

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
BIENNIAL HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

During your September meeting the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) asked you to consider an increase to limits placed on incidentally caught HMS in Drift gillnet vessels with stretched mesh less than 14 inches. [50 CFR §660.711\(a\)\(1\)](#) currently limits such incidental landings to 10 HMS per trip, except no swordfish may be landed.

After discussion and consideration, the HMSAS is modifying our recommendation from September and is asking the Council to approve allowing up to 20 HMS per trip (down from 50 in September), except no swordfish may be landed. This will eliminate any concerns about inadvertently creating a targeted fishery for HMS by gear types not authorized under the HMS FMP. In concert with this increase, the HMSAS supports the State in seeking greater compliance with logbook requirements for this fishery.

Despite a lack of data indicating this is a problem, fishery participants have stated this happens and is becoming more common with the recovery of Pacific Bluefin tuna. There is a concern that including this information in required logbooks will result in potential legal exposure for waste of fish.

The small fleet using such gear is primarily made up of small vessels making overnight trips targeting yellowtail and/or white seabass. The small increase requested herein would reduce regulatory discards, while not incentivizing targeting HMS in this gear type.

PFMC
11/15/24