

**STATUS OF ASSIGNMENTS
 FOR COMPLETION OF HMS EIS/FMP**
 as of May 31, 2002
 Highly Migratory Species Plan Development Team
 Pacific Fishery Management Council

ASSIGNMENT ¹	RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS	STATUS
1. MSY	Au, Bartoo	MSY proxies estimated for bigeye and pelagic thresher sharks, dorado, striped marlin, swordfish and mako shark. Discussions ongoing with NMFS about the use of MSY ranges and need for plan amendment to change MSY.
2. EFH	Smith, Robinson, Helvey	Chapter 4 and Appendix A being revised and re-formatted to comply with EFH final rule. Text of chapter 4 two-thirds completed.
3. Bycatch	Crooke, Fougner, Squires	Section on standardized reporting methodology drafted subject to revision pending NMFS policy advice on MSFCMA requirements considering groundfish FMP court decision. Team investigating observer needs for bycatch assessment. Section on bycatch reduction considering fishery size and strategies being revised along with "catch-and-release" section to fit West Coast context.
4. Overfishing	Au	Language recommended by NMFS on rebuilding included in chapter 8.
5. Monitoring	Crooke, Fougner	VMS requirement for longline fishery has been added. Logbook forms being assembled for FMP appendix. Info on observer programs being developed.
6. State Regs. Consistency	Crooke, McCrae, Robinson	States currently reviewing their regs. for consistency. To be addressed at June Team meeting.
7. Protected Species	Au, Fougner	Language changes suggested by NMFS included in chapter 8.
8. Specifications	Morgan	Estimates of DAH, DAP and TALFF developed.
9. EFP	Au	Language of proposed action revised to make intent clear.
10. Incidental Catch Allowance	Crooke (McCrae, Robinson)	Team developing separate incidental catch allowances for each non-HMS gear. To be reviewed at June Team meeting.
11. Management Cycle	Robinson	Options for regulatory schedule/fishing year being developed for review at June Team meeting.
12. Management Costs	Morgan	New appendix on costs drafted.

ASSIGNMENT¹	RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS	STATUS
13. ESA Consultations	SWR	Info on FWS species being assembled for assessment of potential impacts. Latest sea turtle info being assembled. Plan is to complete basics of ESA consultation before Council meeting in November.
14. RFA/RIR/Fishery Impact Statement	Herrick, Squires	Qualitative economic analyses of proposed actions are in preparation. Cost/ earnings data are being compiled for albacore surface hook-and-line vessels, drift gillnet vessels and longline vessels to develop quantitative analyses of alternatives
15. Draft Regulations	Morgan	Second draft of regulations prepared by SWR for Team review.
16. NEPA Requirements	Au, Smith, Morgan, Six	Cumulative impact section being expanded; matrix comparing effects of alternatives being prepared; section describing alternatives eliminated from detailed study to be added; comments and responses section being drafted.
17. Small-mesh Drift Gillnets	Crooke, SWR, SWFSC	Data on fishery being compiled. To be reviewed at June Team meeting.
18. Treaty Indian Framework	Mitchell	Clarifying language requested by EPA to be added.
19. International Management	Fougner	SWR developing material in response to EPA question re: risk of overfishing in international context.
20. NPFMC Coordination	SWR, Council staff	Additional language added to Chapter 1.
21. Seabirds	Smith, SWR	Responses to FWS comments to be developed.
22. Net Pen Fishery	SWR	Description of bluefin net pen operations to be added to chapter 2.
23. Executive Summary	Six	Revisions pending completion of FMP.
24. Chapter 1 (Introduction)	Six, Fougner	Description of international activities updated; editorial changes made in response to comments.
25. Chapter 2 (Description of Fisheries)	Herrick	Revised according to latest round of comments; material on small-mesh DGN fishery being developed for inclusion.
26. Chapter 3 (Status of Stocks)	Au	Revisions nearly completed.
27. Chapter 4 (EFH)	Smith	About two-thirds completed.
28. Chapter 5 (Bycatch)	Crooke, Fougner	See status of Bycatch assignment no. 3
29. Chapter 6 (Protected Species)	Crooke, Fougner	Info. on FWS listed species added.
30. Chapter 7 (Current Management)	Six	No changes.
31. Chapter 8 (Alternatives)	Au	Revisions nearly completed.

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32. Chapter 9 (Effects of Alternatives)	Smith	Chapter reformatted and revised, with sidebars inserted for easier reading. Work continues on addressing comments, adding material, etc. Approximately one-half completed.
33. Chapter 10 (Other Applicable Law)	Morgan	No changes.
34. Appendices	Smith, Robinson, Morgan, Six	Appendix A on EFH being revised to modify EFH definitions; new appendix drafted on management costs; new appendix being drafted on comments and responses.
35. Index	McCrae	Index drafted; final version pending completion of FMP.
36. Longline Alternative Matrix	Smith	Matrix presenting similarities and differences among 5 longline alternatives drafted for review at June Team meeting. Attached.

1. Assignments are from March 2002 Council direction and include addressing comment letters of NMFS, FWS and EPA, as well as other tasks.

EEZ LONGLINE ALTERNATIVES: A COMPARISON

GENERAL COMPARISON OF ALL WITHIN-EEZ LONGLINE ALTERNATIVES:					
	Alt #1 (General Prohibition)	Alt #2 (OWC EFP)	Alt #3 (Industry)	Alt #4 (Alternate EFP)	Alt #5 "No Action" Alternative
<i>(No option of this type was proposed)</i>					
1. General Pelagic Longlining Would be Allowed Within the EEZ with Open Eligibility			X		
2. Area-Restricted Pelagic Longlining Would be Allowed in the EEZ as Gear-Switch Option for DGN Permittees	X	X		X	
3. Prohibits Longlining in EEZ	X		X	X	X
4. NMFS-approved Scientific Research Longlining Still Possible	X	X	X	X	X
5. Fishing Under NMFS Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Still Possible	X	X	X	X	X
6. EFP Fishing Possible but with Council and NMFS-specified EFP Restrictions, Such as:					
6a. —EFP Experiment Must First Prove "Negligible Impact" on Bycatch & Protected Spp. before Fishing; not Linked to Driftnet Replacement Fishery. Provides Maximum Protection for Bycatch, Protected, Incidental and Target Species.		X			
6b. —EFP Experiment Must Prove "Significantly Lower than DGN" Bycatch/Protected Spp. Levels; Linked to a Potential Replacement Gear Fishery for Existing Driftnet Permittees.				X	
7. Requires Public Comment and Review	X	X	X	X	
8. FMP Amendment Process Required Before Implementing			X		
9. Longlining Prohibited in the EEZ, Except Provisions for Oregon Swordfish and Blue Shark Developmental LL Fishery Outside 25 Miles off Oregon (No Active Permittees at the Present Time).					X
SPECIFIC COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 4:					
PRIMARY DIFFERENCES:					
10. EFP Experiment Must Prove "Negligible Impact" on Bycatch Species (including Prohibited and Protected) before Re-evaluation of Longline Fishery by Council (Maximizes Species Protection)—No Link to a Replacement Drift Gillnet Fishery		X			
11. Prohibits Longlining in EEZ until EFP Experiment Meets Criteria, Then Restricts Future Fishing to DGN Permittees Only				X	
12. EFP Results Must Prove at the least a "Significantly Lower" Bycatch/Protected Species Mortality (PSM) than by Driftnet (Statistical Level to be Established Prior to Experiment) before Re-evaluation of Gear Replacement Fishery by Council				X	
SIMILARITIES:					
13. Offers Opportunity to Develop "Clean" Fishing Technology and Example to Other Larger-scale LL Fishing Nations		X		X	
14. Establishes Bycatch Research Experiment Linked to EFP; Establishes Fishery Eligibility After Experiment is Completed		X		X	
15. EFP Research Priorities Involve Constituents, Published in Federal Register with Review Process		X		X	
16. Predetermined Fishing Standards (Trigger Limits) Set Prior to EFP Experiment		X		X	
17. Proposes 100% Observer Coverage		X		X	
18. Initial Total Fishing Effort Limited to 10 Vessels or Less		X		X	
19. FMP Amendment Process Required at end of EFP Process to Implement any Further Council Action		X		X	