

**HMS Plan Development Team
Report to Pacific Fishery
Management Council**

June 19, 2002

Organization

A. Key issues outstanding in FMP

Format:

1. Task/issue (e.g. MSY)
2. Summary of Issue
3. Team Response/Status
4. Council Guidance Needed (If Any)

B. Schedule

MSY

- Issue:
 - Council directed PDT to develop MSY proxies for pelagic and bigeye thresher sharks & dorado
- Response:
 - Provided MSY estimates or proxies for all MUS
 - Went from ranges to point estimates using midpoint of range
 - FMP uses formula (simple arithmetic means) rather than number to avoid amendments

MSY

- Response:
 - Set OY = MSY for all MUS except sharks, bluefin, & striped marlin where
OY = $0.75 * MSY$
 - Sharks due to vulnerability
 - Bluefin due to uncertainty on stock status & use of catches for MSY proxy
 - Marlin to provide larger local biomass for rec fishing
 - Common thresher and mako HG = OY

EFH

- Issue:
 - Address final EFH rule, improve analysis of fishing impacts, & address habitat areas of concern
- Response:
 - Revisions Being Made to Ch 4 & Appendix A

BYCATCH

- Issue:
 - NMFS & EPA requested more information on:
 - Fishery-by-fishery review of measures to reduce bycatch & bycatch mortality
 - Standardized reporting
 - Better justification of voluntary catch-and-release program

BYCATCH

- Response:
 - Addition of most recent bycatch data (update)
 - Fishery-by-fishery analysis of measures to reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality w. determinations of practicability
 - Enhanced discussion of standardized reporting to include logbooks & at-sea observer coverage
 - Enhanced analysis of catch-and-release program w. focus on west coast fisheries

BYCATCH

- Response:
 - FMP will establish observer programs for:
 - 1. Longline
 - 2. Surface hook-and-line
 - 3. Small purse seine

BYCATCH

- Response:
 - NMFS developing initial pilot observer plans for:
 - 1. Private recreational
 - 2. Party/charter boats
 - 3. Small purse seine
 - 4. Longline
 - (DGN & surface hook-and-line already have plans or actual coverage)

Exempted Fishing Permits

- Issues:
 - Need to clarify intent of proposed action
 - Specify EFP procedures for EEZ Longline but not for other gears?
 - Specify general or specific procedure for all fisheries along the lines of proposed longline example?
 - (Currently FMP doesn't specify what the specific procedures are.)
- Response:
 - Clarified language of proposed alternative-awaiting Council response

EFP

- Guidance:
 - What should be the specific EFP procedures and goals and objectives of this alternative?
 - Examples:
 - Bycatch reductions, effort limitations, develop new fisheries, reduce protected species interactions and takes

INCIDENTAL CATCH ALLOWANCES

- Issue:
 - FMP needs clarity as to incidental catch level permitted & rationale for that level
- Response:
 - Identified 4 fisheries that have incidental catches (trawl, pot, bottom longline, small mesh DGN) & intend set specific incidental catch allowances for each gear in numbers of fish
 - Will add rationale

MANAGEMENT CYCLE

- Issue:
 - Council directed PDT to add alternative
- Response:
 - See overhead
 - PDT preferred:
 - SAFE in each Sept.
 - proposed measures every other year in Sept.
 - final measures every other year in Nov.
 - measures effective fishing years April 1 – March 31

MANAGEMENT CYCLE

- Guidance:
 - Council preferred option

ESA CONSULTATION

- Issue:
 - ESA Consultation on all listed species (turtles, fish, marine mammals, & birds) for all HMS fisheries
- Response:
 - NMFS Southwest Region will complete prior to Nov. Council meeting

SMALL MESH DRIFT GILL NET

- Issue:
 - Characterize the fishery
- Response:
 - Difficult to define & obtain data
 - Looked at logbook & PacFIN data from 1996-2001
 - Identified 3 small mesh vessels which normally fish white sea bass, yellowtail, or barracuda as taking significant numbers of albacore, bluefin, or yellowfin tunas

SMALL-MESH DRIFT GILL NET

- Response:
 - Identified 8 shark-swordfish DGN vessels as having *potentially* caught albacore, yellowfin, or bluefin tunas in small-mesh DGN
 - *Possibly* 22 vessels use small-mesh based on PacFIN-fish ticket data
 - Little to no information on bycatch & protected species interactions
 - If small-mesh DGN fishery is legalized, observer program necessary
 - Analysis on-going

SMALL MESH DRIFT GILL NET

- Guidance:
 - What is Council's preferred alternative?
 - *Does size matter?*
 - Alternative 1: 14 inch minimum mesh size
 - Alternative 2: No minimum mesh size

EEZ LONGLINE OPTIONS

CLARIFICATION

- Issue:
- How do EEZ longline options differ, esp. the two that specify EFP procedures?
 - Refer to Table Matrix in Briefing Materials
 - Major differences in OWC and Team Preferred Proposals 2 and 4 are:
 - Difference in required level of bycatch reduction
 - Difference in link to driftnet-to-longline gear replacement goal

SEABIRDS

- Issue:
 - Respond to Fish and Wildlife Service comments
- Response:
 - PDT responding
 - changes/additions being made throughout document
 - New ESA Listed Species Appendix added

CHAPTERS 8 & 9

- Issue:
- Chapter 8 (Alternatives) & Chapter 9 (Effects of Alternatives)
 - Making Ch 8 consistent with Ch 9.
 - Incorporating changes, new analyses including from other chapters (authors), new tables, etc.
 - Reviewing comments

PERMITS

- Issue/Guidance:
 - Need Clarification: Does the Preferred Alternative to require permits for commercial vessels include commercial charter/party vessels?

SCHEDULE

- August 1
- Rough drafts to Larry
- August 15
- Distribute to PDT, AP, NMFS
- September 3
- Comments to authors
- September 4-5
- PDT Meeting
- September 16
- Final draft to Larry
- September 23
- Larry to Council
- October ?
- Send to AP, SSC
- October 22-23
- PDT & AP meet
- October 28-Nov 1
- Council Meeting

