

Agenda Item I.5.b
Supplemental Public Presentation 1 (Labriola)
September 2022



**Wild
Oceans**
For the future of fishing

Theresa Labriola - Pacific Program Director
September 2022 - Agenda I.5 - Swordfish Management and Monitoring



September 10, 2022

Mr. Marc Gorelnik, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220

RE: Agenda Item I.5. - Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan

Dear Chair Gorelnik and Members of the Council,

Wild Oceans was founded nearly 50 years ago by avid recreational fishermen who are dedicated to preserving fishing opportunities for future generations. Our members have spearheaded conservation-minded changes in recreational fishing culture and have also called for precautionary management of commercial fisheries. Wild Oceans has pursued policies that promote the health of our open ocean ecosystem. To this end, we have not merely focused on the elimination of the bad, but the adoption of sustainable fishing gear that changes the paradigm from high volume, indiscriminate, high-waste fisheries to those that respect the diversity of the ocean ecosystem. Sustainable gear is characterized by low-bycatch, high target species catch, live release of incidentally-caught or undersize fish, and cost-effective monitoring and management.

In the 20th century, humanity demonstrated we could dominate and indeed overfish the ocean ecosystem as the apex predator.

Our challenge in the 21st century is to prove we can co-exist as a predator in the ocean and restore balance with innovation and restraint.

Transitioning to a sustainable swordfish fishery

Not merely focused on the elimination of out-moded gear, but the adoption of sustainable fishing gear that changes the paradigm from high volume, indiscriminate, high-waste fisheries to those that respect the diversity of the ocean ecosystem

1) finalizing the DGN hard caps

2) consider retiring the latent Federal DGN permits and sunsetting the active Federal DGN permits

3) achieving 100% monitoring on the DGN fleet so long as it is authorized

Transitioning to a sustainable swordfish fishery

Table 1. Landings of swordfish by fishery, 2008-2021 (PacFIN)

Year	Metric Tons						Percent			
	DGN	Harp.	LL	DSB G	Other	Total	DGN	Harp.	LL	DSB G
2008	406.1	48	59.1		17.9	531.1	76.5%	9.0%	11.1%	0.0%
2009	252.6	49.8	106		0.2	408.6	61.8%	12.2%	25.9%	0.0%
2010	61.6	37.4	270.7		*	369.8	16.7%	10.1%	73.2%	0.0%
2011	119	24.3	476.2		*	619.5	19.2%	3.9%	76.9%	0.0%
2012	118.2	5.4	279.2			402.7	29.4%	1.3%	69.3%	0.0%
2013	101.8	6.4	424.5		0.2	533	19.1%	1.2%	79.6%	0.0%
2014	87.2	4.3	300.9	*	*	392.4	22.2%	1.1%	76.7%	*
2015	69.5	3.7	349.2	7.9	*	430.3	16.2%	0.9%	81.2%	1.8%
2016	127.1	18.0	260.2	28.1	0.4	433.9	29.3%	4.2%	60.0%	6.5%
2017	123.8	19.3	299.0	30.2	0.4	472.7	26.2%	4.1%	63.2%	6.4%
2018	101.8	6.8	269.2	46.4	0.3	424.5	24.0%	1.6%	63.4%	10.9%
2019	35.5	7.7	118.0	72.4	57.0	290.6	12.2%	2.7%	40.6%	24.9%
2020	24.1	4.3	205.7	85.5	0.9	320.5	7.5%	1.3%	64.2%	26.7%
2021	9.5	4.7	85.4	36.9	1.2	137.7	6.9%	3.4%	62.1%	26.8%

Table 3. Inflation-adjusted ex-vessel revenue by fishery, 2008-2017 (PacFIN).

Year	DGN	Harpoon	Pelagic Longline	DSBG	Other fisheries	Grand Total
2008	\$1,959,165	\$524,045	\$164,303		\$64,555	\$2,712,068
2009	\$1,228,880	\$529,175	\$437,733		\$788	\$2,196,576
2010	\$456,737	\$411,032	\$1,604,166		*	\$2,471,935
2011	\$852,251	\$277,031	\$2,553,351		*	\$3,682,633
2012	\$871,791	\$68,415	\$1,316,904			\$2,257,110
2013	\$723,160	\$89,718	\$2,051,958		\$1,684	\$2,866,520
2014	\$826,889	\$80,078	\$2,106,546	*	*	\$3,013,513
2015	\$606,092	\$72,745	\$2,853,465	\$105,294	*	\$3,637,596
2016	\$1,138,533	\$295,426	\$1,874,689	\$448,252	\$6,087	\$3,762,987
2017	\$915,869	\$311,421	\$2,272,501	\$440,234	\$7,277	\$3,947,302
2018	\$711,542	\$124,697	\$1,825,884	\$614,786	\$4,651	\$3,281,560
2019	\$281,086	\$132,500	\$840,747	\$890,135	\$385,269	\$2,529,737
2020	\$184,204	\$75,329	\$1,422,587	\$1,057,379	\$11,950	\$2,751,449
2021	\$132,907	\$90,997	\$604,046	\$623,356	\$19,706	\$1,471,012

Transitioning to a sustainable swordfish fishery

Sustainable gear is characterized by low-bycatch, high target species catch, live release of incidentally-caught or undersize fish, and cost-effective monitoring and management

4) carefully manage the growth of the deep-

set buoy gear fleet to expand opportunities while avoiding conflict between fishermen or gear

5) allowing for further testing of alternative gear that begins with deep-set buoy gear and linked buoy gear

6) establishing performance criteria to evaluate new gear research

Transitioning to a sustainable swordfish fishery

Sustainable gear is characterized by low-bycatch, high target species catch, live release of incidentally-caught or undersize fish, and cost-effective monitoring and management

7) prioritizing ocean modeling and research to protect ocean ecosystems and vulnerable species while providing fishing opportunities.

It's time to end our flirtation with a pelagic longline swordfish fishery

November 18, 2019

Phil Anderson, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220

Re: Agenda Item J.3 - Scoping an Amend

Dear Mr. Anderson and Mr. Thom,

As leading local, national, and international express our concern about permitting in Coast ports. While we support sustainable longlining has an abhorrent record of sea contravenes our collective goals of reduce future. Therefore, we are against the use also do not want to see any development

The use of industrial pelagic longlines migratory species involves either shallow longlines (DSL), targeting bigeye tuna, discarded 60% of its catch and at least 88 of striped marlin, blue marlin, sailfin an its technical amendment passed in 2018 in the continental United States. Hawaii is a and spearfish, and these fish must be subsequent fishing mortality for these spe release fishing. Increasing longline activi for which there is no legal market for in a intent of the Act. By any reasonable stan dead discards of marine life in pelagic lo

Ecologically, longlines can fundamental Ecosystem. Unlike Hawaii or the western has never been subjected to an industrial areas outside the EEZ, have experienced predators, which would certainly result fi webs. The California Current ecosystem albatross and sea turtles in part because a abundance fish a multi-billion dollar rec activities including whale and bird watch

The extensive bycatch and damage to open ocean ecosystems caused by pelagic longlines is well-documented in scientific literature. As forward-thinking fisheries managers, we urge you to look ahead towards innovative gear like deep-set buoy gear to increase our domestic seafood production and domestic job opportunities for the next generation of US fishermen, not behind at indiscriminate gear like pelagic longlines. If we cannot sustainably regulate longlines, then the Council must choose sustainable gear.

Sincerely,



Theresa Labriola
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Pacific Program Director
Wild Oceans



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Bert Hall
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Dave Pfeiffer
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It's time to end our flirtation with a pelagic longline swordfish fishery

Hawaii shallow-set longline fleet discards at least **88** species and nearly half its catch.

From 2012 - 2016 the Hawaii shallow set longline fishery caught more than

2,700 striped marlin, blue marlin, and shortbill spearfish. There is no legal market for billfish (excepts swordfish) in the continental United States.



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