

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL (HMSAS) REPORT ON
2025-26 HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES –
PRELIMINARY

The HMSAS offer the following recommendations on 2025-26 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures.

Incidental Allowances for Landing of HMS for Drift gillnet vessels with stretched mesh less than 14 inches

Current regulations provide allowances for incidental take of HMS in gear types not authorized.¹ Drift gillnet vessels with stretched mesh less than 14 inches may land up to 10 HMS per trip, except that no swordfish may be landed. This has resulted in regulatory discards. The HMSAS recommends the incidental allowance for HMS in 50 CFR §660.711(a)(1) be increased to 50 HMS per trip to minimize the potential for such discards. The current exception for swordfish would be retained. Final action on this recommendation would occur in November.

Underutilization of North Pacific Swordfish

The HMSAS reviewed the 2023 North Pacific swordfish stock assessment and notes the stock remains underfished and there is potential to harvest roughly 4 million additional pounds, across the range of the stock without exceeding an F_{MSY} proxy.

PFMC
9/21/2024

¹ See [66 CFR §660.711](#)