

Highly Migratory Species Management Division Bycatch Implementation Plan Action Items (FY08 and FY09) and Accomplishments (FY07)						
Action	Status/Specific Accomplishments as of 9/28/07	2008	2009	How Progress Will Be Measured and/or Monitored	Milestone	Milestone Completion Date
Monitoring						
Maintain appropriate observer coverage levels in the pelagic longline (PLL), bottom longline (BLL) and shark gillnet (GN) fisheries.	Target coverage levels met for PLL and shark GN fisheries (on an annual basis). BLL coverage level identified (SEFSC). Implemented 100% coverage of GOM PLL fishery from April 15 - June15.	Maintain observer coverage levels for PLL and shark BLL and GN fisheries.	Maintain observer coverage at or above target levels for each fishery.	Identify target observer coverage level by fishery; document number of vessels, sets, and hooks observed by fishery.	Identification of fishery; observer coverage levels.	Annually
				Document number of vessels, sets, and hooks observed by fishery.	Document observer coverage levels by fishery.	Annually
Evaluate mandatory observer coverage for headboats possessing HMS permits.	On hold pending MRIP process.	Coordinate with S&T, and SEFSC to conduct an analysis to determine scope of coverage, evaluate costs and benefits, and identify alternatives.	Implement new procedures as warranted dependent on available resources.	Identify universe of participating vessels, number of trips per year, target level and cost of observer coverage.	Incorporate findings and results in SAFE Report.	Dec-08
					Implementation of new procedures if warranted	Jun-09
Increase sample sizes for Large Pelagic Survey in for-hire fisheries.	Survey transferred to ST1; changes in survey design have led to increased sampling in for-hire fisheries for HMS.	Coordinate with ST1 to continue implementation of new survey design; monitor catch and effort.	Continue to coordinate with ST1 on implementation of new survey design; monitor catch and effort.	Monitor number of interviews/intercepts of for-hire vessels.	Annual report completed.	Annually
Research						
Investigate and evaluate alternative fishing protocols and gear modifications to reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality in HMS longline, gillnet and handline fisheries.	Design and conduct fishing operations in experimental fishery to evaluate effectiveness of c-hooks in closed areas dependent on available funding.	Conduct fishing operations in experimental fishery dependent on available funding.	Conduct analyses of experimental fishery.	Number of experimental sets made.	Results published in a report.	Dec-09

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Research on post-release mortality of HMS.	No activities identified as yet (dependent on needs and funding availability).	No activities identified as yet (dependent on needs and funding availability).	No activities identified as yet (dependent on needs and funding availability).	Number of PSATs deployed.	Results published in a report.	tbd
Conduct research on bluefin/yellowfin tuna interactions and distribution in the Gulf of Mexico.	New project for FY07 (dependent on funding).	Conduct field research, deploy PSATs on tuna in the Gulf of Mexico (dependent on funding).	Conduct field research, deploy PSATs on tuna in the Gulf of Mexico (dependent on funding).	Number of PSATs deployed.	Results published in a report.	Apr-09
Management						
Implement final measures of Amendment 1 (Shark Amendment).	Finalized and published FR for shark de-hooking requirements (2/7/07).	Complete, no additional activities identified.		Implementation of final rule for de-hooking requirements.	FR for de-hooking requirements published and implemented.	Feb-07
			Analyze impacts (biological, social, and economic) of closure	Provide preliminary results in annual SAFE Report	Publication in annual SAFE Report	Annually
Develop Amendment 2 to address shark management measures including bycatch and overfishing issues.	PR published 7/19/07.	Draft and publish final rule.		Public hearings held, proposed rule published.	Publication of FR; implementation of new management measures.	May-08
Continue analyses of time/area closure effectiveness and investigate new or modified measures as appropriate.	Continued analyses during development of Amendment 2; recommendations included in proposed rule	Continue to monitor effectiveness of time/area closures	Continue to monitor effectiveness of time/area closures	Implementation of final rule	Final rule published in the FR	May-08
				Provide results in annual SAFE Report.	Publication in annual SAFE Report.	Annually
Evaluate applicability of bycatch reduction measures from the NED experimental fishery to other U.S. and international fleets.	Conducted workshops on safe-handling and release guidelines.	Conduct additional workshops on safe-handling and release guidelines.	Conduct additional workshops on safe-handling and release guidelines.	Number of workshops held, percent of permit holders/vessel operators certified.		Ongoing activity
Address recommendations of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Team.	Participated in TRT meetings and conference calls.	Participate in TRT meetings and conference calls.	TBD based on TRT recommendations.	TBD based on TRT recommendations.	TBD based on TRT recommendations.	tbd

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Education/Outreach						
Develop safe handling and release techniques brochure.	Complete.	Distribute materials as needed.	Distribute materials as needed.	Brochures, video, and protocols produced.	Materials distributed.	Done
Improve communication with constituents regarding Agency efforts to reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality in HMS fisheries.	Updated HMS website, and HMS infoline; instituted HMS listserver and retired fax network.	Maintain HMS website, HMS infoline, and listserver as needed.	Maintain HMS website, HMS infoline, and listserver as needed.	Documents and other information posted to website; updates to infoline and listserver.	Updates completed.	Ongoing activity
Publicize availability of HMS identification guide to fishermen, constituents, and interested parties.	Notice of availability posted on HMS website.	Retain notice of availability on HMS website.	No activities identified as yet.	Notice of availability published; notice on HMS website.	Publication of notice; notice on HMS website.	Done
Conduct workshops on safe handling and release guidelines.	Presentation and materials for workshops developed; conducted workshops.	Conduct workshops on safe handling and release guidelines.	Conduct workshops on safe handling and release guidelines.	Number of workshops held, percent of permit holders/vessel operators certified.	Workshops conducted.	Ongoing activity
Prepare materials for tradeshow and conferences for distribution; attend trade shows and conferences; collaboration with the private sector.	Updated HMS fisheries brochures, compliance guide.	Update HMS fisheries brochures, and compliance guide as needed.	Update HMS fisheries brochures, and compliance guide as needed.			Ongoing activity
Translate safe handling and release protocols into other languages as specified in the 2004 Biological Opinion.	Distributed Spanish and Vietnamese versions.	Translate safe handling and release protocols into other languages as needed.	Translate safe handling and release protocols into other languages as needed.	Materials translated; brochures produced and distributed.		Done