

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

Updates on Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Regional Vessel Registry Regulations

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) and U.S. delegates to the IATTC were involved in the process to obtain an International Maritime Organization number.

The U.S. delegation approved the results of the process.

Proposed Regulations on Fish Aggregating Devices, Conservation of Silky Sharks, and Observer Safety

The HMSAS supports the proposed rules presented in IATTC resolutions C-19-01 (Fish Aggregating Devices), C-19-05 (Conservation of Silky Sharks), C-18-07 (Observer Safety) and the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program resolution A-18-03 (Observer safety). It is our opinion that all these resolutions will have positive conservation impacts at the international level.

Longline Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP)

The HMSAS hopes that National Marine Fisheries Service can quickly resolve the legal issues resulting in the termination of this important EFP. One of the goals of the EFP is the creation of a West Coast-based longline fishery which is fully accountable and has a minimum impact on bycatch species. This goal is often not considered in other longline fisheries worldwide.

Other EFP Updates

The HMSAS recommends that the Council carefully consider further increases in deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) EFPs. The HMSAS continues to be concerned about excessive effort of DSBG in the Southern California bight.