

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
ONGOING EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS (EFP)

In November 2015, Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) listed the advantages of the exempted fishing permit (EFP) for the potential drift gillnet (DGN) fleet in the Pacific Leatherback Conservation Area (PLCA) to avoid species of concern, particularly with the advent of Ecocast and Ecosep fishing methods). The HMSAS also listed the potential of the Deep Set Long Line (DSL) / Shallow Set Long Line (SSL) EFP to avoid species of concern from the present swordfish harvesting methods.

As has been explained by Dr. Chugey Sepulveda, manager of the current Plegler Institute of Environmental Research (PIER) sponsored Deep Set Buoy Gear (DSBG) project, DSBG was never intended as an alternative to the DGN fishery. The DSBG services a separate small volume (niche) market and cannot supply the high volume of swordfish as required for the market. However, the DSL/SSL fishing could also supply the high volume market.

The HMSAS suggests that the Council advise National Marine Fisheries Service to accelerate the processing of the DSL/SSL EFP and the DGN EFP.

PFMC
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