

## SWORDFISH MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN

At the June 2018 Council meeting, the Council recommended revisions to the draft Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP), including recommendations from National Marine Fisheries Service ([NMFS](#)) and the Highly Migratory Species Management Team ([HMSMT](#)) and Advisory Subpanel ([HMSAS](#)). Council staff has incorporated these comments and restructured the document for possible adoption for public review at this meeting (Agenda Item H.6 Attachment 1). The Council will review the draft SMMP with the intention of adopting a final plan at a future meeting.

The SMMP is intended to serve as a guide for the Council to manage the West Coast swordfish fishery. The SMMP should articulate the Council's vision and future actions for the West Coast swordfish fishery as a sub plan under the Council's Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (HMS FMP). Finalization of the SMMP will facilitate implementation of the actions described within the SMMP and provide an administrative record regarding the Council's vision going forward for a sustainable swordfish fishery off of the West Coast. It's intended that actions in the SMMP may be updated or revised by the Council in the future, as needed, to continue meeting the fishery management goals of the SMMP and the HMS FMP.

### Changes to the SMMP

The SMMP was reorganized to focus on the purpose of the plan and the actions that are proposed to be taken under the plan; therefore, its structure differs from the June 2018 version. All the basic elements of the previous SMMP were retained and edits were added per Council guidance.

The description of fishing gears was moved to Appendix A. The information was updated to include the most recent fishery information from the June 2018 NMFS report ([Agenda Item G.7.a Supplemental NMFS Report 1](#)) and linked deep-set buoy gear was added to the description of the standard deep-set buoy gear.

Based on input at the June meeting, the following fishery management goals in Section 2 were revised to include the underlined text:

1. Reduce protected species bycatch to the extent practicable in the swordfish fishery through mitigation, gear innovation, and individual accountability.
2. Reduce unmarketable and prohibited finfish catch to the extent practicable in the swordfish fishery through mitigation, gear innovation, and individual accountability.
3. Support the economic viability of the swordfish fishery so that it can meet demand for a fresh, high quality, locally-caught product and reduce reliance on imported seafood.
4. Promote and support a wide range of harvest strategies for swordfish off the West Coast.

Section 3 "Actions to be Taken Under this Plan," includes updated information based on the June 2018 NMFS report and Council discussion and guidance along with clarifications and edits, summarized as follows:

- o 3.A – Regarding hard caps and performance standards we included the Council's desire for a minimum 30 percent observer coverage rate across the drift gillnet fleet

- using electronic monitoring or human observers; the hard caps text was revised to be specific for loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles;
- 3.B – Update to coincide with the Council’s desire to complete the deep-set buoy gear authorization;
- 3.C – Regarding limiting effort in the drift gill net fishery, we included text to highlight potential ways to reduce the number of permits to achieve fishery management goals;
- 3.D – Regarding access to the Pacific Leatherback Conservation Area, we included exploring the use of dynamic ocean modeling tools if EFPs are issued;
- 3.E – Regarding longline fishery development, we added text to explore the feasibility of new pelagic longline gear and management strategies.

Finally, Section 4 “Road Map for Implementing Actions under this Plan,” includes a timeline with potential Council meeting topics and action items that reflect the Council’s “Year-at-a-Glance” planning document.

**Council Action:**

**Adopt a Revised Preliminary Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan for Public Review.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.6, Attachment 1: Pacific Fishery Management Council Draft Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan.
2. Agenda Item H.6.b, Public Comment 1.

Agenda Order:

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|-----|---|---------------|
| H.6 | Swordfish Monitoring and Management Plan  | Brett Wiedoff |
|     | a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies  |               |
|     | b. Public Comment   |               |
|     | c. Council Action: Adopt a Revised Preliminary Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan for Public Review |               |

PFMC  
08/15/18