

## HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ROADMAP WORKSHOP REPORT AND NEXT STEPS

In June 2023 the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) acknowledged that its draft [Swordfish Monitoring and Management Plan](#) needed to be replaced by a new document that considers the range of species, in addition to swordfish, that have been economically important in the large mesh drift gillnet fishery. As part of this work, the Council would adopt priorities for the issuance of exempted fishing permits (EFPs). This would be facilitated by holding a workshop with participation by the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS), Management Team (HMSMT), and other stakeholders.

In November 2023 (Agenda Item F.3) and March 2024 (Agenda Item I.3) the HMSAS and HMSMT reported out on elements of an HMS Roadmap document and ideas for the related workshop. The Council then sought and recently received funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to address climate ready fisheries initiatives and the workshop was included in the project *Developing Climate-Ready Fishing Methods that Mitigate Bycatch of Non-Target, Associated Species in a Changing Ecosystem* (see [Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1, September 2024](#), for a project description).

In addition to Council member and advisory body input, at Council direction, staff contracted with CONCUR, Inc. to provide support designing, facilitating, and documenting the workshop, which was held in conjunction with the June 2024 Council meeting. The workshop report was made available in the September Council meeting briefing materials as Informational Report 1 (and included here as Attachment 1). The workshop focused on various aspects of EFPs including the process for issuing them and how EFP activities could contribute to the [Roadmap goals](#) adopted by the Council in November 2023.

The Council should review the attached workshop report, make recommendations, and adopt it, as appropriate. Based on the workshop report and advisory body input, the Council should provide guidance necessary to finalize the HMS Roadmap document. Such a document could incorporate the aforementioned Roadmap goals, action items such as those previously presented by the HMSMT (see [Agenda Item F.3.a, HMSMT Report 1, November 2023](#)), and other elements specified by the Council.

Finally, based on workshop outcomes, at this meeting the Council should articulate its vision for reviewing and making recommendations on EFP issuance. This vision should be consistent with the previously adopted Roadmap goals. Such a framework would describe the characteristics of EFP proposals sought by the Council and appropriate changes to the Council process for EFP review. Initially, this framework could be described in the Roadmap document and reviewed at a future Council meeting before final adoption. The Council should also discuss a process and schedule for making related changes to [Council Operating Procedure 20](#), which describes the current EFP process.

The Council may also wish to consider the relationship between these next steps and the objectives of the aforementioned IRA project.

**Council Action:**

1. **Review and Adopt the HMS Roadmap Workshop Report.**
2. **Provide Guidance for Completion of the HMS Roadmap Document.**
3. **Provide Guidance and Next Steps Necessary to Develop a Framework for Exempted Fishing Permit Review Including Review Criteria and Process Changes.**
4. **Discuss Process and Schedule for Revising COP 20.**
5. **Consider The Relationship Between HMS Roadmap Activities and the Objectives of IRA Project 3.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item H.4, Attachment 1: HMS Roadmap Workshop Summary Report.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

**Agenda Order:**

- H.4 Highly Migratory Species Roadmap Workshop Report and Next Steps Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Report and Provide Guidance on Next Steps

PFMC  
10/21/24