



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Brad Pettinger, Chair | Merrick J. Burden, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 25, 2024

TO: Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel, Highly Migratory Species Management Team, and Interested Persons

FROM: Dr. Kit Dahl, Staff Officer for Highly Migratory Species

SUBJECT: November 2024 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet November 13-18, 2024, at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa in Costa Mesa, California. Both the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) and the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) are scheduled to meet **in person** Thursday and Friday, November 14-15. HMS items are on the Council agenda Saturday, November 16. Additional meeting information can be found on the Council's [November 2024 Meeting webpage](#).

Summaries of HMS topics and other items of interest on the Council agenda are listed below.

H.1 National Marine Fisheries Service Report

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will brief the Council on recent regulatory activities.

H.2 International Management Activities Including Bluefin Tuna Trip Limits

The Council may submit recommendations on U.S. positions for the upcoming November 28-December 3 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) 21st Regular Session. Any recommendations could be premised on recommendations from the Permanent Advisory Committee (PAC), which advises the U.S. Commissioners to the WCPFC and met October 21-23.

At its September meeting the Council initially discussed recommendations for domestic measures to comply with the 2025-2026 biennial commercial catch limit set by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in [Resolution C-24-02](#). At the request of the Council, NMFS has submitted a range of options on which to base a final recommendation made at this meeting (see Agenda Item H.2.a, NMFS Report 1).

H.3 2025-26 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures—Final

At the September Council meeting, NMFS provided information related to status determination criteria for HMS stocks with new assessments. The Council reviewed these values and had no

comments except for a request for the Scientific and Statistical Committee to review the basis for new biological reference points for shortfin mako shark reported in the 2024 stock assessment. At this meeting the Council will take final action to adopt the status determination criteria.

In September the Council also agreed to consider an increase to the incidental landing limit for HMS in the small-mesh drift gillnet fishery ([50 CFR 660.711\(a\)\(1\)](#)). (§ 660.711 addresses HMS caught by gear not authorized by HMS Fishery Management Plan regulations.) It will take final action on this regulatory change at this meeting, if possible.

D.2 Marine Planning

The Marine Planning Committee met online October 9 to consider updates from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the states, NMFS, and a tribal update. The MPC also heard presentations from the NMFS WCR/NWFSC on Socioeconomic Characterization of West Coast Fisheries in Relation to Offshore Wind Energy Development as well as a presentation from the West Coast Ocean Alliance on cumulative impacts and data gaps. MPC Report 1 summarizes these topics. Advisory Bodies should provide supplemental reports if there is relevant information missing from the MPC Report, or if additional clarification is needed. This agenda item will also include a CDFW report that provides information on the California Marine Protected Areas petition process to consider proposed changes to California's MPA system.

D.3 Research and Data Needs

Under this agenda item, the Council is scheduled to adopt top science and management challenges to guide the research and data needs prioritization process. These are overarching challenges that may stretch across more than one Fishery Management Plan, and for which multiple types of research activities could be pursued. To initiate discussion, Council staff compiled an initial draft of categorical topics and challenges that stretch across various Fishery Management Plans and for which the Council previously expressed interest in (see Attachment 1). The HMSMT and HMSAS may wish to provide their recommendations on top science and/or management challenges.

D.4 Council Operations and Priorities

In June 2024, the Council provided guidance and set benchmarks to improve operational efficiency, reduce costs, enhance public participation, and strengthen decision-making processes. At the November meeting, staff will present an update on the progress made in implementing these recommendations.

C. 5 Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures – Including Final 2025-27 Advisory Body Appointments

During this agenda item, the Council will discuss forming an ad hoc committee to help draft a comment letter on the expected proposed rule to revise National Standard Guidelines 4, 8, and 9 which cover allocation, communities, and bycatch ([Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making, May 2023](#); [Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1, September 2023](#); [Council Comment Letter October 2023](#)). The proposed ad hoc committee would be composed of members from existing Council Advisory Bodies, similar to the Marine Planning Committee. Advisory

Bodies should review the proposed approach (Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 2) and situation summary, provide feedback, and recommend individuals to serve on the proposed ad hoc committee.



Finally, as usual, I have included Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning (Agenda Item C.6) in case you wish to comment on the scheduling of HMS items on future agendas.

In addition to the enclosed briefing materials, you may obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website as they become available after distribution of the advance briefing book. Public comment is available only in electronic form through the Council's [e-portal](#). Visit the [November 2024 Meeting webpage](#) to access these materials.

As always, thank you for your service to the Council process.

KRD:kma

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A: Council Meeting Agenda and Executive Director's Report
2. Agenda Items C: Administrative Matters
3. Agenda Items D: Cross Fishery Management Plan
4. Agenda Items H: Highly Migratory Species Management
5. HMSAS and HMSMT Meeting Agendas
6. Informational Reports
7. General Information and Council Roster

PFMC

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