HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON BIENNIAL HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) reviewed the stock status information presented in Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1. These reference points have been previously reviewed and endorsed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) as suitable proxies for B_{MSY} and F_{MSY}. Because the Council has already reviewed and adopted the maximum sustainable yield (MSY)-based proxies used to compute the stock status determination criteria, and the National Marine Fisheries Service is not recommending any new MSY proxies for Council consideration, the HMSMT recommends incorporating these updates in the 2026 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report.

The HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) specifies MSY and Optimum Yield (OY) calculations for managed stocks. Estimates of MSY and OY were provided for management unit species in Amendment 2 of the HMS FMP (Table 4-3 on page 110). If the Council would like the HMSMT to revisit these estimates, it could task the HMSMT to do so at a future meeting.

The HMSMT does not see a need for annual catch limits or other harvest objectives at this time (other than Pacific bluefin catch limits considered under Agenda Item I.2 and implemented under the Tuna Conventions Act). None of the assessed stocks which are managed under the HMS FMP are overfished, nor subject to overfishing, based on domestic status determination criteria.

PFMC
11/14/2026