

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON CHANGES TO ROUTINE MEASURES
ALTERNATIVES

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) have the following comments regarding the Highly Migratory Species Management Team Report dated September 2006:

- The numbers of foreign vessels entering U.S. waters has increased. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration currently has two open cases under investigation where Mexican flagged vessels are allegedly reported to be fishing in U.S. waters. The California charter boat group has reported increases in the number of Mexican vessels observed entering and fishing in U.S. waters.
- Preventing foreign vessels from taking U.S. resources, and in this case valuable highly migratory species (HMS), will be enhanced with the ability to identify U.S. vs. foreign vessels from the air under Options 3 & 4 (from U.S. Coast Guard over-flights for example). This will allow at-sea enforcement to target suspect vessel incursions that lack visible markings. Without the markings only helicopters can effectively be used. With marking C-130s can be used and more flights over a larger area can be accomplished.
- The EC understands that this currently is only a southern California issue but the requirements would apply coastwide under the options provided. The Council may want to discuss limiting the rule to some area in southern California. Currently Oregon and Washington have a very small HMS charter vessel fleet and no real need to over fly this fleet has been identified.

The EC prefers Option 3, requirement for weather deck markings for all HMS charter boat vessels.

PFMC
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