

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL  
AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) believes meeting in person is always the preferred option. Our experience is that the virtual setting negatively impacts the quality of information, dialog, and advice that we can provide to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council).

Among the Council's Advisory Subpanels (AS), the cost of in-person HMSAS meetings is quite low. Yet we represent one of the fishery management plans (FMP) with the greatest potential. HMS is one of the few fisheries with nowhere to go but up in terms of opportunities, landings, and economic impacts for our fleets and coastal communities.

The payoff from each dollar invested in these in-person meetings has the potential to positively impact coastal communities, working waterfronts, and the local economies that depend on HMS fisheries. In addition, we note that implementation of the HMS Roadmap as well as Administration Executive Orders prioritizing domestic seafood production present critical opportunities to develop and expand HMS fisheries. The HMSAS plays a key role in these efforts and is most effective when meeting in person.

We recognize that the Council has budget challenges and will do online meetings as necessary. We support the proposal for the HMSAS to meet in person at the November 2025 Council meeting, and if funds are available, we request being scheduled for in-person meetings as much as possible in the future.

We also note that the March 2026 meeting has final action scheduled on the Fisheries Innovation Workgroup's proposals and suggest it would be better for the HMSAS to meet during the March meeting rather than the April 2026 meeting as currently indicated by the Year-At-A-Glance.

PFMC  
09/18/25