

CHANGES TO ROUTINE MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2009-2010 SEASON

At the June 2008 meeting the Council directed the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) to develop alternative management measures for the recreational fishery for thresher sharks in California. The development of these alternatives is part of the biennial management cycle described in section 8.3.2 in the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS).

The HMSMT met July 31-August 1 to discuss and develop different approaches to managing the recreational thresher shark fishery. The HMSMT Report contains proposed management measure alternatives for consideration by the Council. At this meeting, the Council will review the HMSMT recommendations and adopt a range of alternatives for public review. The Council is scheduled to take final action to adopt their recommended regulatory changes at the November Council meeting. Any such changes would then be implemented by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for the 2-year period beginning April 1, 2009.

The Council received a letter dated August 11, 2008 from Rod McInnis, NMFS Southwest Regional Administrator, (Attachment 1) requesting the Council consider regulatory changes for vessel marking requirements to comply with Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Conservation and Management Measure 2004-003. This requires that vessels operating in the Convention Area be marked with the international radio call sign and no other markings. Current HMS FMP regulations conflict with this requirement. Although new management measures to be considered in the biennial cycle are supposed to be identified at the June meeting, this request is presented at this time for Council consideration.

Council Task:

- 1. Consider the recommendations in the HMSMT Report and adopt a range of alternatives for managing the recreational thresher shark fishery.**
- 2. Decide whether to consider revised vessel marking regulations consistent with WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2004-003 during this biennial cycle, and if so, adopt alternatives for public review.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 1: August 11, 2008, letter from Rod McInnis to Donald K. Hansen.
2. Agenda Item H.2.b: HMSMT Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Adopt Proposed Changes for 2009–10 Routine Management Measures for Public Review
- Kit Dahl

PFMC
08/22/08