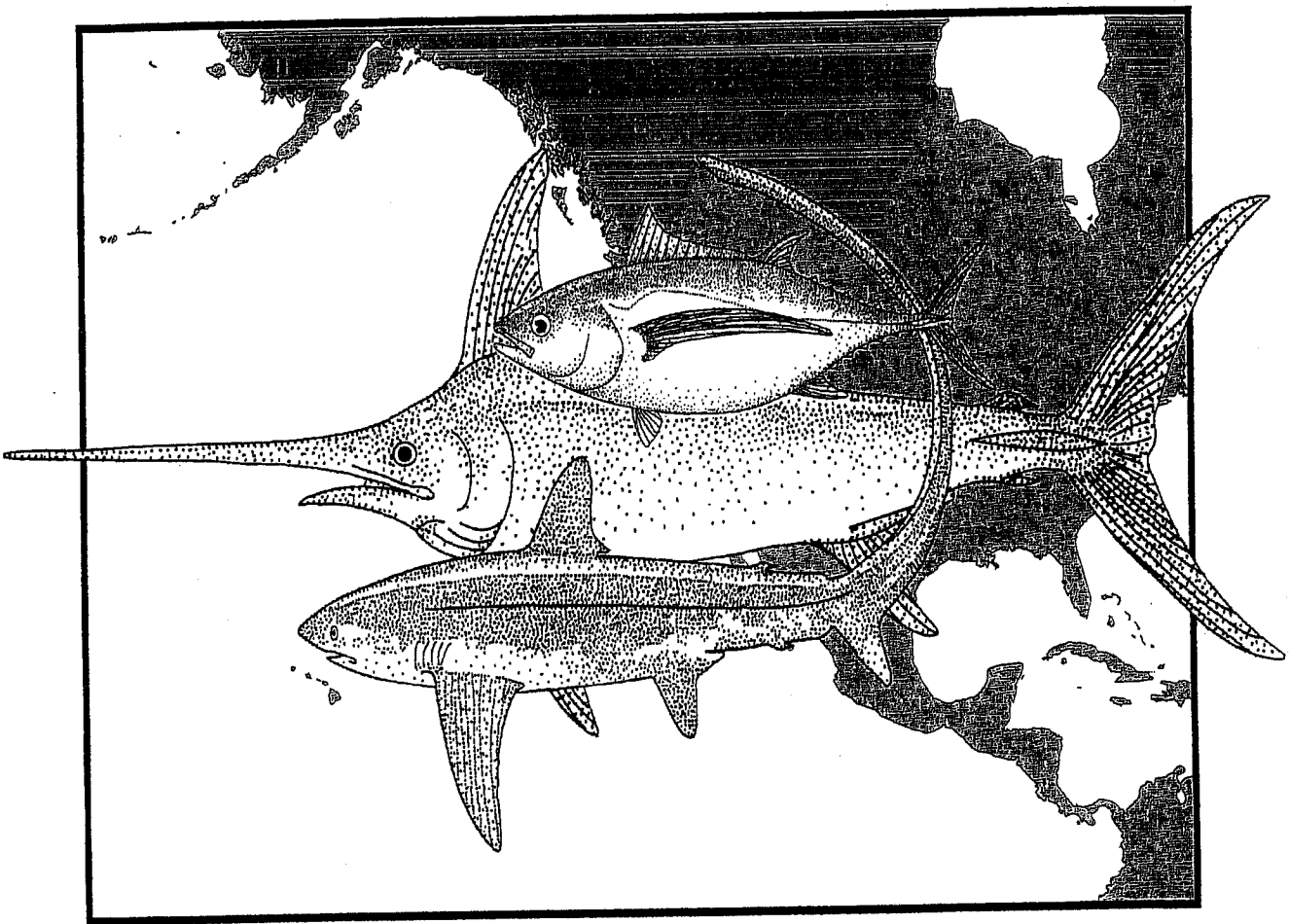


DRAFT

**Fishery Management Plan
and
Environmental Impact Statement**

for

U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species



Pacific Fishery Management Council

September 2002

Credits

Cover art and species illustrations by Roy Allen, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, La Jolla, California.



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COVER SHEET

[X] Final Environmental Impact Statement

RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:

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Long Beach, CA 90802-4213

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(562) 980-4000

PROPOSED ACTION:

Approval and implementation of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS).

ABSTRACT:

The proposed action is to implement the HMS FMP under the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 as amended. The FMP would manage 5 species of tuna, 5 species of sharks, striped marlin, swordfish and dorado (dolphinfish). Commercial and recreational fisheries for HMS would be managed under the FMP. Commercial gears include surface hook and line, drift gillnet, harpoon, longline, and purse seine. The FMP defines and prevents overfishing, describes and protects essential fish habitat, and documents and minimizes bycatch of fish and interactions with protected species (marine mammals, birds, turtles). The FMP is a framework plan that contains some specific measures but also authorizes actions to be taken in the future following specific procedures without amending the FMP. In addition, the FMP includes a set of proposed initial fishery conservation and management measures. The impacts of the proposed actions and their alternatives are assessed. The principal proposed actions include: 1) permits for commercial and charter fisheries, 2) logbook requirements for commercial and charter fisheries, 3) prohibited species, 4) harvest guidelines for certain shark species, 5) prohibition on sale of striped marlin, 6) recreational catch-and-release program, 7) new observer programs for longline, surface hook and line, and purse seine fisheries, 8) incidental catch limits for non-HMS gears, and 8) restrictions on the use of drift gillnets, pelagic longlines and purse seines.