

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANT REPORT ON FINAL CHANGES TO ROUTINE
MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2009-2010 SEASON

Proposed Thresher Shark Management Measures for Recreational Fishing

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) had an opportunity to review the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) Report related to proposed thresher shark management measures under Agenda Item E.3. As the Council considers measures to reduce impacts to HMS sharks, the EC requests that the following concerns over enforceability and regulation intent be considered;

Boat and Angler Limits: While daily possession limit concepts are enforceable, the proposal as written will not eliminate targeting or catch and release fishing unless it is mandated that rods are racked when limits are attained.

If the strategy is to limit targeting of threshers, the establishment of limits that allow one HMS shark of each species per day per boat as proposed will run counter to this. The gear type used to catch Threshers is similar to that used to catch other species of shark, or other species in general, so anglers always have an excuse to have gear in the water.

The EC also had an opportunity to review the HMS Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) Report on the same subject where bag limits, punch cards, tags and mandatory reporting of tournament fishing were proposed as options.

Annual Limits: this strategy is difficult to enforce unless no duplicate tags or punch cards are issued.....i.e. "I lost my tags and now need three more." Their currently is no tag or record card system in place in California for sharks. Oregon and Washington do not have a "tag" system, but do employ record cards in an effort to regulate limits. There is cost associated with producing and distributing tags and punch cards.

The EC has not had an opportunity to vet enforcement issues with the HMSAS or HMSMT and will be available to discuss any concerns.