

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ROADMAP

In June 2023 the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) initiated an effort to replace the draft [Swordfish Monitoring and Management Plan](#) with 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 effort, the Council held a June 2024 workshop designed to identify approaches to increase landings of Highly Migratory Species (HMS) fisheries through the use of exempted fishing permits (EFPs) by engaging fishery participants and other stakeholders, the HMS Advisory Subpanel, and the HMS Management Team (HMSMT), and other stakeholders. A Workshop Summary [Report](#) was included in the November 2024 Council Meeting Briefing Book.

At the November 2024 meeting, the Council considered the workshop report and goals of the HMS Roadmap and directed the HMSMT to continue development of the Roadmap, considering the [CDFW Report](#) (H.4.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1), and to provide a draft Roadmap at the March 2025 Council meeting. The Council also formed a new ad hoc committee to work on Roadmap goals. The new HMS Fisheries Innovation Workgroup (FIW) is charged with developing and refining Council procedures which help facilitate the more rapid creation of new HMS gears to help achieve the goals of the HMS Roadmap (see November 2024 [Decision Summary Document](#)). The work should include:

- Modification of the Council Operating Procedure 20 (HMS EFP process)
- Improvement of HMS EFP guidance
- Development of HMS EFP performance goals, including acceptable bycatch, and metrics to evaluate EFP performance
- Consideration of the National Seafood Strategy as it pertains to HMS fisheries
- Review of the draft HMS roadmap, as appropriate
- Discussion of relevant innovative fishery tools or measures needed to support a robust HMS fishery

The FIW is scheduled for an initial organizing [meeting](#) 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Thursday, February 27 to discuss a process and schedule for addressing its charge.

The Council should review the draft HMS Roadmap (expected to be in supplemental Briefing Book materials), Advisory Body reports, tasks and timelines associated with the Roadmap and provide guidance on next steps.

Council Tasks:

- 1. Review the Draft HMS Roadmap and Provide Guidance on Next Steps as Necessary.**
- 2. Provide Guidance and Next Steps for Developing an Exempted Fishing Permit Framework, Including a Process and Schedule for Revising COP 20.**

Reference Materials:

1. *Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report 1 (including draft Roadmap).*
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- I.3 Highly Migratory Species Roadmap Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Consider the Draft Roadmap and Provide Guidance, as Appropriate

PFMC
02/12/25