

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMENTS ON
EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR

Following from the discussion and recommendations contained in the CDFW Report submitted under Agenda Item H.3.a regarding the preliminary range of alternatives for authorizing a Federal west coast swordfish deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) fishery, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recommends that the Council request that for any DSBG EFP issued for use off California, NMFS specify in the Terms and Conditions that activities be limited exclusively to federal waters.

A number of new EFPs were approved by the Council in March 2017 (Pfleger Institute of Environmental Research, Frederic Hepp, Kent Jacobs, Martin Kastlunger, Phillip Harris, Denny Corbin, and William Diller). Because there are a number of areas off Northern California and Monterey Bay that deviate from the general 3 nautical mile State / Federal boundary, CDFW recommends NMFS clarify the boundary in discussions with these and future EFP applicants, in addition to incorporating the requirement into the Terms and Conditions.