HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES DRIFT GILLNET BYCATCH PERFORMANCE REPORT

Bycatch estimates for marine mammal and sea turtles in the large-mesh drift gillnet (DGN) fishery were not produced for 2024 or 2025, so the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) was unable to create the corresponding performance metrics table.

Similar to past years, the HMSMT did not create performance metrics for finfish species in line with Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) guidance but compared the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) observer summaries for the 2025-2026 season to the list of performance metric species. For marine mammals, there was observed take of one performance metric species; 10 short-beaked common dolphin, which were all returned dead. While there are no updated metrics for comparison to this number, it was less than the previously calculated metric for this species of 63.3. There was also observed take of one loggerhead sea turtle, which was returned dead. The last performance metric for this species was 2.45. Also of note, two megamouth sharks were observed caught, both released alive, and seven striped marlin, six of which were released dead, one alive.

As was done the previous three years, the HMSMT calculated the overall finfish retention rate for all catch, as well as the retention rate excluding mola catch. The overall retention rate for the 2025-2026 season, including mola, was 59.4 percent. The removal of mola from the calculation resulted in a retention rate of 75.4 percent, which is higher than the Council's 70 percent retention metric.

PFMC
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