

SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES IN THE HMS FMP

	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2 Preferred	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	Alternative 6	Alternative 7
FMP or no FMP (Ch 8, Sec 8.0, 8.5.7; Ch 9, Sec 9.1)	FMP not adopted. Regulation continues under existing state and federal authorities.	FMP adopted, with proposed components as specified in preferred alternatives below.					
Species in management unit (Ch 3, Sec 3.1.1)	Managed species are not defined.	Albacore, yellowfin, skipjack, bigeye, and north Pacific bluefin tunas; swordfish; striped marlin; common thresher, bigeye thresher, pelagic thresher, shortfin mako, and blue sharks; and dorado (dolphinfish)	Same as alternative 2, but dorado not included.	Same as alternative 2, but dorado, bigeye thresher and pelagic thresher sharks not included.	Same as alternative 2, but sixgill shark included.	Same as alternative 2, but all sharks deleted.	
Control rule (Ch 3, Sec 3.2)	A control rule is not established.	Adopt default MSY (or MSY proxy) control rule, but use an OY target for vulnerable species.					
Framework procedures (Ch 8, Sec 8.3.4)	No framework procedures; all changes would be made via FMP amendment process.	Adopt framework procedures for changing conservation and management measures, with the point-of-concern mechanism.	Adopt framework procedures as in 2, but without the point-of-concern mechanism.				
Management cycle (Ch 8, Sec 8.3.5)	No cycle established. Annual SAFE document presented to Council, but no fixed schedule for addressing management issues.	Establish biennial cycle with regulatory/ statistical year of April 1 thru March 31.	Establish biennial cycle with regulatory/ statistical year of January 1 thru December 31.	Establish biennial cycle with regulatory/ statistical year of October 1 thru September 30.	Establish annual cycle with regulatory and statistical fishing year April 1 through March 31.	Establish multi- year cycle. Similar to biennial cycle, except actions would be considered every 3-4 years.	

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Legal gear (Ch 8, Sec 8.4.1)	Legal gears are not specified.	Legal commercial gears are harpoon, surface hook and line, drift gillnet, purse seine, and pelagic longline. Sub-Alternative 2a: drift gillnets must be minimum stretched mesh size of 14 inches. Sub-Alternative 2b: no minimum stretched mesh size for drift gillnet gear. Legal recreational gears are rod and reel, spear, and hook and line.	As in alternative 2, except pelagic longline gear would not be a legal gear for vessels landing in U.S. west coast ports.				
Incidental catch allowance (Ch 8, Sec 8.4.2)	Landings of HMS could be made using any gear authorized by individual states' regulatory requirements.	<u>Small-mesh drift gillnet:</u> landings restricted to 10 fish of each HMS (if this gear is not legal HMS gear). <u>Bottom longline:</u> landings restricted to 3 fish in total or 20% of total landings by weight. <u>Trawl and pot gear:</u> allow a maximum of 1% of total weight per landing for all HMS shark species combined or 2 HMS sharks, whichever is greater.	Do not allow landings of HMS by gears that are not legal gear under the FMP. All landings of HMS taken with non-HMS gears would be prohibited.				
Essential fish habitat (Ch 4, Sec 4.3; Ch 8 Sec 8.4.3)	EFH of HMS would not be designated and described in FMP.	Adopt species and stage-specific designations for individual management unit species as described in section 4.7.	Adopt broad designation to apply to all species: all surface waters of the ocean in the EEZ down to 1000m.	Adopt designations for individual species in the surface waters of the ocean in the EEZ down to 1000m, but restrict EFH areas to documented capture locations.			

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Bycatch and catch-and-release programs (Ch 5; Ch 8, Sec 8.4.4)	No bycatch and/or catch-and-release programs would be implemented under the FMP.	Provide for a fishery-by-fishery review of measures to reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality, establish framework authorization for bycatch reduction; adopt measures to minimize bycatch in pelagic longline, drift gillnet, and purse seine fisheries (Sec 8.5); and adopt voluntary catch-and-release program for recreational fishery.	As in alternative 2 but does not authorize a catch-and-release program for recreational fisheries. All HMS caught and released by anglers would be considered bycatch.	Establish a catch-and-release program for striped marlin only.			
Protected species (Ch 8, Sec 8.4.5)	Adopt no measures to minimize interactions with protected species under the FMP. Protected species measures would continue to be promulgated by NMFS under separate processes (ESA, MMPA etc).	Adopt framework authorization for protected species conservation measures and implement initial measures for the drift gillnet, pelagic longline and purse seine fisheries as described in section 8.5.					
Observer program authority (Ch 8, Sec 8.4.6)	The FMP would not contain authority to establish observer programs for HMS fisheries.	Mandate observer programs initially for longline, surface hook and line, and small purse seine fisheries. Continue existing drift gillnet program.	Authorize NMFS to require that vessels carry observers when directed to do so by the NMFS Regional Administrator.				
Prohibited species (Ch 8, Sec 8.4.7)	Prohibitions on retention of certain species would not be incorporated into the FMP	Prohibit retention of great white, basking and megamouth sharks; Pacific halibut; and Pacific salmon.					
Quotas or harvest guidelines (Ch 8, Sec 8.4.8)	Establish no harvest guidelines or quotas for any HMS.	Establish harvest guidelines for selected shark species and authorize establishment or modification of quotas or harvest guidelines under framework provisions. The initial harvest guidelines are: common thresher shark, 340 mt and shortfin mako shark, 150 mt.	Establish quotas or harvest guidelines for additional species.				

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Allocation (Ch 8, Sec 8.4.9)	The FMP would not establish quota allocations of HMS to different fisheries or fishery sectors.	The FMP would not establish allocations initially, except to prohibit sale of striped marlin, but authorizes allocation using framework procedures.	The FMP would make specific initial allocations among fisheries or fishing sectors.				
Treaty Indian fishing rights (Ch 8, Sec 8.4.10)	Establish no specific measures or procedures, either in the FMP or in the initial implementing regulations, for accommodating treaty Indian fishing rights.	Authorize adoption of measures and procedures to accommodate treaty fishing rights in the initial implementing regulations for the FMP.	Include specific provisions in the FMP describing the measures and procedures for accommodating treaty fishing rights.				
Exempted fishing permits (Ch 8, Sec 8.4.12)	The FMP would not specify any general or specific EFP process for any HMS fishery. NMFS regulations at 50 CFR §600.745 would be available to issue EFPs.	The FMP would require a general EFP plan be submitted for Council review for all future applicants wishing to target HMS prior to formal application to NMFS.					
Drift gillnet (Ch 8, Sec 8.5.1)	Regulatory authority would continue under existing state and federal authorities.	Adopt all federal measures in place under the MMPA and ESA, as well as state regulations for swordfish/shark drift gillnets, with the exception of the CA limited entry program.	Incorporate only existing federal drift gillnet regulations into FMP.	As in alternative 2, but also include the CA limited entry program.	As in alternative 2, but implement time/area closures of the Sea Turtle Biological Opinion.	Alternative 2 plus DGNs could not be used to take swordfish and sharks in any EEZ waters north of 45°N latitude.	Alternative 2 plus DGNs could not be used to take swordfish and sharks in any EEZ waters north of 45°N latitude.
Longlining inside the U.S. west coast EEZ (Ch 8, Sec 8.5.2)	Regulatory authority would continue under existing state and federal authorities.	Prohibit longlining within EEZ by indefinite moratorium with potential for re-evaluation by Council following completion of a bycatch reduction research program. Gear must have negligible impacts.	Authorize limited entry pelagic longline fishery for tunas and swordfish within the EEZ, with effort and area restrictions, to evaluate longline gear as an alternative to drift gillnet gear to reduce bycatch, or bycatch mortality.	Prohibit longlining within the EEZ with potential for re-evaluation by Council following completion of a tuna-swordfish-bycatch research experiment to determine if impacts are significantly less than for drift gillnets.	Establish general prohibition on use of pelagic longline gear (see Legal Gear alternative 3).	Alternative 2 plus DGNs could not be used to take swordfish and sharks in any EEZ waters less than 1,000 fm off Oregon and Washington.	

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Longlining outside the EEZ (Ch 8, Sec 8.5.2)	Regulatory authority would continue under existing state and federal authorities.	Apply to west coast-based longline vessels measures applied to Hawaii-based longline vessels to control sea turtle and seabird interactions and monitor the fishery.	Adopt selected measures applied to Hawaii-based longline vessels. Excludes ban on swordfish fishing north of the equator.				
Purse seine (Ch 8, Sec 8.5.3)	Regulatory authority would continue under existing state and federal authorities.	Close area within EEZ north of 45°N latitude.	Close EEZ off Washington.	Open entire EEZ to purse seine fishing.			
Prohibit sale (Ch 8, Sec 8.5.4)	Sale of striped marlin would not be prohibited by FMP, but continue to be prohibited by the State of California.	Prohibit the sale of striped marlin by vessels under PFMC jurisdiction.					
Commercial fishing permits (Ch 8, Sec 8.5.5)	Require no new federal permits. Existing state and federal permit requirements apply.	Require federal permit for HMS vessels with a specific endorsement for each gear.	Require inclusive federal permit for HMS vessels covering all HMS fisheries.	Require federal vessel permit for selected fisheries.			
Recreational fishing permits (Ch 8, Sec 8.5.5)	Require no new federal permits for recreational vessels, private or CPFV.	Require federal permit for CPFVs that fish for HMS, but existing state permit or license could meet this requirement.	Require federal permit for all CPFVs that fish for HMS; a state permit could not be used to meet this requirement.	Require federal permit for all recreational fishing vessels (private and CPFV) that fish for HMS.			
Reporting requirements (Ch 8, Sec 8.5.6)	No new federal requirements for reporting.	Require all commercial and CPFV vessels to maintain and submit logbooks to NMFS.	Limit new federal reporting requirements to commercial vessels not already required to report under existing federal laws.				

