

DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY HARD CAPS

At its June and November 2021 meetings, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopted a revised purpose and need statement and range of alternatives for a hard cap closure regime for the California large mesh drift gillnet (DGN) fishery. The Council originally took action on these protected species hard caps in September 2015 but that proposal was ultimately not implemented. The Council is now revisiting that proposal to address the deficiencies National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) identified in the original proposal and described in a June 9, 2017, letter to the Council ([Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2](#), June 2017).

Attachment 1 is an information paper prepared by Council staff containing a description of the proposed action, the adopted purpose and need and range of alternatives, and description of DGN fishery characteristics including catch and bycatch of finfish and protected species.

Dr. Stephen Stohs of the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center led development of a modeling methodology to evaluate the impacts of the original 2015 range of alternatives and has been working with the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) to extend the model to evaluate the impacts of the current range of alternatives. A description of the methodology underlying the 2015 analysis may be found in Sections III through V in [Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 5, September 2015](#). This model uses a bootstrap simulation technique to present distributions of potential changes in the number of sets fished in a season, resulting total revenue, total profits, average profits, total landings (metric tons), and mortality/injury of the nine protected species subject to hard caps. The attached HMSMT Report describes modifications to the model to evaluate the current range of alternatives. This report also presents preliminary results for Alternative 1 (No Action) and Alternative 2 (2015 Council Preferred Alternative) across three scenarios reflecting different levels of fishery participation. The HMSMT is working to also present preliminary results for Alternative 3 (In-Season Individual Vessel and Fleetwide Closures) in a supplemental report.

Based on the information provided, the Council may wish to further modify the range of alternatives adopted in November 2022. If the Council determines that there is sufficient information to make an informed decision, it may identify a preliminary preferred alternative.

Council Action:

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

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 1: Information Paper on Council Action Setting Hard Caps for Protected Species in the California/Oregon Large-Mesh Drift Gillnet Fishery
2. Agenda Item G.4.a, HMSMT Report 1
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

G.4 Drift Gillnet Fishery Hard Caps

Kit Dahl

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt a Range of Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternatives,
as Appropriate

PFMC
05/18/22