

## Attachment B: Council Data Gathering Priorities

The Council is particularly interested in gathering more data through EFPs on the following topics

1. **Bycatch and Protected Species Interactions:** Research and EFP effort to date have shown minimal bycatch in both volume and number of species. Bycatch is any fish or organism (marine mammal, sea turtle, non-marketable fish, etc.) that is not kept but discarded at sea. Additional fishing effort with the gear will provide a clearer picture of potential bycatch rates and the species involved. Bycatch rates and composition could change when fishing in new areas and times of the year.
2. **Active Tending:** Research and EFPs have required active tending of DSBG. This requires the vessel operator keeping all pieces of gear in sight so that the gear can be retrieved quickly once a strike occurs, reducing mortality and lowering the risk of lost gear. Experience suggests a practical limit of 10 pieces of gear that can be actively tended. Questions that could be addressed through EFPs include:
  - a. Can more than 10 pieces of gear be effectively tended (without increasing bycatch mortality and gear loss)?
  - b. Are there cost-effective remote monitoring technologies (e.g. drones, radio signaling) that could substitute for keeping gear in sight?
3. **Gear Conflicts/Proper Number of Vessels:** What is the maximum number of vessels that can operate in a defined area such as the Southern California Bight? How far apart do vessels and gear need to be to avoid conflicts? Are there potential conflicts between DSBG and other gear types?
4. **Use of DSBG in Other Areas and Times of the Year:** To date the gear has been used almost exclusively in the Southern California Bight. Can it successfully catch swordfish and other marketable species in other areas while avoiding protected species interactions? What times of the year can the gear be used?
5. **Gear Configuration:** To date EFPs have used the standard gear configuration described in Appendix A. Are there other configurations that could increase catch volume or provide other benefits (e.g., reduce the effect of lost gear, allow remote monitoring)?
6. **Concurrent Gear Use:** Can fishermen simultaneously engage in other fishing activities (e.g., harpoon, troll) that could help make DSBG fishing trips economically viable, while effectively tending DSBG?