

## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON PIER EFP UPDATE

In February 2016, Dr. Chugey Sepulveda of the Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research (PIER) presented an update to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) marine, scientific permitting and law enforcement staff on exempted fishing permit (EFP) activity for deep-set buoy gear (DSBG), as well as progress on research of a new gear type, linked buoy gear.

This presentation allowed for CDFW to gain a better understanding of activities and preliminary results from both the EFP and research trials, while also allowing for questions and concerns to be vetted and answered by the coordinating body of the EFP. Law enforcement had a unique opportunity to discuss this season's observations, field activities and potential enforcement concerns, which will be useful in planning for future research and drafting future permit terms and conditions. CDFW sees DSBG as a promising new gear that can supplement the existing swordfish fishery, and recognizes that the effort would not have been possible without extraordinary collaboration between PIER, its funding sources, and members of the commercial fishery who are willing to try a new fishing method. CDFW would like to extend a sincere thank you to Dr. Sepulveda for spending the day with us and his transparency and cooperation in this process.