

Breakout Session Questions

HMS Roadmap Workshop Pacific Fishery Management Council June 6-7, 2024

A. PFMC-NMFS actions for EFPs

What actions can the Council take to streamline the National Marine Fisheries Services's review and issuance of exempted fishing permits?

1. Session 1
 - a. For applicants, what aspects of the Council and NMFS' EFP application and review process constrain participation?
 - b. How could the Council encourage participation of both traditional and new participants?
 - c. How should the Council streamline the application review procedures and improve the overall schedule and timing for issuing EFP?
 - d. How should the Council prioritize review and support for applications?
2. Session 2
 - a. How could collaboration between NMFS and the Council be improved in the EFP review process?
 - b. How could the Council more clearly communicate what information is required in an application?

B. Bycatch minimization strategies and metrics considering our definition of bycatch

What metrics or indicators and management strategies are available to support bycatch minimization?

1. Session 1
 - a. Is bycatch minimization more important for some species compared to others? For which species is bycatch minimization most important?
 - b. Should the Council prioritize designing bycatch minimization strategies and if so, how?
2. Session 2
 - a. What metrics or indicators are available and could be used to evaluate progress toward bycatch minimization?
 - b. What policies could support bycatch minimization?
 - c. Is electronic monitoring an accurate and reasonable alternative to human observers for bycatch monitoring under EFPs? If yes, in what circumstances? If not, why not?

C. Configurations and Fishing Methods

What types of gear configurations and fishing practices are consistent with Roadmap goals?

1. Session 1
 - a. What types of fishing configurations and practices should be tested with EFPs?
 - b. How does vessel size figure into the viability of different gear types?
 - c. Are there geographic areas where such fishing configurations should be tested or where testing should not occur?
2. Session 2
 - a. What characteristics of fishing configurations and fishing methods provide for economic viability?
 - b. What elements contribute to make an HMS fishery “climate ready”. How do we define “climate ready” in this context? What metrics or indicators characterize a climate ready fishery?

D. Economic considerations

What economic factors need to be considered in assessing EFP concepts?

1. Session 1
 - a. What is economic viability and how does it apply to a fishery or related fishing communities?
 - b. What is constraining the economic viability of HMS fisheries?
 - c. What are the main market based challenges when competing with non-US caught HMS fish? How can US caught swordfish and other HMS species replace non-US-caught fish in the marketplace?
2. Session 2
 - a. What economic components should be considered in assessing the economic viability of fishing configurations and/or practices?
 - b. What economic factors should be considered in fostering climate-ready HMS fisheries?

E. Funding Options

What funding opportunities exist to support testing under EFPs and how can those opportunities be leveraged?

1. Session 1
 - a. What barriers are there to obtain and use funding to test gear and fishing methods with EFPs?
 - b. Are there any other funding or cost issues that need to be taken into account when reviewing HMS EFPs?
 - c. How can the Council leverage existing funding sources and facilitate applications for funding?
 - d. What new funding sources are available for gear testing?