

Pacific Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Team
August 7, 2013: Noon – 1:30 p.m. (PST)
Call in #: 877-934-5061; passcode: 7998638

AGENDA

Meeting Objectives:

- Provide updated information related to CA drift gillnet fishery and sperm whale interactions, CA/OR/WA sperm whale stock assessment, VMS feasibility and funding, observer coverage levels
- Continue Team discussions related to possible short-term measures to reduce sperm whale mortality/serious injury in the CA drift gillnet fishery to insignificant levels approaching zero; strive for consensus, as possible
- Review and discuss next steps, including follow-on Team deliberations to develop longer-term solutions

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Meeting purpose and objectives
- Discuss approach to testing and confirming consensus

2. Updates

- NMFS updates related to: observer coverage levels; feasibility of fleetwide VMS component; sperm whale stock assessment

3. Discussion: Identifying Possible Consensus Measures

- Review results of July 31st Team teleconference
- Recap feedback received to date from fleet meeting on August 1st
- Revisit and seek greater Team clarity and/or confirmation on key outstanding issues
 - Timing and duration of closure if serious injury/mortality cap exceeded
 - Depth and location of closure
 - Southern CA Bight – areas >2,000 m
 - Santa Lucia Bank/Escarpment (see map H and I)
 - VMS implementation considerations and fit within overall package of measures
 - Observer Program effort and fit within overall package of measures
 - Other
- Gauge Team consensus support for overall package of measures

4. Next Steps and Other Updates

- Near-term actions
 - Process for Implementation
 - Timeline
- Longer-term actions

5. Public Comment

- Opportunity for brief public comment

6. Adjourn