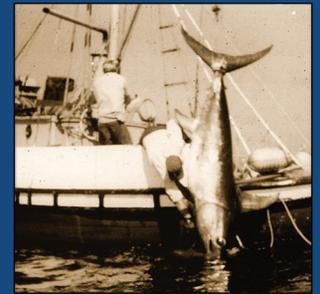
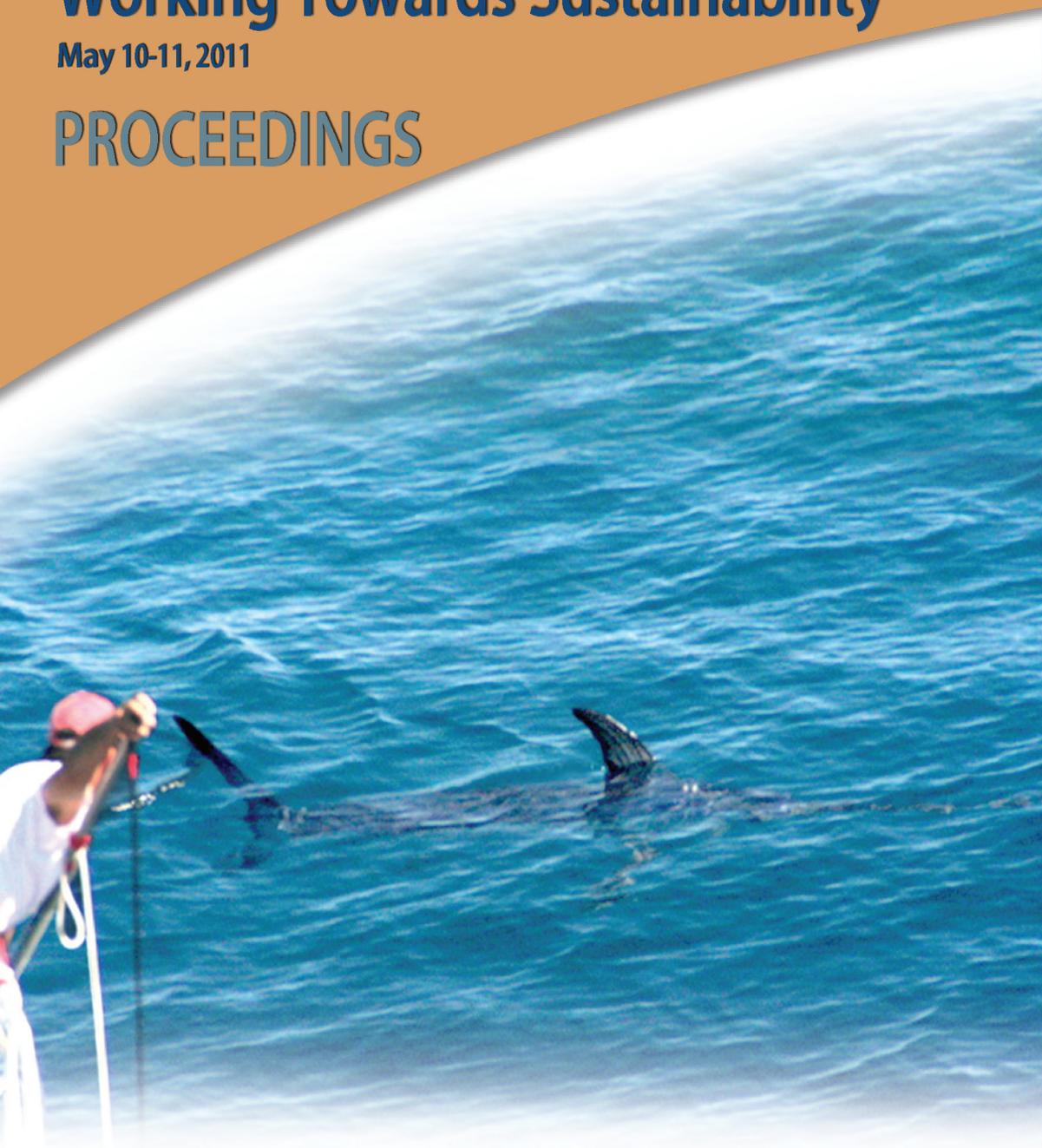


# U.S. West Coast Swordfish Workshop: Working Towards Sustainability

May 10-11, 2011

## PROCEEDINGS



NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

# NOAA

2012



Front cover images courtesy of Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research (center: harpoon fishing) and Mike McCorkle (side panel, top to bottom: detachable harpoon heads, fisherman with catch, fisherman hoisting a swordfish)

Back cover image courtesy of Bill Boyce of Boyce Images

Reference as:

National Marine Fisheries Service. 2012. The Proceedings of the U.S. West Coast Swordfish Workshop: Working Towards Sustainability, May 11-12, 2011, San Diego, California. Prepared by Amber Rhodes, Jennifer Isé, and Mark Helvey for the National Marine Fisheries Service, Long Beach, CA. 65 pp.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE**  
**U.S. WEST COAST SWORDFISH WORKSHOP**  
**Working Towards Sustainability**

**May 10-11, 2011**  
**San Diego, California**



Prepared by  
The National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southwest Regional Office





## Preface

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Southwest Region (SWR), convened the **U.S. West Coast Swordfish Workshop: Working Towards Sustainability** on May 10-11, 2011, in San Diego, California (see Appendix A for the agenda). The goals of the workshop were to:

- establish, through information sharing, the current state of knowledge on biological, ecological, and socioeconomic factors of North Pacific swordfish fisheries, and
- achieve a common understanding among stakeholders of the current issues facing, and potential future of, the U.S. west coast swordfish fishery.

Approximately 75 participants attended the workshop, including representatives of commercial and recreational fisheries, state and federal resource agencies, scientific bodies, conservation organizations, research institutions, seafood suppliers, and restaurateurs (see Appendix B for the participant list).

Mark Helvey, NMFS Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries in the Southwest Region, emphasized that the workshop was intended to be an exchange of information and not a decision-making forum. He commented on the wide range of expertise present among the participants and requested that everyone contribute to the workshop objectives. Specifically, these were to:

- consider the global scale of ecosystem impacts of swordfish fisheries;
- consider the broader ecosystem context of the U.S. west coast swordfish fishery, including the potential consequences of a reduced U.S. west coast swordfish fishery on transfer effects and global capacity building;
- understand the implications of a declining U.S. west coast swordfish fishery, including the impact on coastal community jobs, producer benefits, and consumers choices;
- share information about the global demand for swordfish products relative to U.S. supply; and
- examine the extent to which U.S. west coast-caught swordfish can contribute to regional and global environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

Mr. Helvey's opening remarks were followed by CONCUR's review and confirmation of the agenda, proposed ground rules, and other meeting materials.

