

SEABIRD PROTECTION UPDATE

The Council adopted seabird bycatch mitigation measures for groundfish fixed gear vessels in November 2013. National Marine Fisheries Service published a proposed rule for the Council's action on September 9th, 2014. A final rule to implement the measures is expected to be published this year. This action is intended to minimize takes of endangered short tailed albatross and comply with a 2012 Biological Opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Washington Sea Grant is holding meetings in West Coast ports to brief fixed gear fishermen about the results from the 2014 research and the current status of North Pacific albatross species, and obtain input from fishermen on seabird avoidance measures.

Mr. Edward Melvin from Washington Sea Grant will brief the Council on these topics.

Council Action:

Consider Report on Seabird Protection Measures.

Reference Materials:

None.

Agenda Order:

F.1 Seabird Protection Update

- a. Washington Sea Grant Report
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider Report on Seabird Protection Measures

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