

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT
ON ONGOING EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

The PIER and Ferguson deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) exempted fishing permit (EFP) participants have expressed an interest to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in continuing their respective EFPs beyond the originally issued two-year period of 2015 and 2016. The HMSMT supports the extension of these EFPs beyond 2016 to allow for the completion of at least two full EFP fishing seasons.

The Ferguson EFP participants have also requested from NMFS a reduction of their required 100 percent observer coverage rate. This EFP has conducted three days of fishing to date and reported no catch. The HMSMT does not have enough information to recommend reducing the required observer coverage in this EFP.

PFMC
03/11/16