HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ROADMAP: EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS GOALS AND METRICS

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) developed the HMS Roadmap, designed to expand HMS fishing opportunities through innovative fishing methods while minimizing bycatch, supporting economic viability, and promoting fisheries resilience. The Roadmap contains several goals, including to *support and test fishing practices that have the potential to be economically viable and consistent with National Standard 9 guidelines* (Goal B), which is particularly relevant to the Fisheries Innovation Workgroup's (FIW) task. The FIW was established at the November 2024 meeting to focus on moving forward certain portions of the Roadmap and was tasked with "developing and refining Council procedures which help facilitate the more rapid creation of new HMS gears and achieve the goals of the HMS Roadmap." This charge (see November 2024 Decision Summary Document) includes:

- Modification of COP 20 (HMS EFP process)
- Improvement of HMS EFP guidance
- Development of HMS EFP performance goals, including acceptable bycatch and metrics to evaluate EFP performance
- Consideration of the National Seafood Strategy as it pertains to HMS fisheries
- Review of the draft HMS Roadmap, as appropriate
- Discussion of relevant innovative fishery tools or measures needed to support a robust HMS fishery

The FIW developed two reports at the June 2025 Council meeting. F.4.a FIW Report 1 summarized FIW activities, requested guidance on FIW priority tasks, provided a proposed FIW Terms of Reference, and provided an updated HMS Roadmap. F.4.a Supplemental FIW Report 2 proposed a work plan including objectives, deliverables, timing/sequencing, prioritization, and expected outcomes. The FIW also discussed potential revisions to Council Operating Procedure (COP) 20, which were subsequently adopted by the Council at its September 2025 meeting; and updates on the development of performance goals and metrics for exempted fishing permit (EFP) fishing.

At the June meeting, the Council tasked the FIW with prioritizing the development of HMS EFP performance goals including acceptable bycatch and economic metrics to evaluate EFP performance. The Council also adopted a FIW workplan outline described in Supplemental FIW Report 2, prioritizing production of an EFP application form and EFP application guidance (see June 2024 Decision Summary Document).

The FIW met in August, September, and October to consider draft performance goals and metrics, EFP application guidance, and other topics related to the HMS Roadmap. FIW Report 1 (I.4.a FIW Report 1) describes FIW discussions and potential approaches to identifying performance goals and metrics. The report includes an updated FIW workplan and characterizes FIW discussions on EFP guidance and a potential application form and other guidance materials and resources.

The Council should consider FIW Report 1 (and a potential supplemental FIW Report) and provide feedback and guidance on several issues:

1. **EFP performance metrics:**
   a. Review the FIW's overall approach to developing performance metrics for EFP evaluation and provide feedback, including any guidance on the workplan to advance this task.
   b. Discuss and provide guidance on the development of a multispecies index for evaluating the economic and bycatch performance of HMS gears/methods. Identify a lead and timing for creating the index.
2. **EFP applications:** Review the proposed guidance materials for prospective EFP applications and provide feedback.
3. **FIW workplan:** Review the FIW's updated work plan outline and list of remaining EFP topics for the FIW to address. Provide guidance as appropriate.

Finally, the Council should consider HMS Roadmap action items that are not specifically assigned to the FIW and the development of an implementation plan with leads and timelines. The Council should assign tasks as appropriate and should discuss future workload and timing for implementation of the Roadmap.

Council Tasks:

1. **Consider and provide guidance on a suite of performance metrics for further refinement.**
2. **Provide guidance on ways to provide support and guidance to EFP applicants, including through the development of materials and resources.**
3. **Consider and provide guidance on future FIW workload and other topics as necessary.**
4. **Consider the development of an implementation plan for HMS Roadmap action items not included in the FIW's charge and assign tasks as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 1: Highly Migratory Species Roadmap (current version).
2. Agenda Item F.4.a, FIW Report 1.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see e-portal).

Agenda Order:

I.4 HMS Roadmap: Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) Goals and Metrics — Kerry Griffin
   a. Report of the Fisheries Innovation Workgroup — Josh Madeira
   b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
   c. Public Comment
   d. **Council Action**: Adopt Preliminary EFP Goals and Metrics, Provide Guidance as Appropriate

PFMC
10/21/25