**Billfish Management and Conservation plan review explanation**

This draft includes further context and explanations of pertinent billfish issues, and available means of addressing them. Additional information about available strategies to address billfish concerns and format adaptations are considered to better support and display plan suggestions. There are some edits and additions to the proposed management measures, as guided by previous draft comments. The following adjustments were made during this review:

* The promotion of IGFA rules was clarified to address recreational fleets
* Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) are also considered alongside VMS according to cost effectiveness and the practicality of implementations
* The proposed billfish export ban is now linked to a ban on billfish landings from Distant Water Fleets. This seeks to protect and retain national market values for billfish within national/regional economies, while simultaneously protecting national citizen employment revenues within commercial fleets. Further information justifying the ban was incorporated because it is considered one of the most efficient and enforceable mechanisms for addressing billfish harvests.
* Linked to the above, an emphasis upon incentivizing the use of gears, technologies and fishing methods that reduce billfish incidence rates and/or harvests, while promoting maximum value and fishing efficiency for target species, is now also included
* Additional formalized means of control for recreational fleets are now suggested
* More information about historical and current billfish stock abundance trends has been incorporated
* Fleet size caps with improved registration (to international standards) are also suggested under potential future measures. The emphasis here is to promote the value of fishing licenses, eliminate the race to fish and incentivize a shift from ongoing fleet growth, to fleet efficiency and sustainability
* Various additions provide further support and context for proposed measures, seek to address previous draft comments and make the draft more suitably comprehensive.

I thank you in advance and look forward to receiving your comments, which can be done through track changes in the document if preferred.

Yours sincerely

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