DRIFT GILLNET PERFORMANCE METRICS REVIEW

Beginning in 2017, the Council has received an annual report on estimated bycatch in the large mesh drift gillnet (DGN) fishery against performance metrics originally adopted by the Council in 2015. Both the original metrics and the annual reports on bycatch in the DGN fishery have been based on estimating bycatch using the ratio of observed fishing effort to total annual fishing effort as estimated from logbooks by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region Observer Program. In September 2018, after review by its Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Council adopted a more statistically robust methodology for estimating rare event bycatch developed by Mr. Jim Carretta, Southwest Fisheries Science Center.[1] This "regression tree" methodology would be used instead of ratio estimates for assessing DGN fishery bycatch performance.

The Council identified 22 species for which bycatch in the DGN fishery should be tracked using the regression tree methodology and directed its Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) to report back at this meeting on different ways that the regression tree methodology could be used to assess bycatch performance in the DGN fishery. Specifically, it asked the HMSMT to evaluate the efficacy of using annual estimates versus multi-year trends to assess bycatch performance. Second, the HMSMT should assess the statistical uncertainty surrounding bycatch estimates under different levels of DGN fishery observer coverage. Finally, the HMSMT was directed to propose a process under which bycatch reduction measures would be implemented should the fishery fail to meet bycatch performance metrics established by the Council. This task would include the identification of specific bycatch reduction measures.

At this meeting, the HMSMT will report on its progress with this assignment and the feasibility of using alternative metrics for reporting on bycatch performance at the June Council meeting.

Council Action:

Review Performance Metrics for Bycatch Species and a Proposed Process for Potential Bycatch Reduction Measures.

Reference Materials:

None.

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[1] Carretta, J.V., J.E. Moore, and K.A. Forney. 2017. Regression tree and ratio estimates of marine mammal, sea turtle, and seabird bycatch in the California drift gillnet fishery: 1990-2015. NOAA Technical Memorandum, NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-568. 83 p. doi:10.7289/V5/TM-SWFSC-568.

J.3 Drift Gillnet Performance Metrics Review   Kit Dahl
   a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
   b. Public Comment
   c. **Council Action:** Review Performance Metrics for Bycatch Species and a Proposed
       Process for Potential Bycatch Reduction Measures

PFMC
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