

Tim Perguson
F/V ESPADA, EFP DSBG Permit Holder
34581 Calle Portola
Capistrano Beach, Ca. 92624
714-404-0964

Dear Chuck Tracy and members of the HMS Management Team

RE: Interim EFP Progress Report

The F/V Espada EFP Deep Set Buoy Gear holder wishes to reduce their required observer coverage below 100 percent after we have completed our first year of DSBG fishing activity. Tim Perguson of the F/V Espada has completed 10 sets using the EFP DSBG as recommended in HMSMT supplemental report 2. Some of the DSBG sets were acquired when Tim worked with Mark Heritage of the F/V Capt. Hook on his vessel. It was a great opportunity to share knowledge and help absorb the observer cost between vessels. With the cost in gear, permits, vessel upkeep, fuel expenses, and efforts taken to achieve our goals, I request our observer coverage is reduced from the required 100 percent observer program when using the DSBG.

We have been limited using the DSBG on several days this year. We frequently fished for swordfish by utilizing the hand-thrown harpooning method and while we are out, excellent conditions arise for using the DSBG, but we are restricted from utilizing it due to the 100 percent observer coverage regulations. It would have been nice to have our observer coverage minimized so we can optimize the gear usage during these optimal fishing days and when in good fishing areas. We very much like to take advantage of using this gear and the harpoon gear simultaneously, when weather permits or making a decision that best works for being spontaneous of our fishing efforts. These nice days at sea change frequently and scheduling the observer takes time, the weather can change within a day or even hours.

Between both these fishermen, Tim Perguson and Mark Heritage whom have put efforts in the EFP DSBG have several years of combined experience with various gear types. For example, Longline, Gillnet, Trap, Hand Thrown-Harpoon and (Deep) Hook & Line. Both Tim and Mark have at least 70 years combined of commercial fishing experience between them. Setting, pulling, tagging, reporting, catch, catch release, incidentals, etc. They have the experience to proficiently gather the information needed for documentation

required, sell, catch, safely release their catch, as well as the utilization of the DSBG.

Unfortunately, there were times this season we had limited fishing days, some days we were unable to obtain an observer within the 24 hour time slot, weather conditions change and when time and weather permits observers were unavailable. Therefore, many good fishing days passed by, Hand thrown Harpoon Fishing Permit was used instead of the efforts going towards the DSBG. With the 10 days of DSBG effort, we caught two species of which we sold one swordfish to the local consumer and the other was a Thresher Shark, we kept for our own consumption. We did not have any by-catch or incidentals during any of the days fished this season. Restricted to the 100 percent observer coverage has limited our ability to freely utilize this DSBG, as other EFP users are having plentiful days of success with no by-catch and with limited observer coverage.

The table description below indicates dates the DSBG was utilized, dates observer used, total trip hours, hours DSBG soaked, catch vs. by-catch and fishing vessel utilized. There were days we did not have a total 8 hour soak time and some of the days show more soak times. This diversity was partly due to limited daylight hours, weather conditions or our daily activity. It would be much appreciated if the hours of soak time, was just a guideline to base ones experience, but not held to explicitly. Ultimately, we achieved the same goal. The gear was baited, set and pulled with all expectations and with the outcome being the same. We have the experience, whether it's a catch or a safe release.

Please consider recommending a reduced DSBG observer coverage rate of 30% with Tim Perguson and with Mark Heritage, so they can continue their fishing efforts without limitations towards the success of the DSBG. This will allow us to continue contributing our time and efforts in seeing this gear work as it was intended. Continue to work hard, in finding other alternative ways of catching highly migratory species with no by-catch and limiting ones that do have by-catch. Reduced EFP DSBG observer coverage, will give us more set days and more catch days with zero bycatch.

Thank you,

Laura Perguson

DATES FISHED DSBG	DATES WITH OBSERVER	HOURS OF DAILY FISHING TRIP/FROM PORT to PORT	HOURS OF DSBG SOAK TIME	CATCH and/or BY- CATCH	FISHING VESSEL
12-30-15	12-30-15	7:30am – 7:00pm	7 hours	NONE- CATCH or BY-CATCH	ESPADA
12-31-15	12-31-15	8am – 5:30pm	5 hours	NONE- CATCH or BY-CATCH	ESPADA
01-01-16	01-01-16	7:30am – 6:30pm	6 hours	NONE- CATCH or BY-CATCH	ESPADA
03-17-16	03-17-16	7:30am depart port	7 hours	NONE- CATCH or BY-CATCH	ESPADA
03-18-16	03-18-16	9pm return to port	7 hours	(1) THRESHER SHARK/ NO BY-CATCH	ESPADA
09-03-16	09-03-16	6:30am – 8:30pm	8.3 hours	(1) SWORDFISH/NO BY-CATCH	ESPADA
09-04-16	09-04-16	6:30am – 8:30pm	7 hours	NONE- CATCH or BY-CATCH	ESPADA
10-05-16	10-05-16	6:30am – 7:30pm	8 hours	NONE- CATCH or BY-CATCH	ESPADA & CAPT. HOOK
10-06-16	10-06-16	6:30am – 9pm	8.3 hours	NONE- CATCH or BY-CATCH	ESPADA & CAPT. HOOK
10-13-16	10-13-16	7:30am – 6:30pm	8 hours	NONE- CATCH or BY-CATCH	ESPADA