

Ms. Dorothy M. Lowman
Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

RE: Agenda Item: D.5 Deep Set Buoy Gear and Federal HMS Permit Update

Dear Chair Lowman and Council Members:

On behalf of Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego, I want to thank you for all the hard work to protect and sustain our fisheries off the Pacific Coast. At your upcoming June meeting, I am writing to encourage you to give clear guidance on permitting options for a new type of fishing gear, deep-set buoy gear, to catch swordfish off the West Coast.

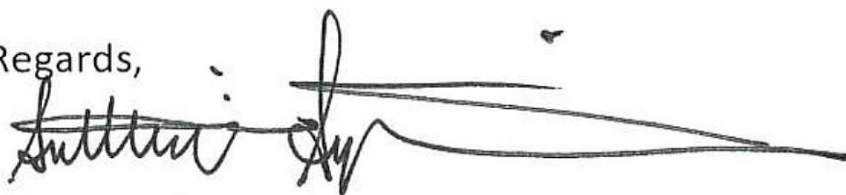
Deep-set buoy gear provides the Council an opportunity to reduce bycatch and provide a sustainable and fresh supply of swordfish to businesses like ours. As a hotel located on the coast, we are always looking for ways to support thriving marine ecosystems. Deep-set buoy gear can significantly reduce the unwanted catch of marine animals such as whales, dolphins, sharks and sea turtles – all marine life that our customers love to see when they stay at our hotel in San Diego.

More and more Americans are also asking for sustainable, locally sourced seafood when they dine out. As restaurateurs, we take pride in our ability to provide local seafood to our customers. We are always looking for new ways to sell the freshest product possible while supporting local fisherman. Deep-set buoy gear is a viable alternative to creating this supply in the commercial market.

Please keep deep-set buoy gear authorization on track at your June meeting. We would like to see a definitive decision on the authorization of this innovative gear type.

Thank you for your time and letting me add my voice to this important issue.

Regards,



Sutti Sripolpa
Executive Chef
Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego