

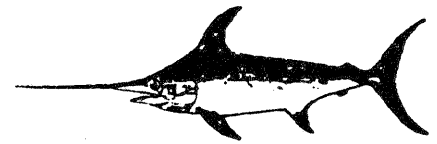
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RECEIVED

MAY 19 2005

PFMC



Don Hansen, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Pl., Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220-1384

May 17, 2005

Dear Don,

In response to a recommendation from the HMS management team I provide more specificity in the EFP about gear and techniques. I submit the following changes (strikeouts indicate deleted text, italics indicate added text) to the section entitled EFP Fishery Description, beginning at the bottom of page 7 and continuing to page 8. These changes are consistent with regulations enacted for the Hawaii longline shallow-set swordfish fishery found at 50 CFR §660.33(d),(f) & (g). Thank You.

Pete Dupuy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Dupuy".

EFP FISHERY DESCRIPTION: The proposed shallow-set fishery will consist of a main line strung horizontally across 50 to 100km of ocean, supported at appropriate intervals by 18m vertical float lines connected to surface floats. Descending from the main line is some number (2-25) of 24m branch lines each ending in a single baited hook. ~~which may or may not include various colored light sticks.~~ *For targeting swordfish, hooks used will only be offset circle hooks sized 18/0 or larger, with a 10° offset. For targeting tuna, smaller circle hooks with no offset will only be used. For targeting swordfish or tuna, only mackerel-type bait will be used, and no lightsticks will be used.* From 400 to 1,200 hooks may be deployed per set. Each trip will consist of about 14 sets, approximately 14,000 hooks per trip (1,000 hooks per set x 14 sets). This EFP proposes 7 trips that will occur during the period September through April, approximately 98,000 hooks per season (14,000 hooks per trip x 7 trips). Fishing during the period September thru December will be principally conducted within the EEZ with a maximum of 4 trips (56,000 hooks). Fishing during the period January thru April (3 trips, 42,000 hooks) will be principally conducted on the high seas in the area east of 140° W longitude.

Additionally, longline fishing operations under this EFP will comply with existing sea turtle take mitigation measures found at 50 CFR §660.712(b), and longline seabird mitigation measures found at 50 CFR §660.712(c).