

October 18, 2016  
Mr. Herb Pollard, Chair  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

**Agenda Item I.4 – DSBG EFPs & I.5 – Swordfish Fishery Management**

Dear Chair Pollard and Members of the Council,  
In anticipation of some of the topics that are scheduled to be discussed at the November meeting, the Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association is in the process of conducting a survey among the 72 fishermen who currently own HMS permits with drift gillnet endorsements.  
The preliminary draft results are below:

<b>VCCFA DRIFT GILLNET SURVEY SUMMARY</b>			
	<b>NUMBER OF PERMITTEES</b>	<b>% OF SURVEY RESPONSES (N=13)</b>	<b>% OF ISSUED PERMITS (N=72)</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPLETED SURVEYS</b>	13		18.0
<b>DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT:</b>			
Knows DSBG EFP exists	13	100.0	18.0
Current PIER EFP participant	4	30.8	5.6
Interested in applying for DSBG EFP	7	53.8	9.7
Only interested in EFP with no observer costs or coverage	1	5.6	1.3
Not interested in applying for DSBG EFP	1	5.6	1.3
<b>DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR PERMIT:</b>			
Interested in DSBG permit once the fishery is authorized	13	100.0	18.0
Not interested in DSBG permit	0	0.0	0.0
<b>PLANS FOR HMS/DRIFT GILLNET PERMIT:</b>			
Do not plan to renew	0	0.0	0.0
Plan to renew next year (2017-18 fishing season)	13	100.0	18.0
Keep permit indefinitely	13	100.0	18.0

The purpose of the survey was to solicit DSBG EFP applications to experienced swordfish fishermen who may or may not have heard about the EFPs and to get a feel for overall interest in DSBG permits once the fishery is authorized as well as plans for renewing drift gillnet permits. The last question of the survey was an open-ended ask for questions, comments or concerns which has already led to some interesting discussions among the fishermen regarding some of the nitty-gritty details such as who should get in (to the future DSBG fishery) and who shouldn't, just to share one example. The preliminary results of the surveys completed to date as well as additional comments and discussions also indicate a unanimous and strong desire from the fleet to keep fishing DGN and or renew/keep their DGN permit indefinitely.

We hope the final results of the survey as well as some of the discussions and ideas it sparked among the fleet can be used to help facilitate the Council and Advisory Body process of diving into the nitty-gritty details and nuts and bolts that are essential in this rare opportunity of authorizing a new fishery while preserving the DGN fishery. We look forward to sharing the final results with the Council in November.

Thank you for your attention and consideration,

Sincerely,  
Jonathan Gonzalez, President – VCCFA