

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) discussed the June agenda and requests to meet remotely if National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) staff are unable to attend the June meeting in person, for the following reasons:

- NMFS staff comprise half of the HMSMT, so meeting in person would require a hybrid option which makes it difficult for the HMSMT to complete work.
- If the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) meets in person as requested, it would be necessary to have a hybrid option in the HMSAS meeting for the HMSMT to brief them on agenda items, regardless of whether the HMSMT meeting is hybrid or remote.

After reviewing the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Year-at-a-Glance Summary, the HMSMT also suggests the Council consider whether it is necessary to have a two-meeting process for approval of some exempted fishing permits (EFPs) during 2025. If applications received are for approaches previously considered by the Council but postponed (such as fishing with more than 10 pieces of deep-set buoy gear), two meetings may not be necessary as long as all required information is included in the application. In order to expedite the EFP approval process while the Fisheries Innovation Workgroup develops the EFP Framework, the Council may find it beneficial to allow itself the flexibility to approve EFP applications in a single meeting in June.

PFMC
04/08/25