

CALIFORNIA FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

In light of cancellation of [Agenda Item G.3](#), Scoping of Amendment 4 to the FMP: Authorizing a Shallow-Set Longline (SSLL) Fishery Outside of the EEZ, California Department of Fish and Wildlife requests that NOAA Fisheries provide additional and/or refined data to augment the scoping information document ([Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 1](#)). Information provided in the document generated a number of good questions during the California Delegation discussion, and inclusion of additional materials in the briefing book will allow for more robust scoping.

Tables 1, 2, 5 and 6 in the scoping document provide statistical information on the Hawaii SSLL fishery from a variety of sources. As suggested on page 8, it may be reasonable to consider a West Coast fishery that operates only east of 150 degrees W longitude, or alternatively, 140 degrees. To the extent data confidentiality rules allow, refinement of the data presented in the tables so that it is stratified by longitude would allow for better analysis of a prospective West Coast fishery.

Additionally, questions were raised about whether Hawaii vessels landing into West Coast ports might have a different catch composition based on local landing regulations, market conditions, or economics. Of particular interest is what happens to marlin that are caught on such trips. Refinement of data provided in the tables to separately examine trips that are delivered into west coast ports would assist in determining if vessels on these trips perform differently than the vessels landing in Hawaii.

Furthermore, it would be very helpful if NOAA Fisheries and PFMC staff could investigate potential management and policy consistency and coordination issues with the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries on matters of shared jurisdiction in the Western Pacific, and include a situational update to the Council with the briefing book materials.

Scheduling

As of now, drift gillnet (DGN) Federal Permit Range of Alternatives is slated for one hour and 30 minutes at the November meeting ([Agenda Item C.6, Attachment 2](#)). CDFW suggests that the Council may want to reschedule the Federal Permit item for later date, and put this time toward the rescheduled discussion of potential authorization of a SSLL fishery. Federal permitting of the DGN fishery is a lower priority item and can be addressed at any point during the Swordfish Monitoring and Management Plan development process.

Advisory Body Direction

To better inform scoping on this item, CDFW has suggestions for the HMSMT and HMSAS which will help to frame the discussion and possible options available for consideration. The HMSAS should be tasked with evaluating potential interest from West Coast fishermen in a SSLL fishery outside of the U.S. EEZ before the scoping discussion. On the issue of parity, the HMSMT should be tasked with outlining existing federal and state rules, processes and historical development of these rules with regard to authorizing or prohibiting landings into West Coast states from the Hawaii SSLL fleet.