Set Gill Net: Service Interval, Gear Marking & Mesh Depth

April 17, 2024

Presented to:

California Fish and Game Commission

Presented by:

Miranda Haggerty

Environmental Scientist
Marine Region

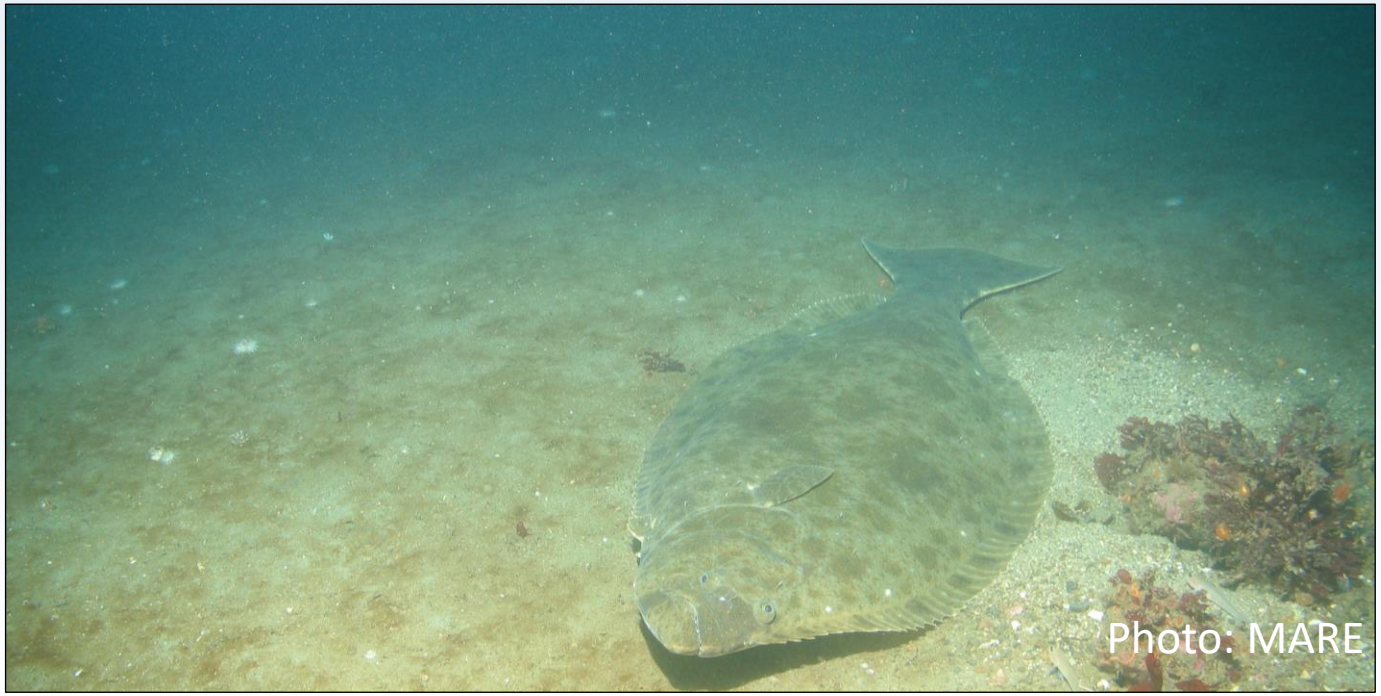
Overview

- Background
- Phase I Regulatory Proposals
  - Service Interval
  - Gear Marking
  - Mesh Height
- Outreach Efforts
- Timeline



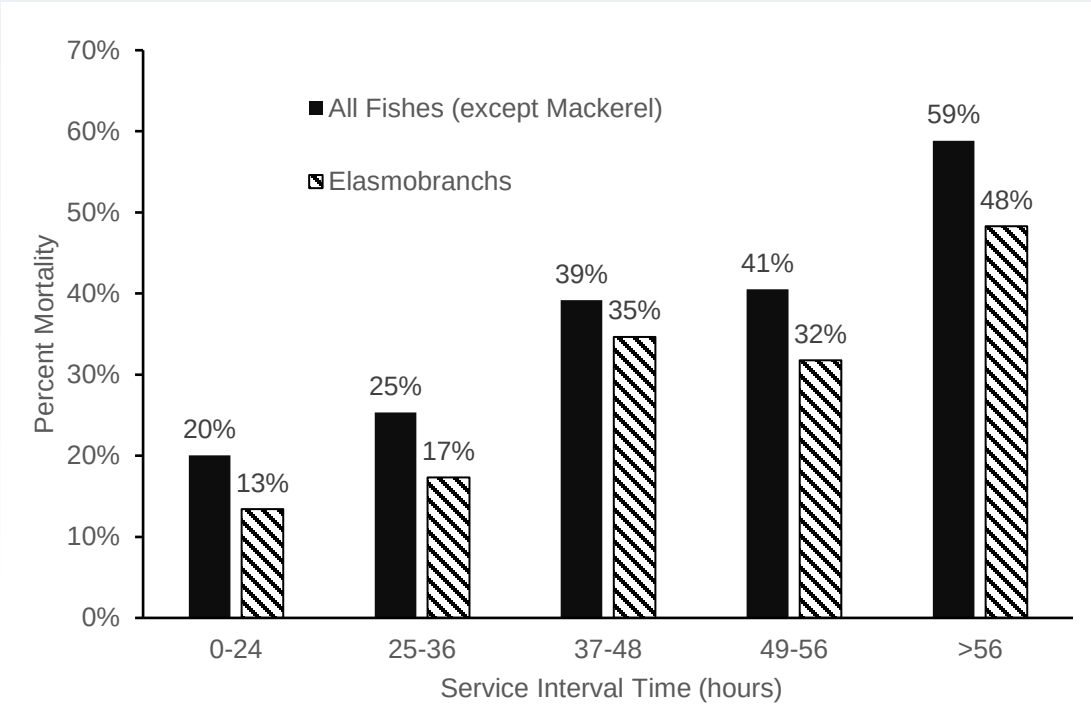
Background

- MLMA Bycatch Evaluation Process
- First phase of regulations to address bycatch in CA set gill net fishery



Service Interval Considerations

- Service interval options range from 24-48 hours
  - 72% of gill net logs report 24 hour or less soak time
  - Shorter service intervals have reduced mortality of discarded species
  - Longer service intervals allow gill netters to determine the best time to retrieve nets depending on conditions



Service Interval Exemptions

- Unsafe Weather Condition Exemption
  - Must send email to gillnetnotifications@wildlife.ca.gov prior to end of service interval
- Undue Hardship Exemption
  - Must request a waiver from the Department by sending an email to LRBCOMM@wildlife.ca.gov

- Abandoned nets- a set gill net is considered abandoned if left in the water for 7 consecutive days without an approved exemption request

Gear Marking Proposal

- Clearly identify set gill nets from California
- A one-inch colored nylon strap every 20 fathoms
  - Red, orange and/or yellow
  - Hang one foot off headrope
  - Includes fisherman's identification number





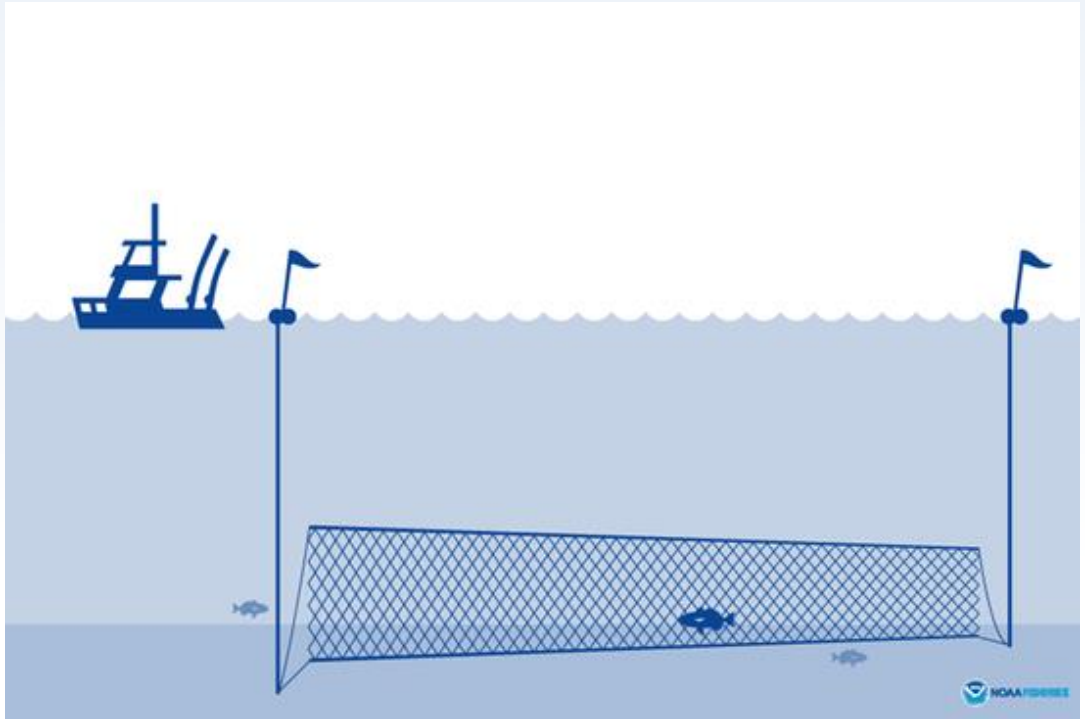
Photo Credit: Gill net permittee

Mesh Height Proposal

- No specifications for maximum mesh height (mesh depth)
- Maximum height regulation prevents expansion

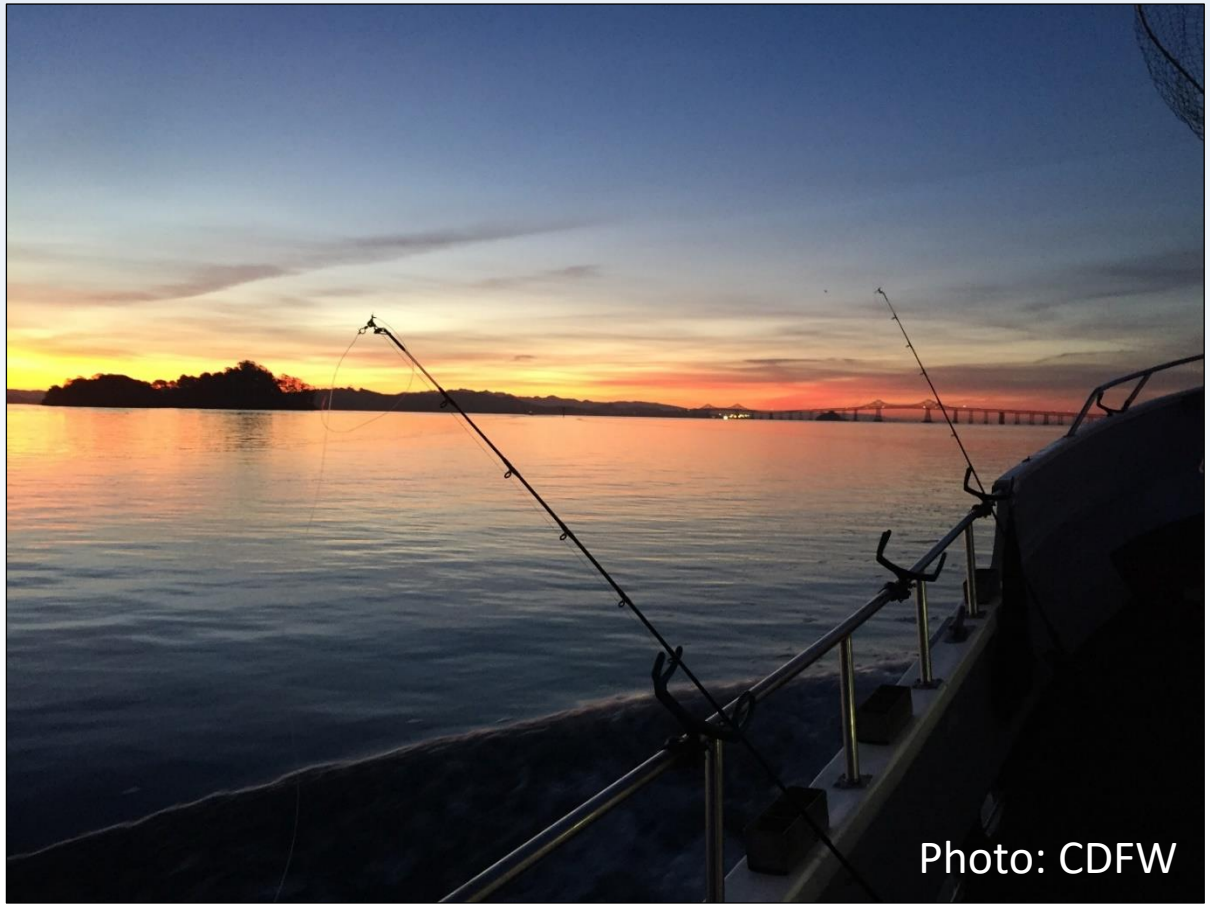
- California halibut set nets (>8.5 in): 25 meshes deep maximum

- White seabass set nets (>6 in.): 50 meshes deep maximum



Outreach

- Fleetwide discussions in San Diego and Santa Barbara – November 2023
- NOAA Protected Resource Division
- Statewide Tribal notification sent on January 17, 2024


Photo: CDFW

Timeline

- Notice: April 17, 2024
- Discussion: June 19, 2024
- Adoption: August 14, 2024
- Effective Date: after October 1, 2024



Thank You

Miranda Haggerty, Environmental Scientist

mlmafisheriesmgmt@wildlife.ca.gov

https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Nearshore

https://marinespecies.wildlife.ca.gov/california-halibut/