

Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division Bycatch Implementation Plan Action Items (FY10 and FY11) and Accomplishments (FY09)						
Action	Status/Specific Accomplishments FY09	FY10	FY11	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 Gulf of Mexico PLL fishery from April - June.	Maintain observer coverage at or above target levels for each fishery.	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. Document observer coverage levels by fishery.	Annually
Evaluate mandatory observer coverage for headboats possessing HMS permits.	On hold pending Marine Recreational Information Program process.	Coordinate with NMFS Office of Science and Technology (ST) and Southeast Fisheries Science Center (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.	Implementation of new procedures if warranted.	TBD
Increase sample sizes for Large Pelagic Survey in for-hire fisheries.	Coordinated with ST to continue implementation of new survey design; monitored catch and effort.	Coordinate with ST to continue implementation of new survey design; monitor catch and effort.	Continue to coordinate with ST on implementation of new survey design; monitor catch and effort.	Monitor number of interviews/intercepts of for-hire vessels.	Annual report completed.	TBD
Review protected species interactions by fishery annually or quarterly as appropriate.	Reviewed protected species interactions from observer reports quarterly.	Continue to review protected species interactions quarterly.	Continue to review protected species interactions quarterly.	Monitor protected species interactions from observer reports.		Ongoing activity.
Evaluate mandatory observer coverage for vessels possessing smoothhound permits.	Fishery added to fishery management unit in Amendment 3 to the Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP), management measures effective in 2012.	Coordinate with ST, SEFSC, and Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) 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.	Implementation of new procedures if warranted.	TBD
Research						

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Investigate and evaluate alternative fishing protocols and gear modifications to reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality in HMS longline, gillnet, and handline fisheries.	Designed and conducted fishing operations in experimental fishery to evaluate effectiveness of circle hooks in closed areas dependent on available funding. This included the Pelagic Longline Closed Area Research Study in Florida East Coast and Charleston Bump closed areas. Included data collection on bycatch rates with new gears such as green-stick gear.	Conduct fishing operations in experimental fishery dependent on available funding. This includes continuation of the Pelagic Longline Closed Area Research Study and data collection and analysis of bycatch rates with new gears such as green-stick gear.	Conduct fishing operations in experimental fishery dependent on available funding. This includes conclusion, summary, and analysis of the Pelagic Longline Closed Area Research Study and analysis of bycatch rates with new gears such as green-stick gear.	Number of experimental sets or trips made.	Results published in a report.	TBD
Blue marlin post-release mortality study conducted by Virginia Institute of Marine Science.	Study operations conducted to evaluate post-release mortality of blue marlin.	Study conclusion and analysis of post-release mortality of blue marlin.		Number of pop-up satellite tags deployed.	Results published in a report.	Dec-10
Research on post-release mortality of HMS.	No activities underway. Research planning conducted. Projects dependent on funding availability.	Conduct analyses of post-release mortality of HMS dependent on funding. This may include post-release mortality analysis with green-stick gear.	Conduct analyses of post-release mortality of HMS dependent on funding. This may include post-release mortality analysis with green-stick gear.	Number of pop-up satellite tags deployed.	Results published in a report.	TBD
Management						
Continuation of shark research fishery to monitor and minimize shark and protected species bycatch as implemented in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP.	Shark research fishery implementation underway in order to monitor and minimize shark and protected species bycatch.	Continuation of shark research fishery to monitor and minimize shark and protected species bycatch.	Continuation of shark research fishery to monitor and minimize shark and protected species bycatch.	Number of trips in experimental fishery. Provide results in annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report.	New management measures implemented including experimental research fishery. Publication in annual SAFE Report.	Research fishery ongoing. 2009 SAFE report published.

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Continue analyses of time/area closure effectiveness and investigate new or modified measures as appropriate.	Monitored effectiveness and analyzed impacts of existing time/area closures.	Continue to monitor effectiveness and analyze impacts (biological, social, and economic) of time/area closures.	Continue to monitor effectiveness and analyze impacts (biological, social, and economic) of time/area closures.	Provide preliminary results in annual SAFE Report.	Publication in annual SAFE Report.	Analysis ongoing. 2009 SAFE report published.
Address recommendations of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Team (TRT), the Atlantic Large Whale TRT, and other TRTs, as needed and appropriate.	Participated on the TRTs as requested. Coordinated with NMFS TRT members for HMS rule changes, as needed.	Continue to participate on TRTs.	Continue to participate on TRTs.	Constituents are informed about Take Reduction Plan management measures.	Constituents informed about management measures via Protected Species Safe Handling and Release Workshops or other methods, as appropriate.	Ongoing activity.
Undertake rulemaking to address protected species takes as appropriate.	No activities underway.	As appropriate.	As appropriate.			Monitored on an ongoing basis.
Undertake rulemaking to address smoothhound and other HMS takes in trawl fisheries.	Began collecting and analyzing data; implemented Amendment 3 to the Consolidated HMS FMP, which adds smoothhound to fishery management unit	Coordinate with fishermen and continue analyzing data; proposed and final rulemaking.	Implement new procedures as warranted dependent on available resources.	Provide preliminary results in annual SAFE Report.	TBD	TBD
Education/Outreach						
Inform fishermen about protected species safe handling and release techniques.	Protected species safe handling and release materials distributed as needed. Tech Memo (TM) 580 was finalized, which replaces TM 524. TM 580 was distributed to permit holders.	Distribute materials as needed.	Distribute materials as needed.	Brochures, video, and protocols produced.	Distribute additional materials as needed.	Ongoing activity.

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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.
Conduct workshops on safe handling and release guidelines.	Conduct workshops on safe handling and release guidelines. Twenty workshops were held in FY2009.	Conduct workshops on safe handling and release guidelines. Twenty-four workshops are planned in FY2010.	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 tradeshows 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 and other materials into other languages as necessary and as funding is available	Distributed Spanish and Vietnamese translated materials.	Translate materials into other languages as needed and as funding available.	Translate materials into other languages as needed and as funding available.	Materials translated; brochures produced and distributed.		Ongoing activity.
Develop and distribute recreational shark identification (ID) guide to improve compliance with regulations that prohibit retention of some species.	Guide was developed and distributed.	Update and distribute shark ID guide.	Update as needed and distribute shark ID guide.	Documents and other information posted to website.	Documents distributed.	Ongoing activity.
Develop outreach plan to encourage commercial and recreational fishermen to release shortfin mako sharks alive.	Implemented measure to prevent overfishing of shortfin mako in Amendment 3 to the Consolidated HMS FMP; began outreach efforts.	Develop materials and distribute as needed.	Develop materials and distribute as needed.	Documents and other information posted to website; updates to infoline and listserver.		Ongoing activity.