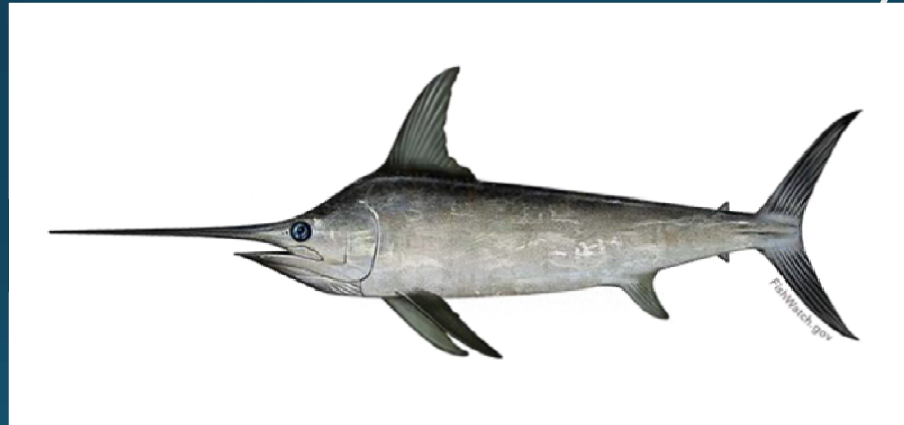


Providing Domestically Caught U.S. West Coast Swordfish: How to Achieve Environmental Sustainability and Economic Profitability



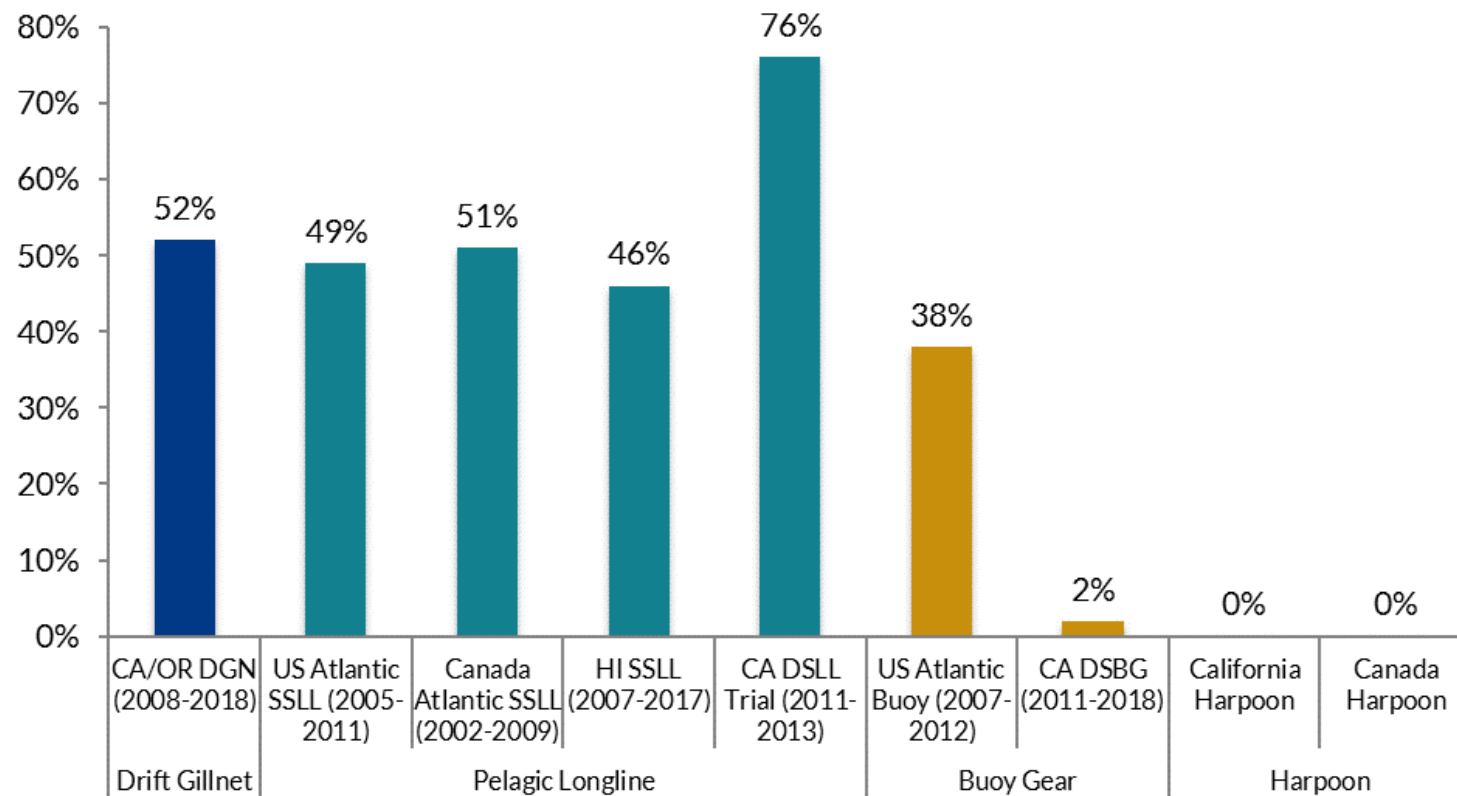
Comments on Agenda Item H.6
Geoff Shester, Ph.D. and Erin Kincaid
September 9, 2018

Swordfish Fisheries Analyzed

- Drift gillnet
 - California/Oregon
- Pelagic Longline
 - Hawaii shallow-set
 - Hawaii deep-set*
 - California deep-set experiments
 - Atlantic US shallow-set
 - Atlantic Canada shallow-set
- Harpoon
 - California
 - Canada
- Deep-set buoy gear
 - California EFPs/research
 - Atlantic US

* HI DSL analysis in progress

Swordfish fishery discard rates



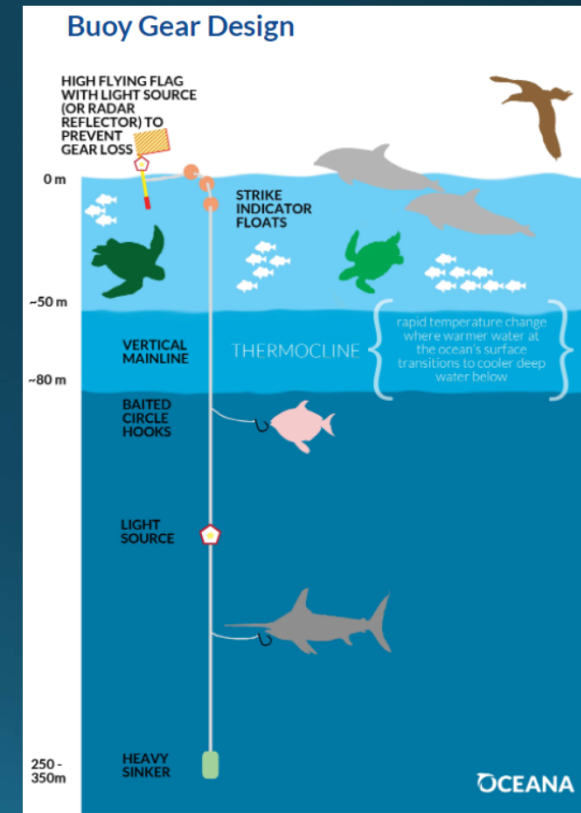
Drift Gillnets

- Practice is banned on the high-seas and in the Mediterranean Sea
- Prohibitions exist in all coastal states except CA
- Entangled more than 70 different species
- From 2001-2015: 1,460 protected species takes



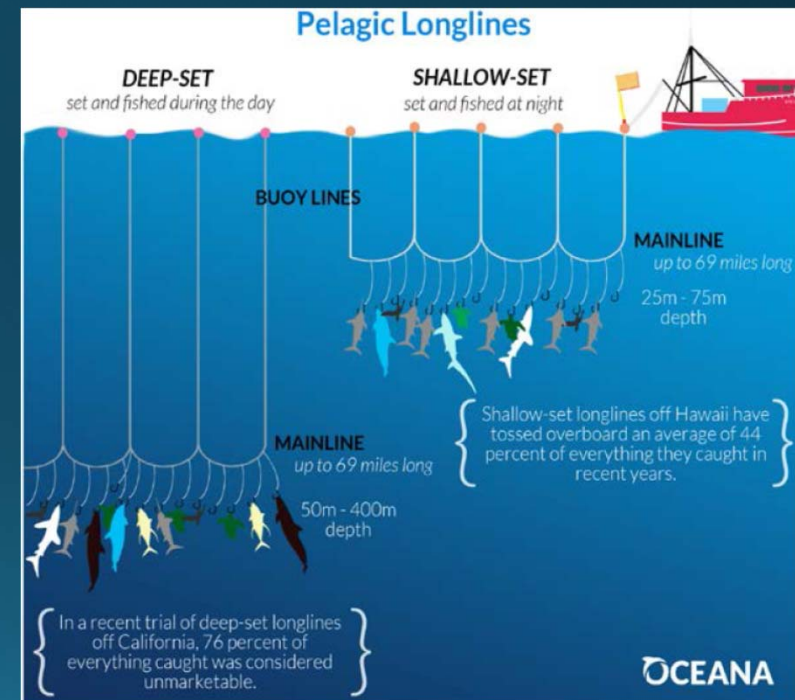
DSBG/Harpoon

- Percentage of catch that is swordfish: DSBG 83%, Harpoon 100%
- Minimal discard mortality – active tending
- 3 known instances of protected species interactions with DSBG
 - Sea turtle interaction suggests need for limited entry approach to DSBG permitting

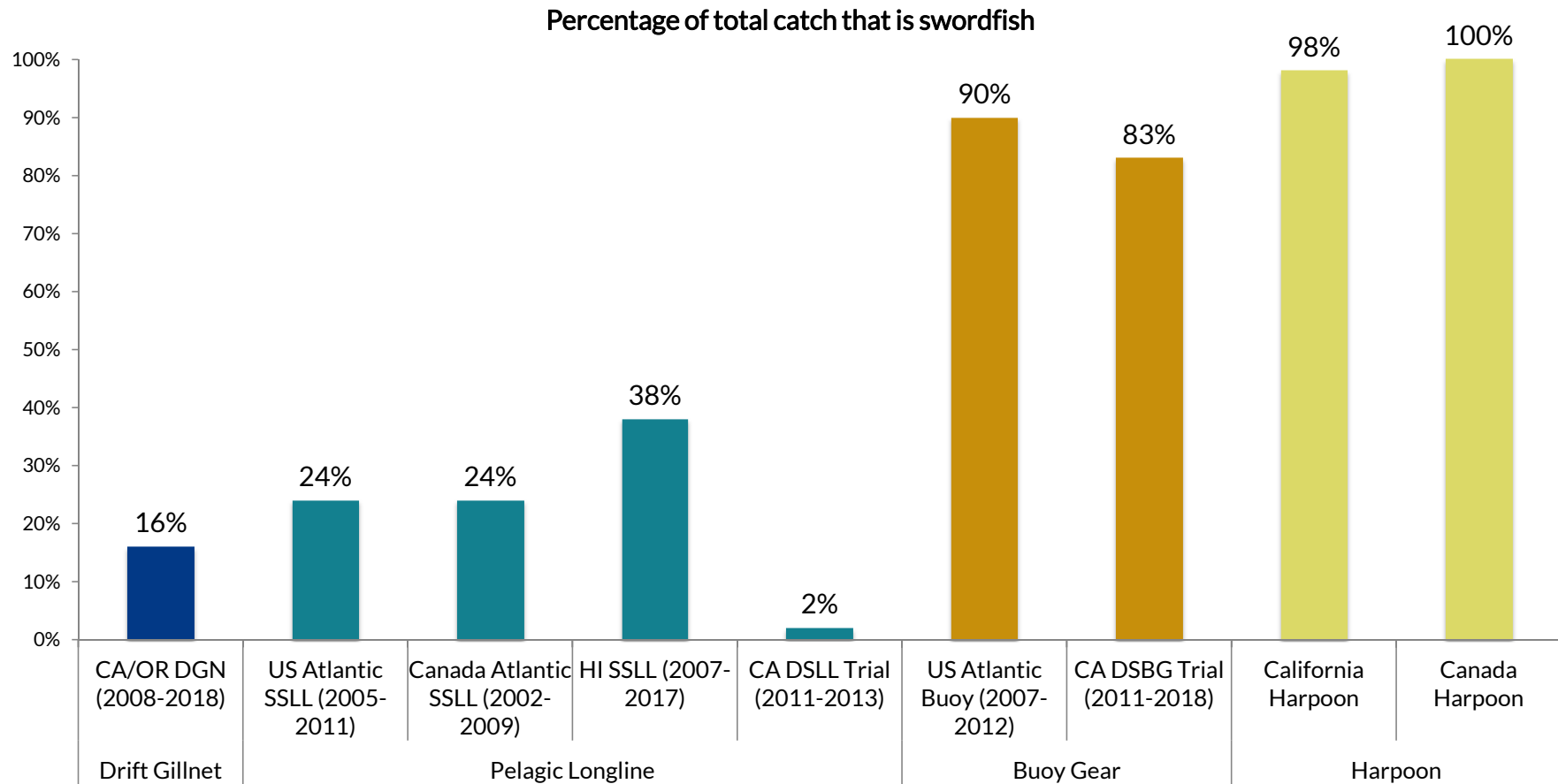


Pelagic Longlines

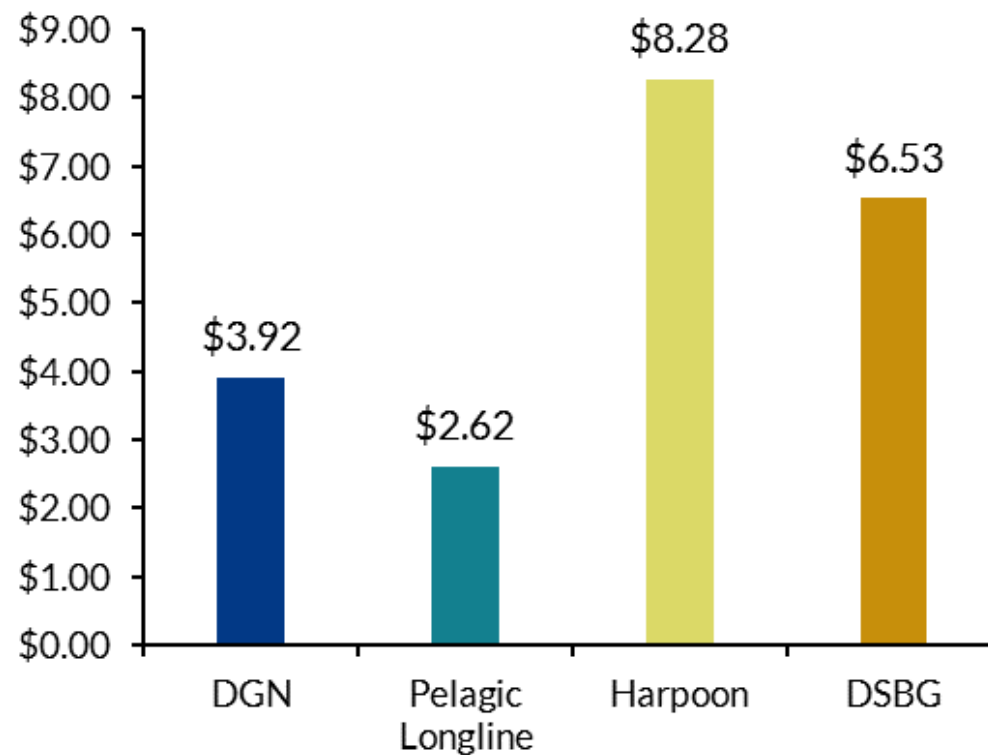
- CA DSLL experiment: 76 percent non-marketable species, mostly blue sharks
- Hawaii DSLL is the only Category I fishery in Pacific Ocean
- From 2007 to 2017, HI SSL fleet had 755 seabird, 92 marine mammal, and 193 sea turtle interactions
- Bycatch issues, interactions with protected species would be worse in CA current: 10-100 times greater marine mammal density as Hawaii



Gear selectivity



3-yr average ex-vessel price per pound



Source: NMFS. West Coast Swordfish Landings by fishery, 2008-2017. PPMC June 2018. Agenda Item G.7 Attachment 2

California Senate Bill 1017 (Allen)

- 4-year California DGN permit phase-out that initiates once \$2 million in state and private funds are raised
- DGN permit holders receive \$10,000 for surrendering permit
- Active DGN fishermen (landings since 2012) receive additional \$100,000 for surrendering drift gillnet(s)
- Strong bipartisan support (i.e., 78-0 vote in Assembly)



Bureo skateboard made from recycled drift gillnets

"This private-public partnership is a thoughtful balance of supporting California swordfish commerce and a transition to smarter fishing practices" Assm. Bill Brough (R-Dana Point)

Federal Senate Bill 2773 (Feinstein)

- “Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act”
- Passed Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee unanimously with bipartisan support and co-authorship
- Phase out of DGN gear
- Financial compensation to fishermen for permits, drift net surrender, and purchase of new gear

“This bipartisan legislation will help ensure large mesh driftnets are no longer used in any U.S. waters, a practice that is already prohibited off the coasts of most states,” said Senator Capito (R-WV). “I was happy to help advance our bill out of committee today to protect our marine wildlife from this harmful practice.”

Addressing Swordfish Imports

- Expanding high-bycatch gear or removing safeguards will not make a dent in imports
 - US consumes over 20,000 mt of swordfish, declining trend
 - Recent DGN landings less than 1% of US consumption (>200 mt)
- Scaling up linked buoy gear could increase West Coast domestic landings
- Enforce MSA and MMPA provisions that require imported swordfish to meet US bycatch standards

Transition Plan

- Support state and federal legislation to phase out DGN
 - Amend HMS FMP for consistency with these new policies
- Authorize limited entry DSBG fishery
 - Federal DGN permit holders should qualify
 - Focus on Linked Buoy Gear to scale up swordfish landings
- Cease efforts to further test or reintroduce pelagic longlines