

Joe Exline, Oceanside Anglers Club
 Overhead Presentation During
 Public Testimony

Initial catch estimates (Metric Tons) from prior PFMC meeting information

	Large Mesh DGN	Commercial Hook and Line	Private Recreational	Charter Recreational	Non HMS gear	Total
2005	155	0.7	55	2.2	11.5	224.4
2006	99	3.4	95	2.4	41.6	241.4
2007	98	3.8	182	3.8	20.8	308.4
Total	352	7.9	332	8.4	73.9	774.2
Average	117.3	2.6	110.7	2.8	24.6	258.1

Recreational weight data was calculated using fisherman reports on BloodyDecks.com, this yielded an average weight per individual of 85 Kg (187 lbs) and an initial released mortality of two individuals per six released, and the following RecFin (SURFS) data on catches

Year	A fish Observed catch	PSE	B1 Fish Reported dead	PSE	B2 fish released alive	PSE	Total A+B1	Total A+B1+B2
2005	275	21	30	55	1,141	30	305	1,446
2006	635	33	304	72	620	12	939	1,559
2007	1,544	52	54	31	1,672	50	1,598	3,271

Since I am a member of this website I am familiar with information normally posted. Let us just say that on average only large catches are reported, weight estimates are enhanced, and only successful trips are reported. For an example here is a recent post;



This recent post estimated the weights of these sharks at 120 lbs and 200 lbs. This post was removed due to the overwhelming negative reaction for keeping two sharks.

However in a supplemental report the figures in the first table were corrected based on an updated commercial information for 2007 and some more realistic weight measurements from Pier and actual CRFS measurements rather than from a fishing website where only large fish are generally reported. The new table data now looks like this:

	Large Mess DGN	Commercial Hook and Line	Recreational All Modes	Non HMS gear	Total
2005	155	0.7	24	11.5	191.2
2006	99	3.4	30.2	41.6	174.2
2007	163	3.8	75	20.8	262.6
Total	417	7.9	129.2	73.9	628
Average	139	2.6	43.1	24.6	209.3

Using the same website of which I am a respected member I used a poll to capture sentiment from that community for the following options (updated 11/2/2008)

Action	Number of votes
Closure from February 1 to August 14	64
Punch card with annual limits	129
Bag, Boat, possession limit changes	71
Gear restrictions	26

Please note only 243 persons voted some made multiple choices. In researching some of the reasons why closure was chosen I found the respondents did not fish for shark and would not be affected. This vote thread also received 85 replies and over 2,000 views which is high for this type of post.

In addition I contacted the City of Oceanside revenue manager Sheri Brown and asked about income from the two pay stations in the harbor boat parking lot.

Month	Revenue
Aug-08	\$36,720
Jul-08	\$49,550
Jun-08	\$36,680
May-08	\$34,310
Apr-08	\$13,660
Mar-08	\$16,700
Feb-08	\$10,010
Jan-08	\$7,560

Then using the actual alternatives proposed in the briefing book I asked members of Oceanside Anglers Club to respond to an email or sign a questionnaire posted a Ken's Custom Reel in Oceanside Harbor.

Action	Responses
1) No Action	5
2) Closure	3
3) Spring only Closure	3
4) Tagging/possession changes	31
5) Gear changes	3

Most respondents did suggest more information/research on gear changes to increase release survivability would be beneficial. In addition over seventy club members attended the Pflieger Institute (PIER) and NOAA fisheries seminar on thresher sharks which informed us of research in this area.

Summary

- 1) There is a concern from the recreational fishermen that there has been an increase in fishing effort for thresher shark
- 2) Generally the data needed to support a closure due to excessive take is non-existent
- 3) If action is warranted the option most preferred is some type of bag, boat, season possession limit change. Most see report cards of tags as an option however due to cost concerns a one fish per boat per day and a reduction in angler possession limits to one fish.
- 4) Limits allow opportunity while insuring dramatic future increase is kept in check
- 5) More public outreach and education would be beneficial
- 6) Research in alternative gear types to increase survivability is desired