

DRIFT GILLNET 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](#)).

The HMSMT last reported the bycatch metrics in June 2021. (The HMSMT did not report on bycatch performance in 2020 due to COVID-19 and in 2022 because the Council directed it to focus its work on the DGN hard caps measure.) In June 2021 the HMSMT presented estimates for 2018 and 2019 calendar years ([Agenda Item F.4.a, HMSMT Report 1](#)) and in its [supplemental report](#) under that agenda item presented its multiyear trend analysis for the species and species groups included in the Council performance metrics list.

The Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act mandates a phase out of the DGN fishery by 2027. Recognizing the need to focus on the fishery phase out and the current low level of participation in the fishery, in March 2023 the Council concluded that the workload entailed in applying the regression tree method to the finfish metrics was unwarranted, and that observer data about bycatch available in [fishing season summaries provided in the Pacific Fisheries Information Network Apex reporting system](#) is sufficient to monitor finfish bycatch.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report 1 references the aforementioned Apex Report.

The HMSMT will provide a supplemental report with updated estimates of DGN bycatch performance for the 2020 and 2021 calendar years.

Council Action:

Review Annual Estimates Against Performance Metrics for Bycatch Species.

Reference Materials:

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

Agenda Order:

- J.4 Drift Gillnet Bycatch Performance Report Kit Dahl
- 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

PFMC
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