

**National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Region Report
Highly Migratory Species**

Swordfish-Leatherback Sea Turtle Utilization of Temperate Habitat (SLUTH) Workshop

Announcement: The NMFS Southwest Region and Southwest Fisheries Science Center are sponsoring a workshop slated for May 28-29, 2008, on the campus of Scripps Institute of Oceanography in La Jolla. The goal of this workshop is to bring together scientists, fisheries managers, and knowledgeable swordfish fishermen to discuss key life history traits and the ecological and oceanographic parameters influencing the distribution and abundance of swordfish and leatherback sea turtles in the California Current. Workshop objectives include highlighting areas of distributional and habitat overlap, where further research and monitoring efforts would assist in developing methods to reduce leatherback bycatch in swordfish longline and driftnet fisheries.

Thresher Shark Fishing Seminar Announcement: The NMFS Southwest Region Sustainable Fisheries Division and the Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research are sponsoring a three-part informational seminar series scheduled for April 10 (Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club, 1601 Bayside Dr. Newport, CA 92625), April 15 (Oceanside Yacht Club, 1950 Harbor Drive N. Oceanside, CA 92054), and April 23 (Southwestern Yacht Club, 2702 Qualtrough St. San Diego, CA 92109). Seating is limited to the first 100 people at all seminars. The primary goal of the seminars is to bring together fishermen, scientists, and resource managers to discuss current research findings, innovative fishing tactics to increase post-release survival, and measures to promote a sustainable recreational thresher shark fishery. A flier announcing meeting venues will be distributed at the April Council meeting and is available on the NMFS SWR (<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/>), and PIER websites (www.pier.org).

High Seas Shallow-Set Longline Alternatives: The NMFS Southwest Region has agreed to prepare the necessary NEPA documentation evaluating the shallow-set longline alternatives adopted for public review by the Council at their March 2008 meeting. The alternatives are briefly described in the meeting decision summary (<http://www.pcouncil.org/decisions/currentdec.html>) and will be explained more fully in the next Council newsletter. NMFS is preparing a statement of work which will be used to solicit bids from qualified contractors to carry out specific elements of this task.