

<b>Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division Bycatch Implementation Plan Action Items (FY09 and FY10) and Accomplishments (FY08)</b>						
<b>Action</b>	<b>Status/Specific Accomplishments FY08</b>	<b>FY09</b>	<b>FY10</b>	<b>How Progress Will Be Measured and/or Monitored</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Milestone Completion Date</b>
<b>Monitoring</b>						
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 March 9 - June 9.	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.	Identify and document fishery 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 (F/ST) and SE Fisheries Science Center 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 F/ST to continue implementation of new survey design; monitored catch and effort.	Coordinate with F/ST to continue implementation of new survey design; monitor catch and effort.	Continue to coordinate with F/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
<b>Research</b>						

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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.	Conduct fishing operations in experimental fishery dependent on available funding. This includes continuation of the Pelagic Longline Closed Area Research Study and may include 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 may include 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 (VIMS)	Study operations conducted to evaluate post-release mortality of blue marlin.	Study operations to be conducted to evaluate post-release mortality of blue marlin.	TBD	Number of pop-up satellite archival tags (PSATs) deployed.	Results published in a report.	TBD
Research on post-release mortality of HMS other than VIMS blue marlin study above	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 PRM analysis with green-stick gear.	Number of PSATs deployed.	Results published in a report.	TBD
Conduct research on bluefin/yellowfin tuna interactions and distribution in the Gulf of Mexico and east coast.	Field research completed, PSATs deployed on bluefin tuna.	Conduct data analysis on field research and produce report.		Number of PSATs deployed.	Results published in a report.	Apr-09
<b>Management</b>						
Develop Amendment 2 to address shark management measures including bycatch and overfishing issues.	Final rule published 6/24/2008. 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.	Final rule published. Number of trips in experimental fishery. Provide results in annual SAFE Report.	Publication of final rule. New management measures implemented including experimental research fishery. Publication in annual SAFE Report.	Final Rule Done. Research fishery ongoing.

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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 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report.	Publication in annual SAFE Report.	Annually
Address recommendations of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Team (TRT).	Participated in TRT meetings and conference calls. Proposed rule to implement Atlantic Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan published.	Participate in TRT meetings and conference calls.	TBD based on TRT recommendations.	TBD based on TRT recommendations.	TBD based on TRT recommendations.	TBD
<b>Education/Outreach</b>						
Develop safe handling and release techniques brochure.	Materials distributed as needed.	Distribute materials as needed. Tech Memo (TM) 580 was finalized which replaces TM 524. New TM will be distributed.	Distribute materials as needed.	Brochures, video, and protocols produced.	Distribute additional materials as needed.	Ongoing activity
Improve communication with constituents regarding Agency efforts to reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality in HMS fisheries.	Updated HMS website and HMS infoline; instituted HMS listserv and retired fax network.	Maintain HMS website, HMS infoline, and listserv as needed.	Maintain HMS website, HMS infoline, and listserv as needed.	Documents and other information posted to website; updates to infoline and listserv.	Updates completed.	Ongoing activity
Conduct workshops on safe handling and release guidelines.	Presentation and materials for workshops developed and distributed. Eighteen workshops conducted in FY2008.	Conduct workshops on safe handling and release guidelines. Twenty workshops are planned in FY2009.	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

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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