

## DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT CRITERIA TO ADVANCE GEAR AUTHORIZATION

At its June 2016 meeting, the Council decided to develop special conditions for a deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) exempted fishing permit (EFP) program based on a list of key data gaps and research needs with regard to DSBG to be developed by the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT). This list would inform recommending terms and conditions for future EFP applications, as well as aid prospective EFP applicants in developing applications. The Council also tasked the HMSMT with identifying incentives for EFP participation including, but not limited to, prioritized eligibility of EFP participants in a potential future DSBG permit program. As discussed under Agenda Item J.2, the Council also decided to accept DSBG EFP applications at any Council meeting where HMS topics are on the agenda. According to the current Year-at-a-Glance Workload Planner (Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 1) HMS topics are scheduled on the November 2016, and March, June, and September 2017 meetings.

The Council clarified that the emphasis on continuing development of a DSBG fishery by issuing EFPs does not replace its intent to develop a range of alternatives to authorize the fishery under the HMS Fishery Management Plan consistent with its guidance in March 2016 ([Agenda Item E.3](#)).

The HMSMT met August 8-12, 2016, to address the Council assignment. The HMSMT will submit a supplemental report discussing data gaps that may need to be filled, depending on the scope of the fishery the Council will authorize, and a list of possible incentives to encourage EFP applications, especially those that would address these data gaps.

Once the Council identifies data gaps to be addressed through future EFPs and incentives for applicants this information will be disseminated through an announcement on the Council's website and email list. The HMSMT discussed creating a DSBG EFP application template that would make it easier to complete applications and provide a checklist-type format to help applicants develop proposals that address data gaps. The HMSMT would work on this template based on any guidance received by the Council in September so that it could be made available in advance of future Council meetings.

### **Council Action:**

**Identify Criteria for Future Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permit Applications to Advance Consideration of Gear Authorization under the Fishery Management Plan.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item J.4.b, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- J.4 Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permit Criteria to Advance Gear Authorization Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Identify Criteria for Future Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permit Applications to Advance Consideration of Gear Authorization under the Fishery Management Plan

PFMC  
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