

## HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ROADMAP DEVELOPMENT

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) received a briefing from the Ad Hoc Fisheries Innovation Work Group (FIW) Co-Chair Josh Madeira on the recent progress of the group and the next steps to advance each of the work group's objectives. The HMSAS appreciates the time and effort that the members of the FIW have put in thus far, as well as the considerable effort of Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff and consultant Katie Westfall that has been integral to the FIW's progress. The HMSAS discussed each of the issues identified by the FIW and provides the following recommendations:

### FIW Terms of Reference

**The HMSAS supports the FIW recommendation to adopt the Terms of Reference** included within [F.4.a, FIW Report 1](#).

### Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Review Process and Timing

**The HMSAS strongly supports the adoption of the FIW's proposed near-term changes to the Council Operating Procedure 20 (COP 20) and requests that the Council adopt these during the September meeting.** The FIW's proposed changes align with past HMSAS recommendations, the June 2024 HMS Roadmap Workshop findings, and the Executive Orders identified under Agenda Item D1. The HMSAS agrees with the FIW's proposed changes, notably:

1. EFP proposal review at November and March Council meetings;
2. Accepting EFP applications for Council review at either of the two proposed meetings (noted above); and
3. Allowing the Council to make EFP recommendations in a single meeting.

These improvements will allow applicants to submit EFP proposals at the conclusion of the summer/fall season and seek approval to proceed with new EFPs ahead of the following season. These changes are a top priority for the HMSAS and are needed to support increased interest in potential EFPs that could support future HMS fishing opportunities.

### EFP Performance Goals/Metrics

**The HMSAS supports the FIW's approach to establishing performance goals/metrics, including acceptable levels of bycatch.** The HMSAS would like to continue to receive updates and have an opportunity to provide regular input to the FIW on the topic of performance goals/metrics. In addition, the HMSAS welcomed the opportunity to provide future input to the FIW on economic viability performance goals/metrics.

### FIW Workplan

**The HMSAS supports the FIW's proposed workplan,** noting that regular interaction and reporting of the FIW to relevant advisory bodies will be helpful to engage additional stakeholders that are interested in progressing this work as quickly as possible.

### Draft HMS Roadmap

The HMSAS had an extensive discussion on the HMS Roadmap and provides the following recommendations to the Council:

- **The HMS Roadmap should continue to be a living document, updated periodically, and as needed, based on the progress of the FIW.** As noted above, the HMSAS supports the FIW's proposed stepwise approach to addressing the objectives, including challenging topics like performance goals/metrics. The FIW's emphasis should continue to make progress on these substantive issues and update the HMS Roadmap as needed. As these issues are resolved, they could be embedded with the fishery management plan (FMP), inform a decision document, COP revision, or support regulatory action.
- **The HMSAS supports coordination between the FIW and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) so that any future FIW recommendations on EFPs can align with, and support, opportunities to expand fishing for HMS via future FMP amendments.** While it is not in the FIW's charge to work toward potential FMP amendments, the FIW can coordinate with NMFS on their findings and seek natural alignment if appropriate. The overall intent is to support successful EFPs making progress toward potential future FMP amendments that can get more HMS fishermen on the water and increase domestic production of underutilized HMS stocks, as soon as possible.
- **The HMS Roadmap document, as proposed to be amended by the FIW (see [Appendix A](#)), is sufficient for today. The HMSAS recommends giving the FIW authority to continue to recommend proposed edits to bring back at future Council meetings as needed.**

PFMC  
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