

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM (HMSMT) REPORT ON EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS (EFPs) FOR 2016

In 2014, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) solicited EFP proposals to test alternative fishing methods to the existing swordfish fisheries under the Fishery Management Plan for Highly Migratory Species (HMS FMP). In response to this solicitation, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) received five EFP proposals by the submission deadline in 2015, three of which were for testing deep-set buoy gear (DSBG). Another EFP application to test DSBG was submitted in 2015, shortly after the deadline. This application was resubmitted for consideration at the June 2016 Council meeting.

As was done for previous EFP applications, the HMSMT has reviewed the submitted application and provides the following recommendations and comments structured around three areas (Statutory, Operational, and Experimental) identified in the HMSMT report under [Agenda Item E3](#) at the June 2014 Council meeting.

Statutory

- Consult [Council Operating Procedure 20](#) to be sure the application comprehensively addresses the requirements of HMS EFP applications.
- Provide information about how the data collected by the EFP would benefit potential management or development of the fishery.
- Relating to observer coverage and monitoring:
 - Indicate the ability to provide appropriate accommodations for a fishery observer on each boat;
 - Identify an observer coverage level (50%, 100%, etc.)
 - If you do not plan on using a human observer, provide alternatives of, and proposals for, other forms of monitoring (vessel monitoring systems, electronic monitoring);
 - State proposals for obtaining funds needed to cover the cost of monitoring if you cannot cover the costs alone.

Operational

- Provide more detailed information about fishing depth, gear configuration, deployment methods, and anticipated fishing locations.
- Identify potential overlap/conflict with other fishers given that the application seems to propose the same time/area as the PIER EFP, as well as DGN and recreational fishing operations.
- Justify the reasoning, and explain the benefits of, a 5-year EFP. Why is a longer EFP period proposed as compared to the standard 2-year timeframe?
- Identify the range that will be maintained in relation to gear location (defined by a distance, within visual contact, etc.).

- Express how interactions with species of conservation concern will be avoided.
- Define the intended market for the catch (local Southern California?), and explain how that market be accessed (dockside markets, wholesalers, etc.?). Provide an estimate of price points the applicant anticipates.
- Define the anticipated catch rates for marketable and non-marketable species.

Experimental

- Explicitly state the specific questions or objectives that this EFP plans to address.
- Specify the intended amount of fishing effort. Specifically, identify
 - The number of sets and fishing days proposed;
 - Fishing effort for each participant;
 - Distribution of effort in time and space (e.g., how will the total proposed effort be divided across years and seasons?) How will it be distributed geographically?
- Identify who will collect, analyze and report the data.

The HMSMT recommends the applicant resubmit their application after further development by taking the above recommendations and comments into consideration. The HMSMT encourages applicants to submit their applications to the HMSMT prior to Council deadlines, so that the HMSMT may provide feedback to successfully complete the application. The HMSMT commends the applicant for expressing interest in using a recently developed fishing method which the Council is considering for approval and inclusion in the HMS FMP. The HMSMT recognizes merit in the proposal and recommends it for further consideration and potential approval in September. While similar to authorized EFPs, this application may provide additional insight on the use of DSBG by novice fishers and on DSBG fishery economics.

PFMC

06/23/16