West Coast commercial fisheries for swordfish and associated marketable species through a diverse range of HMS fishing methods.

- D. Promote Climate-Ready Fisheries and fisheries resilience by developing flexibility in management and other tools to account for changes in HMS distributions, ecosystem structure and function, and the communities dependent on HMS fisheries.

- E. Engage fishery participants to preserve knowledge and help bolster resilience in future fisheries.

- F. Support recreational HMS fishing opportunities.