

SCOPING AN AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING SHALLOW-SET LONGLINE GEAR OUTSIDE OF THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE

Since 2009, members of the Council’s Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel and the fishing industry have asked the Council to discuss the potential authorization of shallow-set longline gear to target swordfish on the West Coast. Establishing the need for action provides context for developing a proposed action and subsequently a preliminary analysis to scope a range of alternatives in the future. The Council is currently assessing the need for pursuing an amendment to the Highly Migratory Species Fisheries Management Plan (HMS FMP).

At the November meeting, the Council will gather information from the public and its advisory bodies regarding the potential authorization of a West Coast shallow-set longline (SSLL) permit to fish outside the West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ, outside 200 nautical miles). Agenda Item J.3, Attachment 1 describes background information regarding past actions to develop use of SSLL gear on the West Coast, where the Council is at in the process to consider an amendment, a draft list of issues, a draft purpose and need statement, and potential policy questions.

Agenda Item J.3, Attachment 2 is the revised draft Swordfish Fishery Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP). Section 2 of the draft SMMP provides the overarching purpose of the plan to help guide the Council in developing harvest strategies for swordfish off the West Coast in support of the HMS FMP. Section 3.E of the SMMP outlines the actions the Council intends to take to explore development of a SSLL permit. Although the SMMP is still considered a draft, it can serve as a starting point for the Council to begin the discussion in light of all current fisheries targeting swordfish.

Council Action:

Consider Issues to be Addressed in a Potential Fishery Management Plan Amendment to Authorize Shallow-Set Longline Gear in West Coast Highly Migratory Species Fisheries Outside of the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item J.3, Attachment 1: Scoping Information.
2. Agenda Item J.3 Attachment 2: Draft Swordfish Fishery Management and Monitoring Plan.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- J.3 Scoping an Amendment Authorizing Shallow-Set Longline Gear
Outside of the Exclusive Economic Zone Brett Wiedoff/Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Consider Issues to be Addressed in a Potential Fishery Management Plan Amendment to Authorize Shallow-Set Longline Gear in West Coast Highly Migratory Species Fisheries Outside of the Exclusive Economic Zone

PFMC
10/22/19