

H.3 Drift Gillnet Fishery Hard Caps

Council Action:

Adopt a Range of Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternatives, as Appropriate.

DRAFT-NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

CDFW Motion – H3 (Moved by John Ugoretz; 2nd by Bob Dooley. Motion passed unanimously.)

I move that the Council adopt the following range of alternatives for Drift Gill Net Hard Caps and direct the Highly Migratory Species Management Team to analyze these alternatives for their relative ability to meet the Council’s stated purpose and need, their relative potential economic impacts to DGN permit holders, and their relative potential to reduce incidental catch of protected species. Each alternative should be analyzed with the addition of DSBG as potential alternative gear during closure periods:

Alternative 1:

No Action

Alternative 2:

The original Council preferred alternative for rolling 2-year hard caps

Alternative 3:

A combination of individual and fleetwide annual (“fishing year”: April 1-March 31) caps based on Table 1, below. Caps are based on observed interactions, regardless of the level of observer coverage. In all cases, “ceasing fishing” shall be applied both inside and outside the U.S. EEZ. Closures are contiguous, even if they extend into, or beyond, an existing closure.

Table 1. Individual and fleetwide hard caps. Values that EXCEED the individual or fleetwide caps are in parenthesis.

Species	Individual Cap (exceedance)	Fleetwide Cap (exceedance)
Fin whale	1 (2)	2 (3)
Humpback whale	1 (2)	2 (3)
Sperm whale	1 (2)	2 (3)
Leatherback sea turtle	1 (2)	2 (3)
Loggerhead sea turtle	1 (2)	2 (3)
Olive-Ridley sea turtle	1 (2)	2 (3)
Green sea turtle	1 (2)	2 (3)
Short-fin pilot whale C/O/W	3 (4)	4 (5)
Common bottlenose dolphin C/O/W Offshore stock	3 (4)	4 (5)

Option A:

If a vessel **reaches** an individual cap, that vessel and all unobservable vessels cease fishing for:

Sub-option I) 30 days if the cap is reached before November 1, or 14 days if the cap is reached between November 1 and January 31

Sub-option II) For the remainder of the fishing year

If a fleetwide cap is **reached**, the entire fleet ceases fishing for the remainder of the fishing year

Option B:

If a vessel **reaches** an individual cap, that vessel and all unobservable vessels cease fishing for 30 days if the cap is reached before November 1, or 14 days if the cap is reached between November 1 and January 31

If a vessel **exceeds** an individual cap, that vessel and all unobservable vessels cease fishing for the remainder of the fishing year

If a fleetwide cap is **exceeded**, the entire fleet ceases fishing for the remainder of the fishing year

Option C:

If a vessel **reaches** an individual hard cap, that vessel and all unobservable vessels cease fishing for 30 days if the cap is reached before November 1, or 14 days if the cap is reached between November 1 and January 31

If a vessel **exceeds** an individual cap, that vessel and all unobservable vessels cease fishing for the remainder of the fishing year, **AND** the remainder of the fleet ceases fishing for 30 days if the cap is exceeded before November 1, or 14 days if the cap is exceeded between November 1 and January 31

If a fleetwide cap is **reached**, the entire fleet ceases fishing for 30 days if the cap is reached before November 1, or 14 days if the cap is reached between November 1 and January 31

If a fleetwide cap is **exceeded**, the entire fleet ceases fishing until:

Sub-option I) the beginning of the following fishing year

Sub-option II) The following November 1, with cap counts beginning November 1 each year

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