

## PROPOSED DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

In June 2016, the Council announced it would accept for review applications for exempted fishing permits (EFPs) to test deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) at any Council meeting when Highly Migratory Species (HMS) items are on the agenda.

At its November 2016 meeting the Council preliminarily approved two applications, one from the Plegler Institute of Environmental Research (PIER) to test linked buoy gear, and a second from Frederic Hepp to test the conventional DSBG design, taking into account the recommendations made in [Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report, November 2016](#). The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) recommended further consideration of both applications, requesting revisions to the PIER application. Attachment 1 is the revised PIER EFP application. Since no changes were requested from Mr. Hepp, the application he submitted in November 2016 is included as Attachment 2. The Council will make their final recommendation on these two applications at this meeting.

New EFP applications are due by February 21 for the March Council meeting. Three applications were submitted by the advanced briefing book deadline (see Attachments 3, 4, and 5). Any additional applications received by February 21 will be distributed as supplemental attachments.

In November 2016 the Council also tasked the HMSMT with developing criteria for deciding if a DSBG EFP application could be approved in one Council meeting rather than the currently required two Council meetings. This would further streamline the process for approving and issuing EFPs for DSBG fishing that are very similar to current EFP fishing. The HMSMT expects to submit a supplemental report with recommendations on criteria for expediting a recommendation. The Council will review these criteria and could adopt them and then apply them to make a final recommendation on the new DSBG EFP applications under consideration.

### **Council Action:**

- 1) Review proposed criteria for expedited approval of deep-set buoy gear exempted fishing permit application and adopt for immediate use, if appropriate.**
- 2) Consider expedited review criteria and make recommendations to NMFS on exempted fishing permit applications to test deep-set buoy gear.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item J.3.a, Attachment 1: Revised Exempted Fishing Permit Application for Deep-Set Linked Buoy Gear (Plegler Institute of Environmental Research).
2. Agenda Item J.3.a, Attachment 2: Exempted Fishing Permit Application for Deep-Set Buoy Gear (Frederic Hepp).
3. Agenda Item J.3.a, Attachment 3: Exempted Fishing Permit Application for Deep-Set Buoy Gear (Kent Jacobs).
4. Agenda Item J.3.a, Attachment 4: Exempted Fishing Permit Application for Deep-Set Buoy Gear (Martin Kastlunger).
5. Agenda Item J.3.a, Attachment 5: Exempted Fishing Permit Application for Deep-Set Buoy Gear (Phillip Harris).

Agenda Order:

- J.3 Proposed Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permits Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action** 1) Review Proposed Criteria for Expedited Approval of Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permit Application and Adopt for Immediate Use, if Appropriate, and 2) Consider Expedited Review Criteria and Make Recommendations to NMFS on Exempted Fishing Permit Applications to Test Deep-Set Buoy Gear

PFMC  
02/15/17