Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 27, 2026

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

FROM: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: November 2026 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Advisory Bodies (ABs**)** will meet in person November 13 – 18, 2026, in Garden Grove, California. The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) and the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) will meet in person on Friday through Sunday, November 13 - 15. The Council is scheduled to take up HMS matters on November 15 – 17.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report (I.1)
NMFS will provide a regulatory update as well as a Southwest Fisheries Science Center update, from Annie Yau. This is mostly informational, but the HMS ABs may develop supplemental comments as necessary.

International Management Activities including Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) Trip Limits (I.2)
NMFS will provide updates on several recent and upcoming meetings. Several meetings between June and September covered issues and outcomes of importance to the Council. 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. The Council will also consider PBF trip limit design options for potential recommendations to NMFS. The HMSMT and HMSAS should develop supplemental reports and potential recommendations regarding trip limit options.

Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) (I.3)
The Council will consider EFP applications that have been deemed complete by the NMFS West Coast Region. The Council may endorse applications at this meeting, or request that the applicant(s) come to the March 2027 meeting with a revised application. As of the advanced Briefing Book deadline, there were two EFP applications for consideration.

2027-28 Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures – Preliminary or Final Action (I.4)

The Council should consider numerical estimates of maximum sustainable yield, optimum yield, and Stock Status Determination Criteria. The Council also may propose changes to regulations promulgated pursuant to the HMS Fishery Management Plan. Any fishery management measures under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) would need to be proposed at this meeting and considered for final action at the March 2027 meeting. However, harvest specifications and related harvest management measures are typically promulgated by NMFS via the Tuna Conventions Act and thus do not require an additional Council meeting. A draft Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation document is expected to be included in supplemental November Briefing Book materials and will include information on HMS stock status and other relevant information.

Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Roadmap: Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Benchmarks and Evaluation Framework (I.5)
The Fisheries Innovation Workgroup (FIW) will present its final recommendations on the EFP Evaluation Framework, potential updates to the HMS Roadmap, the Terms Appendix, relevant innovative tools and measures, and HMS EFP guidance and materials. The November Council meeting concludes the work that was assigned to the FIW. HMS ABs should develop supplemental reports on the FIW products, as well as recommendations for future tasks and priorities related to the HMS Roadmap.

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 March Council meeting agenda (C.5, Attachment 2), and the proposed April Council meeting agenda (C.5, Attachment 3) and provide recommendations regarding future HMS agenda items, as appropriate.

Marine Planning Issues (D.2)
The Council's Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee (MPC) will report on topics relevant to Council-managed fisheries and coastal fishing communities, including wave and tidal energy, deep-sea mineral mining, marine aquaculture, marine carbon dioxide removal, an update on West Coast Oceans Alliance activities, as well as other state and tribal updates. A draft comment letter on high seas mineral mining activities is expected to be included as an attachment under this agenda item.

California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) Fishermen's Roundtables
The NOAA CCIEA Team is seeking fishermen's and other stakeholders' on-the-water observations and experiences to help inform the 2026–2027 Ecosystem Status Report. Two in-person roundtables will be held in conjunction with the November Council meeting, on November 12 and November 14, from 3–5 p.m. While the roundtables are not Council-sponsored, Council meeting participants are encouraged to attend and provide input. The two roundtables will follow the same format and are being scheduled at separate times to allow as many people to attend as possible. The HMSAS and other interested parties should attend the November 12 roundtable, because the November 14 roundtable conflicts with the HMSAS and HMSMT meetings.

Fishermen's Roundtable 1:
Thursday, November 12, 3-5 p.m.
Meeting Room - Royal A

Fishermen's Roundtable 2:
Saturday, November 14, 3-5 p.m.
Meeting Room - Madrid

Enclosures:
1. Agenda Item A.3 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Open Comment
3. Agenda Item I – Highly Migratory Species
4. Agenda Item C – Administrative Matters
5. Agenda Item D – Cross Fishery Management Plan
6. HMSMT Agenda
7. HMSAS Agenda
8. Informational Reports
9. General Information and Council Roster

KFG:ael

PFMC
10/27/26