

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON RESUBMITTED
EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT APPLICATION

For the June 2015 meeting, the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries submitted an updated exempted fishing permit (EFP) application for the Council's consideration. As stated in Agenda Item E.2.a, HMSMT Report, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) finds the revised application to be a stronger proposal, as it addresses the issues the HMSMT identified in March 2015.

The HMSMT found Table 1 in the applicant's proposal to lack clarity. While the intent is to show catch composition and discard mortality rate, the table could be improved by including observed catch counts and disposition. For example, the table provided in the application lists 100 percent mortality rate for several species, including opah, based on a single discarded animal. However, total opah catch was 162 animals, 161 of which are retained. Dead discards of marketable species likely reflect damage due to depredation.

In order to facilitate informed review by the Council, the HMSMT created the table below to provide context to catch composition and mortality discard rate as provided by the applicant.

The HMSMT was unable to reach a consensus recommendation on the EFP with respect to authorizing fishing in the Pacific Leatherback Conservation Area (PLCA). Overall, the HMSMT sees merit in this proposal, but not all members were comfortable with the potential risks of allowing fishing in the PLCA without first testing proposed gear modifications outside the PLCA.

Table 1. Observed count and disposition of drift gillnet catch based on 2013-2014 NMFS West Coast Region Observer Program data.*

Species	Observed Catch	Number Kept	Discarded Alive	Discarded Dead/Unkn
Common Mola	1362	0	1350	12
SWORDFISH	495	495	0	0
SHORTFIN MAKO SHARK	406	394	10	2
ALBACORE	386	364	0	22
BULET MACKEREL	188	67	0	121
BLUEFIN TUNA	184	178	0	6
OPAH	162	161	0	1
Blue Shark	139	0	31	108
COMMON THRESHER SHARK	122	122	0	0
SKIPJACK TUNA	74	26	0	48
Pacific Pomfret	51	21	0	30
LOUVAR	32	31	0	1
PACIFIC MACKEREL	25	0	0	25
PACIFIC BONITO	17	16	0	1
Unidentified Tuna	9	0	0	9
Pelagic Stingray	5	0	5	0
BIGEYE THRESHER	3	0	0	3
Megamouth Shark	2	0	2	0
Remora	2	0	2	0
Striped Marlin	1	0	0	1
Salmon Shark	1	0	0	1
Smooth Hammerhead Shark	1	0	0	1
Oilfish	1	0	0	1

* This table has been adapted from Table 1 of the original EFP application ([Agenda Item E.2](#)). Species listed in uppercase bold type are listed as marketable species by the EFP applicants.

PFMC
06/14/15