

**False Killer Whale Take Reduction Team Meeting
Via Teleconference: August 3, 2018**

KEY OUTCOMES MEMORANDUM

The False Killer Whale Take Reduction Team met via teleconference on Wednesday, August 3, 2018. The purpose of the call was to:

- Provide a brief clarification on NMFS' response to possible team recommendations for the Southern Exclusion Zone
- Provide a check in on metrics related to the proposed weak hook study, with particular emphasis on timing and funding
- Provide a brief status report on recent Team member discussions related to developing consensus recommendations
- Identify next steps

The following Team members participated in the call: Robin Baird, Hannah Bernard, Brendan Cummings, Tory O'Connell, Ann Garrett, Eric Gilman, Asuka Ishizaki, Michael Jasny, John LaGrange, Aude Pacini, Ryan Steen and Sharon Young.

Kristy Long, Andy Read, Michael Jasny, Ryan Okano, Roger Dang, Dennis Heineman and Trevor Ryder were unable to participate in the call. Sean Martin, alternate for Ryan Steen, also participated. Agency participants (PIRO and Science Center) included Kevin Brindock, Susan Pultz, Karin Forney, Amanda Bradford and Jamie Marchetti. Scott McCreary with CONCUR, Inc., and Bennett Brooks with the Consensus Building Institute facilitated the webinar.

Below is a brief discussion summary of topics discussed and next steps.

Southern Exclusion Zone Actions

K. Brindock provided an update on the Agency's response to an inquiry from the Team concerning the possibility of reopening the SEZ, if the team were to recommend such an action. Specifically, K. Brindock clarified that the short-term goal of the Plan, reducing M&SI to less than PBR has been satisfied, while the long-term goal of the Plan, reducing M&SI to insignificant levels approaching a zero M&SI rate, has not yet been met for the pelagic stock. Accordingly, any modifications to the Plan to reach the long-term goal should take into account the economics of the fishery.

Status Update on Team Deliberations

R. Steen and B. Cummings provided a brief update on their efforts to develop a set of potentially broadly supportable measures that build on the ideas developed at the April in-

person Team meeting. The building blocks of the agreement address the following topics, which are to be spelled out in greater detail when documents are exchanged this coming week:

- Increasing branch line strength
- Designing and conducting a study to inform a shift to weaker hook paired contingently with a suspension of the SEZ
- Electronic monitoring
- Guidance for training crew
- Broadening communication regarding development of Serious Injury and Mortality Guidelines
- Prioritizing stock assessment surveys

Both Team members said the outlines of a potentially supportable package of measures are emerging, but more work to exchange drafts and conversation is needed to flesh out details and test the ideas with other Team members. They noted that there are several significant sticking points that are proving difficult to resolve with consensus support.

The discussion generated the following **Next Steps**:

- R. Steen and B. Cummings are to work together to create an integrated set of proposed recommendations to be sent out within the next week. The purpose of this document is to lay out areas of apparent agreement among the Team members involved in discussions thus far, highlight sticking points, and work to create a common language among team members. The intent of this proposal is to propel consideration and consensus forward as well as help to identify topics that require further discussion.
- K. Brindock: Conduct Doodle Poll for Team webinar to discuss possible consensus recommendations; target week of August 20

Weak Hook Gear Modifications

Ryan Steen reported back on the requested conversation with HLA membership, which was to elicit a response on the appropriate metric(s) to use in assessing the outcome of the weak hook study. The conclusion from the conversation is that two distinct metrics would have to be satisfied for the industry to consider the study a success: (1) a reduction of less than 5% in the total value of landed fish; (2) a reduction of less than 5% of the average weight of landed bigeye.

Based on the discussion, the Team identified the following **Next Steps**:

- K. Brindock will convey this advice to the Science Center for its consideration in devising a weak hook study and considering the ramification for study size, cost, confidence intervals, etc.
- K. Brindock will convene the Weak Hook Study Work Team (Eric Gilman, Andy Read, John LaGrange, Dennis Heinemann, Asuka Ishizaki, Ryan Steen, Tory O'Connell) to consider Science Center feedback and help shape study approach.

Electronic Monitoring

The Team discussed inclusion of electronic monitoring as a recommendation for the Plan. The topic is one around which Team members have not yet been able to reach agreement. Several options and details concerning electronic monitoring were discussed including the technology, use in other fisheries, and purpose of electronic monitoring in the Hawaii longline fishery. R. Baird clarified that one purpose of electronic monitoring, and his specific interest in including electronic monitoring, is for monitoring handling during interactions which is something the existing systems are adequate to collect data on. Team members offered several perspectives on electronic monitoring. The Council sees electronic monitoring as part of a larger discussion on fisheries management. Some team members expressed the view that electronic monitoring could have an undesirable “surveillance of crew” connotation, while others noted that electronic monitoring is becoming well established, and configurations readily exist that are informative for bycatch monitoring but not intrusive. There was also discussion concerning a timeline for implementation and the level of detail that may be needed or would be sufficient for a recommendation. The proposal document planned for distribution to the Team during the week of August 6, 2018 is expected to include a recommendation for electronic monitoring.

Based on the discussion, the Team identified the following **Next Steps**:

- **S. McCreary/B. Brooks** are to follow up with Team member regarding interest in establishing a Work Group to consider options for addressing electronic monitoring in the Team recommendations.