

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON
2025-26 HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES -
PRELIMINARY

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) reviewed and discussed the reference points presented in [Agenda Item J.3.a, NMFS Report 1](#). The HMSMT generally agreed that the reference points appear suitable for making domestic status determinations of the relevant stocks according to the status determination criteria in the HMS Fishery Management Plan. However, we note that the reference points used in the [assessment for shortfin mako shark](#), which are based on exploitation (U) and depletion (D) relative to carrying capacity, are newly recommended maximum sustainable yield-based proxies for this stock. Therefore, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) may wish to seek Scientific and Statistical Committee review of the appropriateness of using these reference points as proxies for F_{MSY} and B_{MSY} to complete a status determination for this stock.

In addition to reviewing and making recommendations on reference point values under this agenda item, the Council action also includes considering the need to develop annual catch limits or other harvest objectives and/or management measures. In a joint session with the HMS Advisory Subpanel, there was a proposal to change existing regulations (50 CFR §660.11(a)(1)) to increase the limit for HMS incidentally caught in small-mesh drift gillnet (SMDGN) gear. The intent is to reduce the potential for regulatory discards and fully utilize catch of these stocks. The HMSMT is generally supportive of increasing the limit for HMS (other than swordfish, which cannot be landed by SMDGN). If the Council were to take final action on this matter in November, National Marine Fisheries Service could potentially implement the increase on the same timelines as a rulemaking to adjust bluefin catch and trip limits (discussed in Agenda Item J.2).

Additionally, the HMSMT discussed the status of striped marlin in the Western and Central North Pacific Ocean. This stock is located west of 150° W, and is not taken by any commercial or recreational West Coast fisheries. Therefore, the HMSMT does not view management of this stock as a West Coast fisheries issue.