

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, so the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) was unable to create the corresponding performance metrics table. It is anticipated that estimates for 2024 and 2025 will be published in 2026 and the HMSMT will provide an updated performance metric table at that time.

Similar to last year, 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 2024-2025 season to the list of performance metric species. For marine mammals, there was take of four performance metric species; Risso's dolphin (1), Pacific White-sided dolphin (2), Short-beaked common dolphin (3) and Long-beaked common dolphin (3), all returned dead. While there are no updated metrics for comparison to these numbers, they are all less than the previously calculated metrics for these species of 2.7, 9.32, 67.1, and 7.99, respectively. There was no take of any sea turtle species. There was take of three striped marlin¹, all of which were kept².

As done the previous two years, the HMSMT calculated the overall finfish retention rate for all catch, as well as the retention rate excluding mola catch ([Agenda Item G.4.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report 1](#)). The overall retention rate for the 2024-2025 season, including mola, was 21.8 percent. The removal of mola from the calculation resulted in a retention rate of 51.1 percent, which is lower than the Council's 70 percent retention metric.

PPMC
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¹ Finfish species for which the Council requested performance metrics include billfish other than swordfish, megamouth, basking, white, and scalloped hammerhead sharks, and manta ray.

² NMFS West Coast Observer program staff have confirmed that the three striped marlin were retained for personal use and not sold.