High Seas Longline Fishery

Leatherback sea turtle

Bigeye and yellowfin tuna

Bottlenose Dolphin

Blue Shark

Expanding longline fisheries in the Pacific would be inconsistent with key environmental laws

- Endangered Species Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
“We conclude that leatherbacks are on the verge of extinction in the Pacific.”


3 – 9

Estimated number of leatherback takes in proposed high seas longline fishery per year. DEIS at 107.

Mortality: 1 – 3

Leatherback in Monterey Bay, California. Photo: J. Sorensen
“The track between New Guinea and shelf waters off Oregon, USA may represent the longest known migration between breeding and foraging areas of any marine vertebrate.”
Scott Benson et al. 2007.
Leatherback Sea Turtle Sightings off the California Coast, 1990-2003

Legend

- Leatherback sightings 1990-2003
- Flightpath waypoints
- California State Waters
- Survey path

Aerial line-transect surveys were conducted for sea turtles and marine mammals from 15 August and 15 November in 10 of 14 years between 1990 and 2003.

Petition to Designate Critical Habitat

A critical foraging area for one of the largest remaining Pacific nesting populations
ESA-listed Loggerhead Sea Turtles

4 – 27

Estimated Number of Loggerhead Takes in proposed fishery, DEIS at 107

17 – loggerhead cap in Hawaii SSLL fishery

46 – new proposed cap
Marine Mammals

5 – 10 marine mammals per year under Alternative 2.

“The species most likely to be taken are Risso’s dolphins and bottlenose dolphins” DEIS at V Bottlenose dolphin, Bryde’s whale, California sea lion, common dolphin, false killer whale, humpback whale, short-finned pilot whale, pygmy sperm whale, Risso’s dolphin and striped dolphins have been observed taken in Hawaii and West Coast SSLL fisheries. DSEIS at 72
Increasing Bycatch of Fish

5,900 – 30,900 sharks per year (blue, mako, oceanic whitetip and other sharks), DSEIS at 99

1,600 – 5,500 tuna per year (bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, skipjack and others), DSEIS at 99

+ hundreds of Striped Marlin, Blue Marlin and others each year.
Alternative 1 - “No action”

Given the total cost and risk to threatened and endangered sea turtles, marine mammals, seabirds and the expected bycatch of thousands of sharks, tuna, billfish and others, we urge the Council to adopt Alternative 1 as its preferred alternative.