



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

Office of  
Sustainable  
Fisheries

# Request to consider filleting at sea

HMS Advisory Panel Meeting

March 8, 2018

# Filleting tunas at sea request

- NMFS recently received request to consider allowing HMS Charter/Headboat vessel to fillet tunas at sea
  - Example: New Jersey fillet exempted fishing permit application for party boats
  - California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife allows filleting of tunas if conducted in a specific way
- Request last addressed in the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP
  - NMFS did not authorize at that time.- Social and economic benefits for the industry were acknowledged. However, concerns regarding enforcement of size limits, retention limits, and species identification remained.
  - Concerns regarding equity among various user groups (commercial vs. recreational; for-hire vs. private)

# Discussion – filleting tuna at sea

- How can concerns regarding enforcement of size limits, retention limits, and species identification be alleviated?
- How to address parity among the various fleets that would be interested?
- Other thoughts?