

Draft Fishery Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for U.S. West Coast- Based Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species

Open and Excellent Input from Stakeholders

- Broad and diverse stakeholders
 - Consumers, environmental, different recreational and commercial fisheries
- Contributed to delay of first draft, but increased comprehensiveness and representativeness of views of the diverse stakeholders

Overarching Issues

- 1. Multiple jurisdictions of HMS trans-boundary resource stocks
 - 3 states: Washington, Oregon, and California
 - EEZs of Pacific coast, Canada, Mexico and other Latin American nations, and Western and Central Pacific Island nations, and the high seas
 - 3 Fishery Management Councils: Pacific, North Pacific (no plan), and Western Pacific (plan)

1. Multiple Jurisdictions, cont'd

- Lack of overarching U.S. plan for Pacific
- Treaty Indian Rights
- International Treaties:
 - U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty
 - Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
 - South Pacific Tuna Treaty
 - Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (MHLIC)

2. Jurisdiction on the High Seas

- To be effective, some fisheries require jurisdiction on the high seas

3. Different Approaches to U.S. Conservation

- Where does conservation and management of trans-boundary, renewable, highly migratory species begin?
 - Domestically then internationally?
 - Internationally then domestically?
 - What happens when there are no international treaties or conventions for conservation and management?
 - Should the U.S. act unilaterally?

3. Different Approaches, cont'd

- HMS PDT found wide range of opinion among stakeholders and did not address it in the FMP

4. Complexity of HMS Fisheries

- Many Types of Recreational and Commercial Fisheries
 - Charter/party boat recreational
 - Private boat recreational (several types of communities, e.g. large & small vessels, tuna, shark, & billfish)
 - Surface hook-and-line commercial
 - Drift gill net commercial

4. Complexity of HMS Cont'd

- Types of Fisheries, Cont'd
 - Pelagic longline
 - Harpoon
 - Large tuna purse seiners in the Eastern and Western and Central Pacific Ocean
 - Small coastal purse seiners

4. Complexity of HMS, Cont'd.

- Many Issues
 - Bycatch
 - Interactions with protected species
 - Sharks
 - Multiple users on the same resource
 - Limited entry
 - International and jurisdictional (repeated)
 - Inconsistent state and federal regulations
 - Data collection insufficient and inconsistent

4. Complexity of HMS, Cont'd.

- Data Collection
 - PacFIN coding
 - International landings and trans-shipment
 - Economic data on recreational and commercial
 - RecFIN – doesn't adequately sample private vessels
 - MRFSS inadequate sampling of HMS fisheries
 - Commercial and charter log books insufficiently analyzed
 - Other recreational data sources insufficiently analyzed

Complexity of HMS, Cont'd.

- FMP Interactions with Federal Regulations
 - Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)
 - Endangered Species Act (ESA)
 - Migratory Bird Treaty Act
 - High Seas Fishing Act
 - Tuna Conventions Act

Complexity of HMS, Cont'd.

- FMP Interactions with International Plans of Action:
 - Seabirds
 - Fishing Capacity
 - Sharks

Background: Status of Stocks

- PDT concluded no need for management action to prevent overfishing
- U.S. can do little unilaterally to conserve stocks, since international fisheries and regional catches only small fraction of stock-wide exploitation
- Legally by definitions in HMS FMP (from Magnuson-Stevens):
 - No overfished stocks
 - Bigeye and yellowfin tuna overfishing in EPO

Status of Stocks, Cont'd.

- Could be local depletion
- Common thresher shark is still of concern
- Summary Table on Chapter 3, Page 10

Types of FMP Options

- Management Unit Species (3.1.1.)
- Framework (8.4.2.)
- Treaty Indian Fishing (8.4.3.)
- Conservation and Management (8.5.5.)
 - General Measures (8.5.5.1.1.3.)
 - Gear
 - Licensing/Permits
 - Reporting

Types of FMP Options, Cont'd.

Conservation and Management, Cont'd.:

- Fishery-by-Fishery Measures (8.5.5.2.-8.5.5.8.)
- Shark Conservation (8.5.5.9.)
- Protection of Essential Fish Habitat (8.5.6.)
- Bycatch (8.5.7.)
- Protected Species (8.5.8.)
- Prohibited Species (8.5.9.)

Management Unit Species Options (3.1.1.)

- Existing Preferred Option
 - Albacore, Yellowfin, Bigeye, Skipjack, Northern Bluefin Tunas
 - Common Thresher, Pelagic Thresher, Bigeye Thresher, Shortfin Mako, Blue Sharks
 - Striped Marlin and Swordfish (Billfish)
 - Dorado

Framework Options (8.4.2.)

- **Option 1.** New measures or changes to measures may be implemented for one or more fisheries for HMS in the Pacific Council area through rulemaking.
- **Option 2.** Option 2 includes the procedures specified above in Option 1 with the addition of a “point of concern” process.

Treaty Indian Fishing Options (8.4.3.)

- **Option 1.** Adopt and include in the FMP a framework process similar to that used for treaty Indian fisheries under the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP.
- **Option 2.** Authorize adoption of the framework to accommodate treaty fishing rights in the implementing regulations. The initial proposed regulations would be as set out in the framework in Option 1.

General Measures Options (8.5.5.1.1.3.)

- Commercial Gear Options
- **Option 1.** Legal gears for the commercial harvest of HMS within the EEZ or on the high seas include hand gear (harpoon, rod and reel, and spear), hook and line gear (troll gear), gillnet (drift, set, or trammel nets), longline gear (pelagic or set), net gear (lampara, purse seine, seine, and trawl) and pot gear.
 - This option reflects the status quo and includes all gears legal in one or more of the three states.

Commercial Gear Options, Cont'd.

- **Option 2** Legal gears for the commercial harvest of HMS within the EEZ or on the high seas include hand gear (harpoon, rod and reel, and spear), hook and line gear (troll gear), gillnet (drift, set, or trammel nets), longline gear (pelagic), and net gear (lampara, purse seine, seine).
 - This option removes gears which are technically legal in one or more states because of the classification of HMS, but are not used to target HMS (set longlines, trawl, and pot gear).

Commercial Gear Options, Cont'd.

- **Option 3** Legal gears for the commercial harvest of HMS within the EEZ or on the high seas include hand gear (harpoon, rod and reel, and spear), hook and line gear (troll gear), gillnet (drift, set, or trammel nets), and net gear (lampara, purse seine, seine).
 - This option removes longline gear as legal gear for HMS.

Recreational Gear Option (8.5.5.1.1.3.)

- Legal gears for the recreational harvest of HMS within the EEZ or on the high seas. include hand gear (harpoon, rod and reel, and spear), and hook and line gear (troll gear).
 - This option is the status quo proposal. Rod and reel, and hook and line gear are legal in all three states. Spears are legal in California and Oregon. Harpoons are not legal in California.

Commercial Fisheries Licensing/Permit Options (8.5.5.1.2.2.)

- **Option 1** Require a federal vessel permit for all commercial HMS fisheries within the EEZ.
- a) One permit would cover all HMS fisheries.
- b) Require endorsements for individual fisheries

Recreational Fisheries Licensing/Permit Options (8.5.5.1.2.2.)

- **Option 1.** Federal recreational permit for anglers. An angler 16 years or older must have a federal permit in order to fish for and retain or possess HMS in the EEZ.
 - This permit provides a foundation for data collection.

Recreational Fisheries Licensing/Permit Options (8.5.5.1.2.2.), Cont'd.

- **Option 2.** Federal permit for all recreational vessels. This option establishes a single federal permit to fish for HMS inside the EEZ or on the high seas for all recreational vessels.
 - This permit provides information on the recreational vessels, both private and charter/party, participating in the HMS fishery.

Recreational Fisheries Licensing/Permit Options (8.5.5.1.2.2.), Cont'd.

- **Option 3.** Federal or state permits for all recreational vessels. Unless there is an existing state program licensing HMS recreational vessels, either a state or federal program can permit all recreational vessels to fish for HMS inside the EEZ or on the high seas.

Reporting/Monitoring Options (8.5.5.1.3.)

- Commercial Fisheries
- **Option 1** Require federal logbooks for all commercial HMS fisheries within the EEZ.
 - Some federal logbooks already in use (i.e. high seas logs) could be utilized for fisheries within the EEZ. Logbooks for other fisheries may need to be established. Logbook must be turned in within a prescribed time period. Electronic logbooks would be accepted and encouraged.

Commercial Reporting Options, Cont'd. (8.5.5.1.3.2.)

- **Option 2** Require observers on all commercial vessels in HMS fisheries within the EEZ and on the high seas.
- **Option 3** Require VMS on all commercial vessels in HMS fisheries within the EEZ and on the high seas.

Reporting/Monitoring Options (8.5.5.1.3.), Cont'd.

- Recreational Fisheries
- **Option 4.** Mandatory federal logbooks for charter/party vessels administered by the states.

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures

Surface Hook-and-Line (8.5.5.2.)

- **Option 1.** Allow an unrestricted, open-access, HMS troll fishery. This is the status quo.
- **Option 2.** Start the PFMC HMS FMP amendment process to initiate a limited entry program for the albacore troll fishery.

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.

Drift Gillnet (8.5.5.3.)

- **Option 1.** Defer authority for management of the Pacific coast DGN fishery to California, Oregon and Washington.

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.

Drift Gillnet (8.5.5.3.), Cont'd.

- **Options 2 - 6** Establish a federally authorized and administered limited entry DGN fishery in the Pacific coast EEZ, and adopt the federal TRP restrictions and the pending closures imposed by the BO.
 - **Options 2 - 6** differ by the extent to which they federalize existing California, Oregon and Washington gear/time/area DGN regulations. Under options 2 - 6, the FMP would establish federal jurisdiction over DGN vessels operating within the Pacific coast EEZ and on the high seas. Options 2-6 would also provide authority to the Council to directly implement federal regulations that may be promulgated pursuant to the MMPA (e.g. take reduction team) and the ESA (e.g. biological opinion).

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.

Drift Gillnet (8.5.5.3.), Cont'd.

- **Option 2.** Institutes an area closure off Washington, federalizes current DGN regulations for California and Oregon, and adopts the federal TRP and implements the pending closures imposed by the BO.
 - This option would federalize the existing California and Oregon gear/time/area DGN regulations, and the intent of DGN not being a legal gear for Washington residents. Concern over salmon bycatch is a major reason why a DGN fishery has not developed off Washington.

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.

Drift Gillnet (8.5.5.3.), Cont'd.

- **Option 3.** Creates a coastwide limited entry DGN fishery in the Pacific coast EEZ that federalizes gear/time/area restrictions as per current state practices, and adopts the federal TRP restrictions and implements the pending closures imposed by the BO.
 - This option would allow U.S. citizens possessing a limited entry permit to fish DGN gear throughout the Pacific coast EEZ (including the portion off Washington).

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.
Drift Gillnet (8.5.5.3.), Cont'd.

- **Option 4.** Would not federalize current state gear/time/area management practices, but would institute an area closure off Washington. It would adopt the federal TRP restrictions and implement the pending closures imposed by the BO.

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.

Drift Gillnet (8.5.5.3.), Cont'd.

- **Option 5.** Would not federalize current state gear/time/area management practices, but would create a coastwide limited entry DGN fishery in the Pacific coast EEZ (no closure off Washington). It would adopt the federal TRP restrictions and implement the pending closures imposed by the BO.

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.
Drift Gillnet (8.5.5.3.), Cont'd.

- **Option 6.** Only federalizes selected gear/time/area restrictions as per current California practices. It would harmonize existing Oregon DGN regulations. It would adopt the federal TRP restrictions and implement the pending closures imposed by the BO. This option embodies an industry proposal for a federalized DGN fishery.

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.

Harpoon Fishery (8.5.5.4.)

- **Option 1** would allow the harpoon fishery to continue within the U.S. west coast EEZ, but with area restrictions and reporting and monitoring requirements as per current Pacific States' practices (closure off Washington). (status quo)
- **Option 2** would allow harpoon fishery throughout the U.S. west coast EEZ with no area restrictions, but with reporting and monitoring requirements as per current Pacific States' practices.

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.

Longline Fisheries (8.5.5.5.)

- **Inside the EEZ - Conventional Longline Gear**
- **Option 1:** Longlining permitted only off Oregon and beyond 25 miles, to continue the existing developmental fisheries there for swordfish and for blue shark. This would essentially be the status quo.
- **Option 2:** Longlining not permitted in the entire west coast EEZ. This would eliminate the developmental longline fisheries off Oregon.

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.

Longline Fisheries (8.5.5.5.), Cont'd.

- **Inside the EEZ - Conventional Longline Gear, Cont'd.**
- **Option 3:** Longlining permitted in west coast EEZ waters, but with specific restrictions. These restrictions could be by entry limitations, by time and area closures, by gear type or deployment restrictions, by monitoring requirements, or by combinations of restrictions.

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.

Longline Fisheries (8.5.5.5.), Cont'd.

- Option 3, Cont'd.
- The industry proposal has effort and area restrictions - specifically:
 - longline effort derived from DGN effort (through gear switching)
 - fishing prohibited, north of Pt. Conception, within 25 miles of shore and, south of Pt. Conception, east of a line drawn from Pt Conception to San Miguel Is. to San Nicolas Is. to San Clemente Is. to the intersection of longitude 117° 49' 30" W with the southern boundary of the U.S. EEZ.

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.

Longline Fisheries (8.5.5.5.), Cont'd.

- **Option 4:** Longlining permitted within the West coast EEZ as a research program. Investigate tunas and swordfish available in the EEZ to longline gear, focusing on adult bluefin tuna and how it could be caught with least impact on associated, non-target species. (Research version of #3)
 - The biology, fishery potential, and effects of fishing, including effects on any protected or vulnerable species incidentally caught, are to be studied. Research on procedures for reducing the bycatch and mortalities to those other species would be important

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.

Longline Fisheries (8.5.5.5.), Cont'd.

- Option 4 has 3 suboptions:
- **4a:** Investigate the biology and fishing effects on adult bluefin and other incidentally caught species, via an exploratory fishing mode, using longline vessels with exempted fishery permits (that must be renewed annually). Results of the study are to be analyzed as post-fishing data.

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.

Longline Fisheries (8.5.5.5.), Cont'd.

- **4b-1:** Investigate the biology and fishing effects on adult bluefin and other incidentally caught species, via the research study mode, using a research ship and/or chartered longline vessels - *fishing time, area, and gear strata, along transects or other sampling configurations to test scientific hypotheses* on bluefin and procedures for reducing takes of and mortalities to any protected, vulnerable, or prohibited species also caught.
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Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.

Longline Fisheries (8.5.5.5.), Cont'd.

- **4b-2:** Investigate the biology and fishing effects on adult bluefin and other incidentally caught species via the research study mode, using chartered or exempted-permit longline vessels - *but allowing those vessels to find and catch bluefin tuna as they can, the scientific sampling and gear experiments to be adapted to the fishing as it develops, as it can be modified, and as is practical.* A research vessel could work with the fishing vessels. This would be a hybrid of research program Options 4a and 4b-1 above

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.
Longline Fisheries (8.5.5.5.), Cont'd.

- **Inside the EEZ - Cable Longline Gear**
- **Option 1.** Allow a limited number of cable longliners to target juvenile and subadult shortfin mako sharks in EEZ waters.
- **Option 2.** Not allow a longline fishery targeting shortfin mako sharks.

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.

Longline Fisheries (8.5.5.5.), Cont'd.

- **Outside EEZ - Conventional Longline Gear**
- **Option 1:** Adopt selected portions of the regulations for Hawaii-based longliners to prevent longliners departing from west coast ports from circumventing conservation measures protecting turtles and albatrosses in the Hawaiian fishery.
- **Option 2:** Not adopt selected portions of the Hawaii regulations for west coast longliners.

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.

Coastal Purse Seine Fishery (8.5.5.6.)

- **Option 1** Allow a of HMS purse seine fishery within the Pacific coast EEZ, subject to an area closure off Washington.
 - This reflects the intent of current state practices, i.e. the status quo. The closure off Washington would alleviate concerns over salmon and shark bycatch or incidental catch by purse seiners, and adverse impacts on other fisheries.
- **Option 2** Allow a coastwide HMS purse seine fishery within the EEZ.

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd. Large Tuna Purse Seine Fishery (8.5.5.7.)

- This fishery does not occur within the U.S. EEZ of the Pacific coast. NMFS currently regulates this fishery under authority of the Tuna Conventions Act. There are no specific regulatory options proposed at this time. Regulatory measures in the future may be undertaken by the framework procedure.

Fishery-by-Fishery Measures, Cont'd.

Private & Charter/Party Boat Recreational Fishery (8.5.5.8.)

- **Option 1** Recreational Bag Limits for Anglers. This option would establish a framework process for each to state to establish their own limits. There are varying bag limits on HMS by state. This could be accomplished by deferring to states or by federal bag limits which can vary by state.
- **Option 2.** Sale of Recreational Caught Fish. This option allows for the sale of HMS fish caught by recreational anglers.

Shark Conservation (8.5.5.9.)

- **Option 1** would adopt shark finning prohibitions currently in effect in the Pacific Coast states (status quo).
 - These regulations generally prohibit the landing of most sharks with fins detached, requiring them to be landed whole.

Shark Conservation (8.5.5.9.), Cont'd.

- **Option 2** would establish consistency with non-finning rules at the federal level (PL 106-557, amended Section 307 (1) of the MSFCMA and U.S. NPOA guidelines. It would allow landing of fins detached from the carcasses, but under certain conditions, i.e.prohibit:
 - 1) removal of fins & discarding of the carcass at sea
 - 2) the custody, control or possession of any such fins aboard a vessel without the corresponding carcass, in the amount of 4 fins per carcass and a total weight of shark fins not to exceed 5 percent of the total weight of shark carcasses landed or found on board.

Shark Conservation (8.5.5.9.), Cont'd.

- **Option 3** would continue time/area closures in the drift gill net fishery protecting sharks off California, Oregon and Washington.
 - These restrictions effectively protect inshore nursery areas and reproductive thresher shark adults that pass through the area during the breeding season in spring and early summer.
 - (See also Drift Gill Net options in section 8.5.5.3, some of which also propose continuing existing closures)

Shark Conservation (8.5.5.9.), Cont'd.

- **Option 4** would require the mandatory release of MUS pelagic sharks taken incidentally in the purse seine fishery, where practicable.
- **Option 5** would establish a coast-wide prohibition against development of commercial fisheries that specifically target any shark MUS.
 - Most HMS sharks, because of their unique life histories, cannot support sustainable directed fisheries.

Shark Conservation (8.5.5.9.), Cont'd.

- **Option 6** would maintain present observer coverage in the driftnet fishery and establish adequate observer coverage for any developing fishery that may catch significant numbers of HMS sharks.
 - See also Bycatch options section 8.5.7.1 which also addresses maintenance of existing observer coverage.

Shark Conservation (8.5.5.9.), Cont'd.

- **Option 7** would impose size, season and area limits on recreational and commercial fisheries to protect pups and adult female sharks as follows:
 - Retention prohibited of all 0-1 yr shortfin mako and thresher sharks less than 40" FL south of Pt. Conception, CA year-round (commercial and recreational).
 - Retention prohibited of large female common thresher sharks 6 ft and over (FL) south of Pt. Conception from February through May; and from the California-Oregon border northward from Aug-Jan. (commercial and recreational; with de-hooking devices required).

Shark Conservation (8.5.5.9.), Cont'd.

- **Option 8** would impose retention limits as stated in Option 6 for the commercial fishery only, and for the recreational fishery adopt a Pacific coast-wide version of the current California pelagic shark sublimit now in effect in California (a daily bag limit of 2 blue shark, 2 thresher shark and 2 mako shark).

Shark Conservation (8.5.5.9.), Cont'd.

- **Option 9** would impose no size limits on the commercial or recreational fishery as mentioned above, but would establish a Pacific coast-wide version of California's pelagic shark sublimit now in effect for the recreational fishery (a daily bag limit of 2 blue shark, 2 thresher shark and 2 mako shark).
 - This expands the bag limit to the states of Washington and Oregon, where relatively few pelagic sharks are taken recreationally.

Shark Conservation (8.5.5.9.), Cont'd.

- **Option 10** expands protection throughout the U.S. West coast EEZ for basking shark, white shark and megamouth sharks. Prohibits take except under permit issued for scientific or educational purposes or for scientific or live display, although may be taken as bycatch by commercial fishing operations, including drift gillnet and purse seine, but must have its pelvic fin intact. If taken alive it may be sold for scientific or display purposes.

Protection of Essential Fish Habitat (8.5.6.)

- There are no options.
- **Recommendation:** The Team believes that current management measures to protect fishery habitat are adequate, but should future research demonstrate a need, and these critical habitats become identified in the future, it is recommended that the Council make every effort to protect them, especially if they are found to be concentrated in localized definable areas.

Bycatch: Standardized Reporting and Measures to Minimize (8.5.7.)

- The MSFCMA requires:
 - (A) minimize bycatch; and
 - (B) minimize the mortality of bycatch which cannot be avoided”

Bycatch: Standardized Reporting and Measures to Minimize (8.5.7.), Cont'd.

- Performance Standards:
 - provide an objective measurable option to achieve target bycatch reduction and minimization goals.
 - Gives transparency in management.
 - promote innovation to achieve a target or goal.
 - For this FMP, the *goal* of the performance standards would be to reduce and minimize incidental catches of non-target, vulnerable and protected species.
 - The term 'performance standards' refers to the "bundle" of objectives, criteria, indicators and verifiers developed in the FMP to minimize and reduce bycatch.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Drift Gillnet (8.5.7.1.)

- Reporting:
 - 1. Logbook - Continue to use logbooks to document the bycatch of HMS and other fishes. Status Quo.
 - 2. Observers - Continue under this FMP if discontinued NMFS under the MMPA. Status Quo.
 - 3. None - Based on past logbook data and at-sea observer data, it may no longer be necessary to collect bycatch data for this fishery.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Drift Gillnet (8.5.7.1.)

- Efforts to Minimize Bycatch:
 - 1. Performance standards.
 - 2. Develop methods/Investigate gear modifications to reduce bycatch.
 - 3. Time/Area closures to protect juvenile sharks & reduce bycatch of blue sharks & common mola.
 - 4. Mandatory landings
 - 5. Effort reduction - Reduce the number of permits issued to drift gillnet vessels.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Drift Gillnet (8.5.7.1.)

- Efforts to Minimize Bycatch, Cont'd:
 - 6. Alternative Fisheries
 - Might have lower bycatch rates and fishers could enter while surrendering their drift gillnet permits.
 - 7. Education –
 - Skipper workshops on the consequences of high bycatch rates and known ways to reduce bycatch.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Drift Gillnet (8.5.7.1.)

- Efforts to Minimize Mortality
- 1. Reduced Soak Time
- 2. Education
 - Educate skippers at workshops on the consequences of high bycatch rates and known ways to minimize bycatch mortality.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Surface Hook-and-Line (8.5.7.2.)

- Reporting
- 1. Logbook - Continue the use of mandatory high seas logbook outside the EEZ and use of voluntary logbooks within the EEZ to document the bycatch of HMS and other fishes. Status quo.
- 2. Logbook - Extend existing mandatory use of high seas logbook to include fishing in EEZ.
- 3. Observers - Place observers on larger vessels to document the bycatch of HMS and other fishes.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Surface Hook-and-Line (8.5.7.2.), Cont'd.

- Efforts to Minimize Bycatch
 1. Time/Area closures - Protect juvenile albacore which are currently thrown back.
 2. Mandatory landings

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Surface Hook-and-Line (8.5.7.2.), Cont'd.

- Efforts to Minimize Mortality
- 1. Modify gear to reduce bycatch
 - Modify of the gear is limited to hook design since the fishery uses very simple, light weight jigs trolled at or near the surface.
- 2. Initiate informal program to educate fishermen of the consequences of high bycatch rates and known ways (leave the area) to reduce bycatch mortality.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Pelagic Longline Fishery (8.5.7.3.)

- Reporting
 1. Logbook - Continue to use federal high-seas logbooks to document the bycatch of HMS and other fishes outside the EEZ. Status Quo.
 2. Logbook - Mandatory logbooks to document catch and bycatch of HMS and other fishes within the EEZ and continue their use outside as well.
 3. Observers - Institute mandatory observer program to document the bycatch of HMS and other fishes.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Pelagic Longline Fishery (8.5.7.3.), Cont'd.

- Efforts to Minimize Bycatch
 1. Performance standards
 2. Modify gear to reduce bycatch
 - Artificial baits, hook styles or longer suspenders.
 3. Time/Area closure
 4. Mandatory landings
 5. Reduce soak time
 - Retrieve gear sooner to avoid predation and wastage of fish due to warm water conditions.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Pelagic Longline Fishery (8.5.7.3.), Cont'd.

- Efforts to Minimize Mortality
 1. Reduced Soak Time
 2. Education - Skipper workshops
 3. Gear - Require circle hooks or other hook modifications to reduce hooking mortality.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Harpoon (8.5.7.4.)

- Reporting
 1. Mandatory Logbooks
 - Determine the magnitude of bycatch. Status Quo.
 2. Observers –
 3. None
 - Not requiring fishermen to keep logbooks or take observers on board vessels would negate any chance for the Council to monitor the fishery to determine the magnitude of the bycatch.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.) Harpoon (8.5.7.4.), Cont'd.

- Efforts to Minimize Bycatch
 - Because of the assumed low level of bycatch, no additional measures are warranted to reduce bycatch.
- Efforts to Minimize Mortality
 - Because of the assumed low level of bycatch, no additional measures are warranted to reduce bycatch mortality.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Large Vessel Tuna Purse Seine (8.5.7.5.)

- Reporting
 1. Logbooks
 - The IATTC requires logs from vessels fishing Commission regulated area. Status Quo.
 2. Observers
 - IATTC requires observers on vessels fishing on porpoise in Commission regulated area. Status Quo.
 3. None
 - IATTC has reporting requirements & MHLC will also, so non-reporting of catch is not a viable option.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Large Vessel Tuna Purse Seine (8.5.7.5.), Cont'd.

- Efforts to Minimize Bycatch
 - All efforts to minimize bycatch should defer to IATTC mandates or MHLC mandates when adopted.
- Efforts to Minimize Mortality
 - All efforts to minimize mortality should defer to IATTC mandates or MHLC mandates when adopted.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Coastal Purse Seine (8.5.7.6.)

- Reporting
 1. Logbook
 - Accounting for all fish caught allows determining the magnitude of the bycatch.
 2. Observers
 - Allow the collection of data on bycatch assoc.with traveling schools, floating objects and feeding fish.
 3. None
 - Status Quo.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Coastal Purse Seine (8.5.7.6.), Cont'd.

- Efforts to Minimize Bycatch
 1. Performance standards
 2. Prohibit setting on floating objects
 - Given the lack of data and assumed low bycatch levels, there is no apparent need to prohibit setting on floating objects. If logbook or observer data indicated the need, then a prohibition could be enacted.
 3. Mandatory landings

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Coastal Purse Seine (8.5.7.6.), Cont'd.

- Efforts to Minimize Mortality
 - The amount of bycatch mortality is unknown but assumed to be small since most sets are on free-swimming bluefin tuna.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Charter/Party Recreational (8.5.7.7.)

- Reporting
 1. Logbook
 - Partyboats in California have mandatory logbook requirements while Washington vessels have a volunteer logbook for HMS. Oregon does not require logbooks. Status Quo.
 2. Mandatory Logbooks
 3. Observers
 - Run in conjunction with MRFSS. Otherwise, observations could be obtained from at-sea samplers working for the MRFSS.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Charter/Party Recreational (8.5.7.7.), Cont'd.

- Efforts to Minimize Bycatch
 1. Develop a formal catch-and-release program similar to the one proposed for striped marlin in Section 8.5.7.9.
 2. Require anglers to land all HMS, taking into account current limits.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Charter/Party Recreational (8.5.7.7.), Cont'd.

- Efforts to Minimize Mortality
 1. Require the use of approved de-hooking devices.
 2. Require the use of circle hooks when fishing for HMS.
 3. Educational efforts
 - Work with the industry to inform sport anglers of the correct methods available to release fish in a healthy condition when taken as bycatch.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Private Boat Recreational (8.5.7.8.)

- Reporting
 1. Logbook
 - Recreational anglers maintain voluntary daily records of effort and catch of HMS.
 2. Observers
 - Impractical.
 3. Federal HMS license
 - Solely for data collection.
 4. None
 - Status Quo.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Private Boat Recreational (8.5.7.8.), Cont'd.

- Efforts to Minimize Bycatch
 1. Develop a formal catch-and-release program similar to the one proposed for striped marlin in Section 8.5.7.9.
 2. Require anglers to land all HMS, taking into account current limits.

Bycatch by Fishery (8.5.7.)

Private Boat Recreational (8.5.7.8.), Cont'd.

- Efforts to Minimize Mortality
 1. Require the use of approved de-hooking devices.
 2. Require the use of circle hooks when fishing for HMS.
 3. Educational efforts
 - Work with the industry to inform sport anglers of the correct methods available to release fish in a healthy condition when taken as bycatch.

Areas of Council Guidance

- 1. PDT needs full range of options in FMP before going out for public review and to satisfy NEPA requirement.
 - Does the Council have any additional options for the PDT to include and analyze?
- 2. Does the Council have an preferred options?