



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Pete Hassemer, Chair | Merrick J. Burden, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 26, 2026

TO: Highly Migratory Species Management Team and Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel and Interested Persons

FROM: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: June 2026 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Advisory Bodies (ABs) will meet in person June 10 - 15, 2026, in Spokane, Washington. The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) and the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) will meet in person on Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13. The Council is scheduled to begin HMS matters on June 13 and 14. Major topics for discussion at this meeting are below. For more detailed information, please refer to the situation summaries in the Briefing Book materials.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report (G.1)

NMFS will provide a regulatory update, including updates on recent exempted fishing permit (EFP) submissions. This is primarily an informational agenda item with an opportunity for Council questions and discussion.

International Management Activities (G.2)

Several meetings between June and September will cover issues and outcomes of importance to the Council. These include preliminary results of the North Pacific albacore stock assessment and possible harvest strategy revisions, the pending management strategy evaluation for North Pacific swordfish, a potential harvest strategy for bigeye tuna, and a preferred Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) harvest strategy, which remains unresolved. The HMS NMFS report (G.2.a, NMFS Report 1) summarizes several of these meetings and key issues and lists potential U.S. priorities for submission to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

The HMSMT and HMSAS should consider recommendations and priorities the Council could make for U.S. positions at regional fishery management organization meetings over the winter and spring.

Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning (C.5)

The HMSMT and HMSAS should review the proposed Year-at-a-Glance agenda (C.5, Attachment 1), the proposed September Council meeting agenda (C.5, Attachment 2), and the proposed November Council meeting agenda (C.5, Attachment 3) and provide recommendations regarding future HMS agenda items, as appropriate.

Special Project 2: Socioeconomic Framework (D.3)

This agenda item is the Council's first update on Special Project 2, *Decision Making for Stronger Fishing Communities*. The project aims to improve the Council's ability to evaluate how management decisions affect fishing community resilience through a decision-support framework being developed by Northern Economics, Inc. (NEI). At the June Council meeting, the NEI team will present a synthesis report and gap analysis, along with a draft methodology for evaluating community resilience; both will be included in the June Advanced Briefing Book. The project team will seek feedback from ABs and the Council on the draft methodology and on selecting a case study to test the framework. ABs may wish to review the materials and provide recommendations on both topics. An all-AB [webinar briefing](#) on this agenda item will be held June 5 from 8:30–10:30 a.m. and will be recorded and posted on the Council website.

Council and NMFS Workload- Capacity Alignment (D.4)

Under Agenda Item D.4, the Council will hear a report summarizing ongoing efforts by Council and National Marine Fisheries Service leadership to evaluate workload and staffing capacity constraints across the fishery management process, including consideration of opportunities to improve alignment between available resources and Council priorities. The report is intended to inform Council discussion regarding potential future process improvements and workload planning approaches. No Advisory Body comments are requested at this time. Following the discussion, the Council may identify topics for future Advisory Body review and comment, as appropriate.

Items Not on Council Meeting Agenda

Special Project 1: Adaptive Management and Flexibility

The objective of Special Project 1 is to identify innovations that make review and implementation of Council actions more timely, efficient, and responsive to a changing ocean environment and other unexpected events. At the April meeting, the HMSMT and HMSAS submitted supplemental reports and the Council [tasked the ABs](#) with further exploring potential “if-then” statements, including the potential for increasing Pacific bluefin tuna trip limits in certain circumstances. The HMS ABs should further develop the Pacific bluefin trip limit proposal, brainstorm additional scenarios, and share those ideas with the lead staff officer for further development and inclusion in the September Briefing Book. The HMS ABs are scheduled to meet remotely in advance of the September meeting to review the full package of materials included in the Briefing Book and provide comments to the Council at that time.

Special Project 3: Workshop on Dynamic Ocean Management and Monitoring Tools

The objective of Special Project 3 is to support the development of climate-ready fishing methods that minimize bycatch, with an initial focus on the U.S. West Coast HMS fishery. The project consists of two primary components: (1) Further development of the Council's HMS Roadmap,

especially with respect to the use of Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) to innovate and develop new or modified HMS fishing systems; and (2) Exploration of forward-looking tools, such as dynamic ocean management (DOM), that can facilitate more adaptive management strategies and fishing methods by using information and observations about changing ocean conditions. A [workshop](#) is being planned tentatively for January 2027. The HMS ABs should be prepared to discuss and provide initial feedback on the planning, structure, and outcomes of the workshop, including ways in which Local and Indigenous Knowledge can be better integrated into DOM tools.

Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP)

Two EFP applications were recently submitted to NMFS. While HMS EFPs are not under formal consideration by the Council at this meeting, the applicants may solicit informal feedback from the HMS ABs, and the Council may briefly discuss the draft applications under the NMFS Report (G.1).

HMS Roadmap Process and Schedule for EFP Review

The HMSMT and HMSAS should briefly discuss options for annual review and evaluation of HMS EFPs, in the context of the HMS Roadmap. The Fisheries Innovation Workgroup (FIW) will be meeting over the summer and options for annual EFP review and evaluation via the two HMSMT and four HMSAS representatives on the FIW will help the FIW develop the evaluation framework, slated for final action in November.

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.3 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Open Comment
3. Agenda Item G – Highly Migratory Species
4. Agenda Item C – Administrative Matters
6. HMSMT Agenda
7. HMSAS Agenda
8. Informational Reports
9. General Information and Council Roster

KFG:ael

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05/20/26