

Subject: Thresher Shark Management Measures
From: David Brackmann <david@ashwill.com>
Date: Thu, 16 Oct 2008 11:14:08 -0700
To: Kit.Dahl@noaa.gov
CC: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov, bob@unitedanglers.com

Mr. Chairman and members of the Council:

My name is David Brackmann and I reside in Huntington Beach. I am a recreational Sport fisherman who has fished for thresher sharks in Southern California for the last 30 years. I have released hundreds of these sharks over the years. This species of shark is one of my favorite species to fish as it is a viable fishery and within close proximity to the coasts and ports I fish out of. I am VERY concerned with a closure from February 1st thru August 14 each year! I personally release all sharks I catch and use methods to mouth hook all sharks, not foul hook them. This can be done by trolling only with hook less lures, as well as using non-offset circle hooks with all live and dead baits to insure that threshers are mouth hooked rather than snagged in the tail.

I have no issue with a zero take policy, however strongly oppose a closure on Sportfishing of this species from February 1 - August 14 annually. I also am a strong proponent of tag and releasing these fish for gathering scientific data and have been involved with the CA DFG shark tagging program since 1988.

In lieu of closing off this fishery to Sportfishing that is being considered, I believe the best approach should be boat limits with tags issued for the take of sharks per season. You don't want to go with bag limits or season limits as all that will end up happening is people will bring a new angler on their personal boat and keep killing them. Limit the number of catch per boat, issue a tag card for the boat matching the boat's CF # and vessel owner must carry the tag card on the vessel and punch out the date of each shark taken. All cards would then have to be mailed back at the end of the calendar year in order to be issued a card for the next year or if not, that vessel could not be issued a shark take card until the following calendar year. I think a limit of 3 sharks of any pelagic shark (thresher, mako or blue shark) per boat per year is reasonable. Please do not close this fishery to Sportfishing as thresher sharks provide a great economic value to the community through Sportfishing. We sport fishermen love these fish and want to see the stock of threshers strong and growing. Please take measures to protect this species and also consider seasonal take limits on the commercial drift gill net fishery that places the greatest amount of pressure on the stock. I think sport fishermen would go along with a restrictive annual boat limit and or a zero take policy during peak migration periods.

Sincerely,

David Brackmann

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Subject: [Fwd: HMS Thresher Shark Action]
From: PFMC Comments <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>
Date: Wed, 22 Oct 2008 13:26:49 -0700
To: Kit Dahl <Kit.Dahl@noaa.gov>

Subject: HMS Thresher Shark Action
From: MJ Kennedy <mjk93041@hotmail.com>
Date: Wed, 22 Oct 2008 12:11:14 -0700
To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

I strongly oppose a full closure of the Thresher shark fishery, and support either "No Action" or Alternative 4. Alternative 4 is definitely needed to help protect the resource, and if punch cards are issued, provide a valuable monitoring tool.

As far as the timing of the closure is concerned, the closure through August 14 does protect the pupping females early in the season, however the month of August through the first weeks of November is when we see the influx of small pups in the inshore area, is this really the time that we would want to be allowed to target them?

regards,
MJ Kennedy

HMS Thresher Shark Action.eml	Content-Type: message/rfc822 Content-Encoding: 7bit
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Subject: Highly Migratory Species Management - proposed changes

From: elskel@aol.com

Date: Mon, 20 Oct 2008 19:11:08 -0400

To: Kit.Dahl@noaa.gov, pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Dear Sirs

I am writing to you in regards to the proposed changes of the routine management measures for the 2009-10 seasons.

A little history on myself, I have been fishing our local waters for the past 30 years. Over the past 7 years I have taken 8 thresher sharks. Personally, I take one thresher per year. I do believe the resource should be managed.

With that being said, I do believe the proposed closure (Feb.1 - Aug.14) is way to extreme.

I would like to see:

Daily bag limit of one fish.

Season limit with punch card of 3 fish.

Lets protect our resource with out closing the fishery to the recreational fisherman.

Thank You,

Brian Knott
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