

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON THE INFLATION
REDUCTION ACT PROJECTS – CHECK IN

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) reviewed and discussed C.3 Attachments 1-3. We sincerely thank Council staff officer Ms. Gilly Lyons for briefing the HMSMT and Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) on the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Projects.

The Team is generally supportive of IRA project 3, which focuses on HMS fisheries. Based on our briefing, the following reflects our understanding of certain areas of concern which came up in HMSMT discussion. We request confirmation from the Council that our understanding is correct.

1. The intent of the term “EFP [exempted fishing permit] Framework” is a set of recommendations to help improve and streamline the Council EFP application process and to clarify the Council’s priorities for recommending EFPs.
2. The timeline in Attachment 3 is a proposed timeline that can be altered.
3. The IRA proposal provides funding for one element (i.e the EFP framework) of the HMS Roadmap, noting that the scope of the HMS Roadmap is broader and the connections to this project will require additional Council and HMS advisory body discussion.
4. The “lead entities” in Attachment 3 are not being tasked with each and every product, but rather are those interested parties well-suited to comment and make recommendations. The item descriptions regarding the HMSMT and HMSAS roles are changeable.
5. Implementing an EFP Framework and initiating a Council bycatch mitigation action involving the use of dynamic ocean management tools should not be interpreted to mean that undertaking an FMP amendment or regulatory amendment or both is required.

The HMSMT anticipates providing feedback and guidance in project scoping discussions to identify areas of overlap between this IRA project and the broader HMS Roadmap development.

PFMC
09/20/24