

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR JULY 20, 2017

9. DRIFT GILLNET SWORDFISH FISHERY**Today's Item****Information** **Direction**

Receive informational presentation from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) staff on federal oversight of the California drift gillnet swordfish fishery.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)

- MRC received request for overview Mar 23, 2017; MRC, San Clemente
- FGC approved MRC request to add topic Jun 21-22, 2017; Smith River
- **Today's presentation Jul 20, 2017; MRC, Santa Rosa**

Background

In Mar 2017, MRC supported a public request for MRC to schedule a presentation on the swordfish drift gillnet fishery and federal management efforts, for purposes of staying informed of the fishery's status and management.

The drift gillnet fishery is managed by NMFS and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) under the federal Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan. The fishery primarily harvests swordfish, but can also take other commercially valuable species like thresher and mako shark, and opah. The fishery operates under a limited entry permit system with mandatory gear requirements and time-area closures intended to limit bycatch of protected species. PFMC has been actively engaged in a review of management measures and evaluation of gear alternatives in recent years.

Today provides an opportunity to receive an informational presentation from guest speaker Heidi Taylor, HMS Branch Chief at NMFS' West Coast Region. She will provide an overview of HMS management under the PFMC process, background on the drift gillnet fishery and changes over the last 20 years, and potential management actions under consideration.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits (N/A)****Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)**