

FINAL CHANGES TO ROUTINE MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2009-2010 SEASON

On the recommendation of the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) the Council is considering management measures to address catch of common thresher shark. The Fishery Management Plan for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species identifies a harvest guideline of 340 mt for this species. Concern has been raised that catches are approaching this level. In particular, a rapidly-growing recreational fishery occurs in the Southern California Bight, an area that is seasonally important as a pupping ground for thresher sharks.

At their September 2008 meeting, the Council adopted a range of alternatives for public review. Attachment 1 contains a description of these alternatives. These include four alternatives recommended by the HMSMT and a preferred alternative identified by the Council, which differs somewhat from the HMSMT recommendations. The preferred alternative is a coastwide closure of the recreational fishery for thresher sharks from February 1 to August 14 and a closure of commercial highly migratory species shark fisheries south of Point Conception during this same time period.

The HMSMT will provide a supplemental report evaluating the impacts of the alternatives. In support of this the California Department of Fish and Game produced a series of maps showing recreational and commercial catch information during the proposed open and closed periods. These maps are contained in Attachment 2. (Selected maps are provided in paper copies of the briefing materials; all the maps are available electronically, on CD-ROM and the Council briefing book web page).

At this meeting, the Council will take final action to select their preferred alternative. They can confirm the preferred alternative selected at the September meeting, make modifications to this alternative, or select one of the other alternatives from among those adopted for public review.

Council Task:

Adopt Final Changes for 2009–2010 Routine Management Measures.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.3.a, Attachment 1: Description of the Thresher Shark Management Measures Alternatives Adopted by the Council, September 2008
2. Agenda Item E.3.a, Attachment 2: CDFG Maps (Selected maps are provided in paper copies of the briefing materials; all the maps are available electronically, on CD-ROM and the Council briefing book web page).
3. Agenda Item E.3.c, Public Comment

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Agencies and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Changes for 2009–2010 Routine Management Measures

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