

**Migratory Species Committee
Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab M**

Agenda Item IV: Update on Scoping Document for Gear Considerations in Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS)

Timeline Status: Presentation and feedback request

Council input and next steps: Mr. Guý DuBeck (HMS staff) will provide a presentation updating the Committee on the development of a scoping document that would consider modifying several measures related to fishing gears. The need for this action is to review current fishing gear restrictions to see if these measures are limiting fishing opportunities or the ability to achieve optimum yield. Fishing gears being considered for modification are buoy gear, deep-set pelagic longline, bait collection net restrictions, and expanding use of spearguns in harvesting HMS species. The comment period will be open until July 31, 2024. The Committee should review the scoping document, ask questions of HMS staff, and if desired, request staff write a comment letter based on the Committee's input.
