

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT
ON FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team's (HMSMT's) review focused on the HMS-related sections of 3.3.3 and 3.5.2.3 in the [Ecosystem Working Group I.3.a Report 1](#). After discussion, the HMSMT recommends the following edits be incorporated into these sections (Note all recommended edits are highlighted, with additions underlined and retractions in strikethrough text):

3.5.2.3 HMS FMP

- 1) FMP designates EFH for each species within the FMP, with sub-designations for the different life stages of those species. EFH designations for some HMS' life stages are temperature-based, recognizing those species' habits of associating with certain temperature ranges, regardless of where those temperatures may occur in any given season or year. [HMS]
- 2) Environmentally-based time-and-area closures to minimize and mitigate sea turtle, shark, and marine mammal bycatch: NMFS-trained observers on vessels. Sea turtle protections include swordfish pelagic shallow-set longline fishery prohibited; prohibition on light stick possession for pelagic longline vessels operating west of 150° W. long.; seasonal area closures for large-mesh drift gillnet (the Pacific Leatherback Conservation Area; Southern Loggerhead closure during El Niño events); equipment and requirements for the safe handling and release of incidentally-caught turtles; mandatory sea turtle and marine mammal training for skipper and crew in the large-mesh drift gillnet fishery. Marine mammal protections: Pacific Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Plan requires gear modifications on large-mesh drift gillnet gear (pinger and gear depth requirements). Mainland area closures include a complete closure of the fishery off California February 1-April 30, within 75 nm May 1-August 14, and within 25 nm December 15-January 31 the following year to mitigate shark bycatch; east of a line approximating 1,000 fm off of Oregon; and other discrete area closures along the California coast, as well as around the Channel Islands. State regulations to reduce marine mammal bycatch using time/area closures. [Sea turtles, marine mammals]
- 3) Seabird bycatch minimization and mitigation measures: pelagic longline gear configuration and setting requirements, offal discharge requirements, equipment and handling requirements for bringing incidentally-caught short-tailed albatross onboard, and resuscitating and releasing when possible. [Seabirds]
- 5) HMS permitting and record-keeping requirements for U.S. vessels operating in the EEZ and on the high-seas and landing HMS in U.S. ports. [HMS]
- 6) Selected commercial fishery vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirements to better enforce closed areas and other regulations. [HMS]
- 7) Mandatory observer program to gather ~~total~~ catch data from commercial fisheries. [HMS, salmon, CPS, groundfish]
- 9) Nation-wide marine mammal bycatch mitigation standards for imports. ~~dolphin-safe tuna requirements.~~ [Marine mammals]

3.3.3 Mid- to High Trophic Level Fishes and Invertebrates [mostly FMP species]

Table 3-2. Species in the HMS FMP.

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name Species	FMP Management Unit Species (MUS)	FMP Ecosystem Component Species (ECS)	Prohibited Species
Tunas	North Pacific albacore	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	X		
	Yellowfin tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	X		
	Bigeeye tuna	<i>Thunnus obesus</i>	X		
	Skipjack tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	X		
	Pacific bluefin tuna	<i>Thunnus orientalis</i>	X		
Sharks	Common thresher shark	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	X		
	Shortfin mako or bonito shark	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	X		
	Blue shark	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	X		
	Southern shark	Galeorhinus galeus			
	Salmon shark	Lamna ditropis			
	Great white shark	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>			X
	Basking shark	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>			X
	Sleeper shark	Squaliformes spp.			
	Bigeeye thresher shark	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>		X	
	Pelagic thresher shark	<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>		X	
Megamouth shark	Megachasma pelagio			X	
Billfish	Striped marlin	<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>	X		
	Swordfish	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	X		

Group	Common Name	<u>Scientific Name Species</u>	FMP Management Unit Species (MUS)	FMP Ecosystem Component Species (ECS)	<u>Prohibited Species</u>
Other	<u>Black seabass</u>	<u>Centropristis striata</u>			
	<u>White seabass</u>	<u>Atractoscion nobilis</u>			
	<u>Yellowtail</u>	<u>Seriola lalandi</u>			
	Dorado or dolphinfish	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	X		
	Common mola	<i>Mola mola</i>		<u>X</u>	
	Escolar	<i>Lepidocybium flavobrunneum</i>		X	
	Lancetfishes	<i>Alepisauridae</i>		X	
	Louvar	<i>Luvarus imperialis</i>		X	
	Pelagic stingray	<i>Dasyatis violacea</i>		X	
	Wahoo	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>		X	
	Opah*	<i>Lampris sp.</i>			

*Opah is not an MUS, ECS, or prohibited species of the HMS FMP, but is a marketable species caught during HMS fishery operations.

Page 23 in [Ecosystem Working Group I.3.a Report 1](#): In addition, management of HMS directed fisheries also requires minimizing the bycatch of protected high-profile species, such as sea turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals.