

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

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel received a preview of the presentation given by Ms. Jenny Suter of Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission on *Observing Unobserved Fishing Characteristics in the Drift Gillnet Fishery for Swordfish*. We appreciate the work done and thank the authors for their efforts. We wish to highlight just a few points made in the [Report](#).

- On Page 17 – “...we observed little statistical evidence of differences between observed and unobserved trips (in the DGN [drift gillnet] fishery), neither for vessels that periodically carried observers nor for vessels that were never observed.”
- On Page 17 – “These observations support the notion that the drivers of selecting fishing locations may have been relatively persistent, regardless of observer presence.”
- On Page 18 – “...environmental conditions may serve as a more predictable driver of fishery behavior than observer or VMS [vessel monitoring system] coverage.”

We believe the Report provides sufficient evidence supporting the conclusion that observer bias in the drift gillnet fishery is not occurring. As such, current levels of observer coverage are adequate.

PFMC
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