

CHANGES TO BIENNIAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES BEGINNING APRIL 2011

Section 5.2 in the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) describes the biennial management cycle. Under this process Council decision-making occurs at the June, September, and November Council meetings to establish or adjust harvest specifications and management measures for the two-year period beginning at the start of the next fishing year, April 1, 2011. Any regulatory changes would stay in place until March 31, 2013 or until changed by subsequent Council action. This agenda item is the third phase in the decision-making process where the Council takes final action on recommendations for regulatory changes.

Based on their action at the September Council meeting, two proposals are under consideration. The first is a proposal from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to establish a per-trip recreational bag limit for albacore tuna. Agenda Item J.2.a, Attachment 1 evaluates the range of alternatives adopted by the Council in September. The second proposal is to change the per-trip swordfish retention limit for commercial vessels fishing for tuna using deep-set longline gear pursuant to regulations at 50 CFR 660.712. Agenda Item J.2.a, Attachment 2 evaluates the alternatives under consideration for this proposal.

Council Action:

- 1. Take final action (choose a final preferred alternative) for the following proposed regulatory changes:**
 - a. Per-trip recreational bag limit for albacore tuna for vessels in Washington State.**
 - b. Per-trip swordfish retention limit for commercial vessels fishing for tuna using deep-set longline gear pursuant to regulations at 50 CFR 660.712.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item J.2.a, Attachment 1: Implement Trip Bag Limits for North Pacific Albacore Caught by Recreational Anglers in Federal Exclusive Economic Zone Waters Adjacent to Washington.
2. Agenda Item J.2.a, Attachment 2: Modify Federal Regulations for Swordfish Trip Limits the Deep-set Tuna Longline Fishery (Action Pursuant to Modification of Routine Management Measures under the Framework in the Fishery Management Plan for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species).
3. Agenda Item J.2.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview **Kit Dahl**
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Changes to Biennial Management Measures Beginning April 2011

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