

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL (HMSAS) REPORT
ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The HMSAS reviewed the [June 2025 - Quick Reference Proposed Agenda](#). We are concerned that if our meetings begin the day before HMS items are on the floor, there will not be enough time to discuss the issues and develop supplemental reports. To alleviate this situation, **the HMSAS recommends moving some of the HMS items later in the meeting and allowing the HMS advisory bodies to arrive a day earlier than currently shown.** The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report (D.1) and Exempted Fishing Permits (D.3) could stay on Day 1, and International (D.2), Drift Gillnet (DGN) Bycatch Performance (D.4), and the HMS Roadmap (D.5) could be moved to Day 2 or later. The DGN Bycatch Performance item could be submitted as an Informational Report, thus saving Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) floor time. Additionally, it may prove beneficial for the HMSAS to meet virtually after publication of the June Briefing Book. This will allow us to more fully discuss these items and give these critical issues the time they warrant.

The HMSAS experienced some significant turnover when advisory body appointments were made. Providing an additional day for our in-person meeting will also allow advisory subpanel members to engage with one another in a more relaxed atmosphere as opposed to being rushed.

The HMSAS received an update on an active California Marine Protected Area (MPA) petition that is a part of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife adaptive management process allowing limited take of HMS inside of three Northern Channel Islands MPAs that currently allow no take and that overlap significantly with Federal waters. The HMSAS believes this petition coincides with the goals and objectives of the HMS Roadmap. The HMSAS recommends holding discussions on this at a future Council meeting where Council input could be provided, and/or asks the Council to request possible additional insight from the HMS Management Team.

PFMC
02/28/25