

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENTS & COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURES

Recommendations:

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) recommends that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council):

- 1. Adopt the HMS Fisheries Innovations Workgroup (FIW) changes to Pacific Fishery Management Council Operating Procedure 20 (COP 20) in Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 3.**
- 2. Encourage the FIW to review the input obtained from stakeholders during the June 2024 HMS workshop and to solicit further input from stakeholders as needed.**
- 3. Accept the membership appointments for the Coast Guard and State Department representatives to the Council and recognize the dedication and productive contributions of retiring State Department representative to the Council Dave Hogan.**

1. Adopt the proposed changes to COP 20 in Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 3.

The HMSAS appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions to COP 20, as presented in Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 3. The HMSAS reiterates its recommendation to establish a clear and efficient process for Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) review that will facilitate the testing of new economically viable, innovative fishing methods that achieve acceptable levels of bycatch and contribute to long-term fishery sustainability. With that goal in mind, the HMSAS supports the proposed revisions to COP 20 that will clarify requirements and facilitate flexibility for fisherman. The HMSAS looks forward to future FIW recommendations on COP 20 amendments.

We echo the HMS Management Team's (I.3.a Supplemental HMSMT Report 1) concern that the proposed timing for EFP reports (preliminary in June, final in September) may not align with the new application review cycle. Members of the fishing industry note their initial preference to consider a reporting deadline in the winter months outside of the primary fishing seasons and the HMSAS welcomes further FIW consideration and recommendations on this matter.

2) Encourage the FIW to review the input obtained from stakeholders during the June 2024 HMS workshop and to solicit further input from stakeholders as needed.

The HMSAS appreciates the efforts of the Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service to modernize and clarify COP 20. We believe the revisions offer an opportunity to streamline timing, ensure practical reporting requirements, and reinforce the central goals of bycatch minimization and economic viability. We look forward to continued collaboration as this process advances. The HMSAS strongly believes that the success of any revisions depends on and should encourage meaningful collaboration with fishery participants to guide the future of the West Coast HMS fisheries. Fishery participants are subject matter experts and their contributions and insights are a valuable guide for the future of HMS fisheries.

(3) Accept the membership appointments for the Coast Guard and State Department representatives to the Council and recognize the dedication and productive contributions of retiring State Department representative to the Council Dave Hogan.

The HMSAS supports the appointments for the Coast Guard and State Department to the Council. Both institutions have a direct impact on HMS fisheries and we look forward to working alongside them for the benefit of our industry. Members of the HMSAS specifically extend appreciation for retiring State Department Representative Dave Hogan's dedication to advocating on behalf of U.S. HMS fleet.

PFMC
09/20/25