

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
CHANGES TO ROUTINE MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2009-2010 SEASON

**Thresher Shark Management Measures**

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) reviewed the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) report concerning management options for the recreational thresher shark fishery. In addition to the range of management strategies presented in the HMSMT report, the HMSAS recommends that the Council also include the option of a daily private boat and charter boat limit as a potential management alternative. The HMSAS also requests that the Council expand the scope of these proposed regulatory changes to include the range of gear types, both recreational and commercial, that catch and/or land thresher sharks. Specifically, we recommend that the Council include consideration of the impact and possible management options for the commercial hook and line fishery and non-HMS gear types.

**Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels**

There is confusion and insufficient information for the HMSAS to comment on the marking and identification of vessels requirement per Agenda Item H.2.a., Attachment 1, September 2008 (Rodney McInnis letter).

On September 8, the HMSAS identified conflicts in marking vessel requirements between the two commissions (Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission [WCPFC] and Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission [IATTC]) and potentially the two councils (Pacific Fishery Management Council [PFMC] and Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council); plus the U.S. Coast Guard.

The HMSAS also reviewed the Hawaiian proposal which involves 4 options (A-D).

The HMSAS asks that PFMC request the responsible agencies to resolve the potential conflicts of the vessel marking problem among the aforementioned commissions and councils. We note the marking requirements in 50 CFR 300.14 and in 50 CFR 665.16. It is important to the vessel owners that only one set of numbers be required.

This issue is particularly important to the west coast fisheries because approximately 40 vessels are planning to leave the eastern Pacific for the western Pacific within the next few months.

Our concern is that the action taken by the WCPFC has caused confusion for vessels that may operate in both the eastern Pacific and western Pacific. Under the WCPFC action, only the radio call letter marking must be shown and no other number. However, in the eastern Pacific the vessels are required to show the official number of the vessel or certificate number issued by the U.S. Coast Guard.