

DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY BYCATCH PERFORMANCE REPORT

Since June 2017 the Council has been receiving an annual report from the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) comparing estimated bycatch in the large mesh drift gillnet (DGN) fishery for selected species/species groups against performance metrics. In 2017 and 2018 the HMSMT reported bycatch estimates using ratio estimates ([Agenda Item H.1.c, Supplemental HMSMT Report](#), June 2017, and [Agenda Item G.3.a, HMSMT Report 1](#), June 2018). In 2018 the Scientific and Statistical Committee reviewed, and the Council approved for use, a more robust statistical method developed by Mr. Jim Carretta at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center for estimating protected species bycatch in the DGN fishery. The HMSMT additionally applied this method to finfish species/species groups as requested by the Council in September 2018 (see [Motion 10](#)) and reported bycatch estimates against a revised list of species in June 2019 ([Agenda Item J.4.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report 1](#)). The Council endorsed the methodology presented by the HMSMT at that time and tasked the HMSMT with “developing an action line suitable for detecting exceptionally high bycatch rates, for these same species” ([Motion 14, amended](#)). Because of the shift to online meetings due to COVID-19, DGN performance metrics reporting was not put on the June 2020 Council meeting agenda.

Agenda Item F.4.a, HMSMT Report 1, contains the bycatch estimates for the 2018 and 2019 calendar years for finfish species and species groups, marine mammals, and sea turtles for which the Council established performance metrics. As noted in the report, the HMSMT intends to provide additional analyses and information relevant to the Council’s September 2018 and June 2019 requests in a supplemental report.

Council Action:

Review Annual Estimates Against Performance Metrics for Bycatch Species.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.4.a, HMSMT Report 1.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

F.4 Drift Gillnet Fishery Bycatch Performance Report

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- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Review Annual Estimates Against Performance Metrics for Bycatch Species