

## DRIFT GILLNET MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN INCLUDING FINAL ACTION ON HARD CAPS

In September 2014 the Council selected ranges of alternatives for high priority protected species hard caps, finfish bycatch caps, and enhanced monitoring for the California drift gillnet fishery. A preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) was also identified that includes annual hard caps for selected protected species. For selected marine mammals, the PPA establishes bycatch performance limits. With regard to fishery monitoring the PPA establishes a 2018 goal for full monitoring of the fishery by supplementing human observers with electronic monitoring technology. At the November 2014 Council meeting these alternatives were further refined. These ranges of alternatives, including the PPA, are described in the attached HMSMT Report. The HMSMT Report also contains a preliminary analysis of these ranges of alternatives.

The Council also directed the HMSMT and staff to prepare a draft purpose and need statement for a Drift Gillnet Management and Monitoring Plan, including its goal and objectives, for the Council's consideration in March 2015. The HMSMT Report contains the draft purpose and need statement and accompanying goals and objectives.

The Council received considerable public comment on this agenda topic. Written public comments received by February 12, 2015, are included under Agenda Item H.4.c. Oceana submitted a comment letter with 22,819 signatories and Pew Charitable Trusts submitted a comment letter with 15,103 signatories. The lists of signatories are included in electronic form on the Council's website ([www.pcouncil.org](http://www.pcouncil.org)).

The Council is scheduled to choose final preferred alternatives for DGN fishery monitoring and management at this meeting, with the understanding that NMFS would be able to implement any adopted measures by August 15, 2015.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Approve Purpose and Need Statement, Including Goals and Objectives for a Drift Gillnet Management and Monitoring Plan.**
- 2. Provide Guidance on Further Development of the Management and Monitoring Plan.**
- 3. Adopt Final Preferred Alternative for Hard Caps.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item H.4.b, HMSMT Report.
2. Agenda Item H.4.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kit Dahl
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Approve Purpose and Need Statement, Including Goals and Objectives for a Drift Gillnet Management and Monitoring Plan; Provide Guidance on Further Development of the Management and Monitoring Plan; Adopt Final Preferred Alternatives for Hard Caps

PFMC  
02/19/15