HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENTS & COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURES

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) reviewed the proposed HMS Fisheries Innovations Workgroup (FIW) changes to Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Operating Procedure 20 (COP20) in Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 3, and generally supports the proposed changes despite some causing misalignment with existing language. Specifically, proposed changes to the meeting schedule for the Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application reviews in COP20 do not appear to align with the existing language in Section E, paragraphs 1 and 2 on the timing of Council review of EFP reports. The HMSMT discussed streamlining the reporting process with the new application review schedule. Some examples included removing references to a two-meeting process and allowing a single report be submitted anytime within six months of the conclusion of EFP activities with Council review occurring in June (as has been the recent practice), or in November or March to align with the revised application review schedule. The HMSMT understands that COP20 is pending further revisions by the FIW and Council and would like to collaborate in the revision process, where possible.

PFMC
09/10/25