

incremental changes from the status quo; i.e., the difference between pelagic longline ex-vessel private profits under the proposed action and pelagic longline private profits under the status quo. Because there are no empirical

financial data available for this fishery, comparisons are based on the application of economic theory to potential fishing opportunities arising from the regulatory alternatives. The following table reports the estimated

incremental qualitative changes in short-run financial profits for vessels for each regulatory alternative relative to the status quo. The annual average change in short-run financial profits is also shown.

Alternative	Change in the Present Value of Short-Run Financial Profits Relative to the Status Quo (25-Year Time Horizon)	Average Annual Change in Short-Run Financial Profits Relative to the Status Quo
Pelagic Longline w/i the U.S. EEZ Alternative 1: Current state measures would remain in place under states' authorities and there would be no new Federal regulations governing longline use in the U.S. EEZ. (Status Quo/No Action)	NC	NC
Pelagic Longline w/i the U.S. EEZ Alternative 2: Establishes a general prohibition on the use of pelagic longline gear in the U.S. EEZ. (Proposed Action)	NC	NC
Pelagic Longline w/i the U.S. EEZ Alternative 3: Prohibits longlining within the West Coast U.S. EEZ by indefinite moratorium, with the potential for re-evaluation by the Pacific Council following completion of a bycatch reduction research program with pre-established strict protocols. Must prove negligible impact on protected and bycatch species. (Ocean Wildlife Campaign Proposal)	NQ+	NQ+
Pelagic Longline w/i the U.S. EEZ Alternative 4: Authorizes a limited entry pelagic longline fishery for tunas and swordfish within the U.S. EEZ, with effort and area restrictions, to evaluate longline gear as an alternative to DGN gear to reduce bycatch or bycatch mortality and protected species interactions. (Industry Proposal)	NQ+	NQ+
Pelagic Longline w/i the U.S. EEZ Alternative 5: Prohibits longlining within the West Coast U.S. EEZ with the potential for re-evaluation by the Pacific Council following completion of a tuna-swordfish-bycatch research experiment carried out under a qualified EFP to determine if longline gear can be fished in ways that produce bycatch and protected species interaction levels that are significantly less than by drift gillnets ( $\alpha=0.05$ ). (Plan Team Proposal)	NQ+	NQ+

There are not expected to be any financial impacts associated with Alternative 2 because it essentially represents the status quo. It would eliminate the Oregon longline fishery, authorized outside 25 nautical miles under the State's developmental fisheries program permit system. However, there are no active Oregon permits at the present time. This alternative would also eliminate the potential opportunity now available to West Coast based commercial fishermen for fishing off Oregon and California and landing in Oregon, which is currently not being exercised. The other alternatives offer potential increases in financial profits if it can be scientifically determined that there would not be an

adverse impact on bycatch and protected species interactions.

Beyond the U.S. EEZ, the FMP applies to West Coast-based longline vessels all of the restrictions applied to Hawaii-based longline vessels when fishing west of 150° W. long., but applies selected restrictions to vessels fishing east of 150° W. long., which allows West Coast-based vessels to target swordfish east of 150° W. long. (except for a partial closure in April and May). Restrictions limit sea turtle and seabird interactions and improve monitoring of the fishery. Swordfish targeting would be allowed east of 150° W. long. for most of the year under the FMP, though the ESA section 7 consultations may result in a finding of jeopardy to one or more species listed

under the ESA and alternative management measures may be necessary. The objectives of the proposed action provide for a longline fishing opportunity, giving due consideration to traditional participants in the fisheries, while providing adequate protection to sea turtles and seabirds.

A total of 38 vessels participated in the West Coast-based, high seas pelagic longline fishery during 2001 (see table below). All of these vessels would be considered small businesses under the SBA standards. Therefore, there would be no financial impacts resulting from disproportionality between small and large vessels under the proposed action.

**TOTAL EX-VESSEL REVENUE AND DEPENDENCE ON SWORDFISH FOR THE 38 WEST COAST- VESSELS WITH HIGH SEAS PELAGIC LONGLINE LANDINGS IN 2001.**

Number of Vessels	Dependence on High Seas Longline Caught Swordfish (category of swordfish revenue/total revenue)	Average Total Ex-vessel Revenue (\$/vessel)	Average Percent Longline Swordfish (swordfish revenue/total revenue)
4	< 50 percent	\$228,951	32.57 percent
3	50-70 percent	\$170,067	60.99 percent
3	> 70-80 percent	\$222,089	76.66 percent
4	> 80-90 percent	\$258,335	86.77 percent
13	> 90-95 percent	\$182,211	93.26 percent
11	> 95 percent	\$219,885	97.57 percent