

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE BRIEFING - DEEP SEABED HARD
MINERALS RESOURCES ACT

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) reviewed information on the Deep Sea-Bed Hard Mineral Resources Act (DSHMRA) as well as the Marine Planning Committee (MPC) Report (D.2.a, MPC Report 1) published in the Advanced Briefing Book. We agree with the MPC's belief that proposed deep seabed mining activities within the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone (CCZ) could adversely affect HMS fisheries that occur within the Exclusive Economic Zone off the U.S. west coast. Many commercial and recreational HMS fish stocks that are important to U.S. west coast fisheries and fishing communities migrate across the Pacific from the Western Pacific to the Eastern Pacific.

Because of the potential to adversely impact HMS fisheries, **the HMSAS believes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrator, under DSHMRA, is required to consult with the Pacific Fishery Management Council “prior to making a determination to issue, transfer, modify, or renew a license or permit” to conduct mining operations within the CCZ.**

[In an article published May 11, 2026](#), it was noted NOAA recently determined an application to conduct mining activities within the CCZ was deemed complete as of May 1.

PFMC
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