



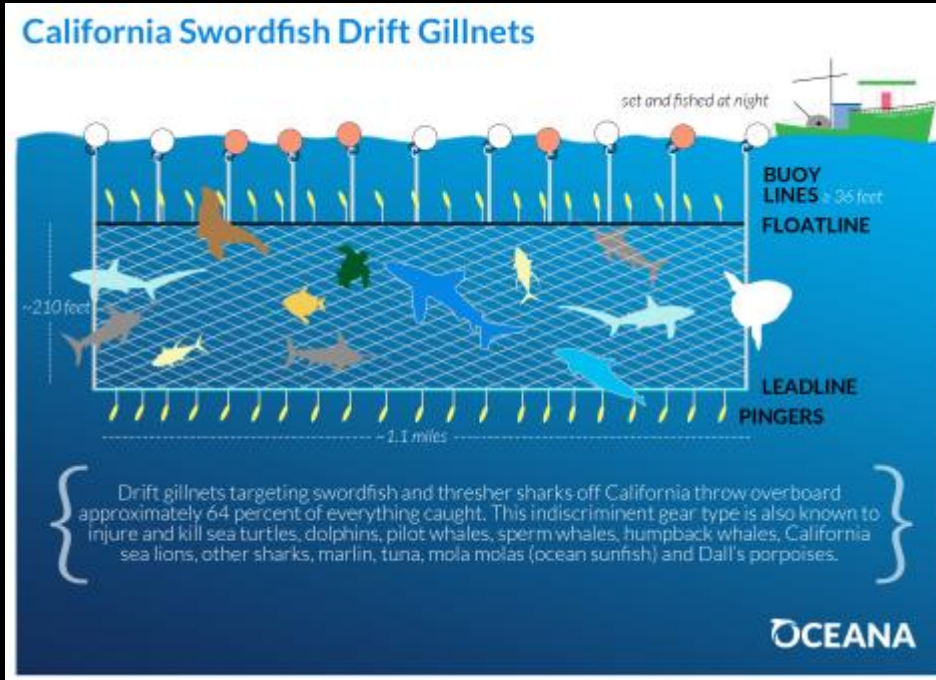
Scoping Deep-Set Buoy Gear HMS FMP Amendment

Agenda Item F.3

Geoff Shester, Ph.D.

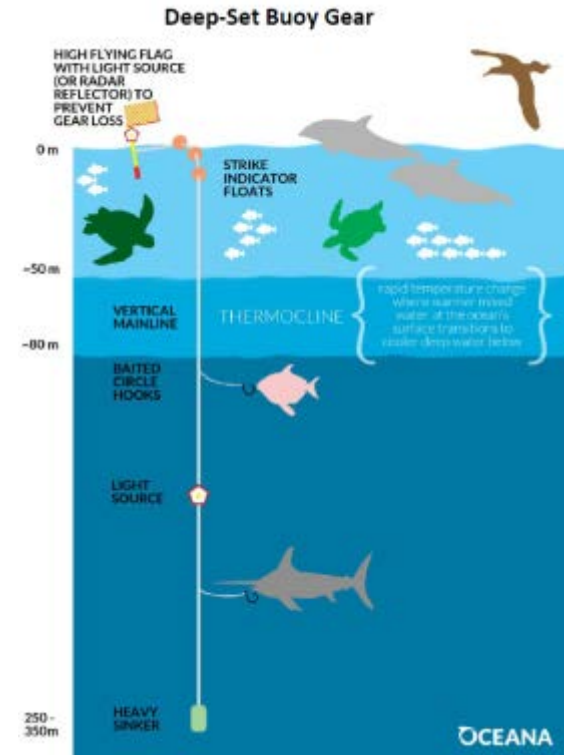
March 11, 2016

Night



Drift gillnets

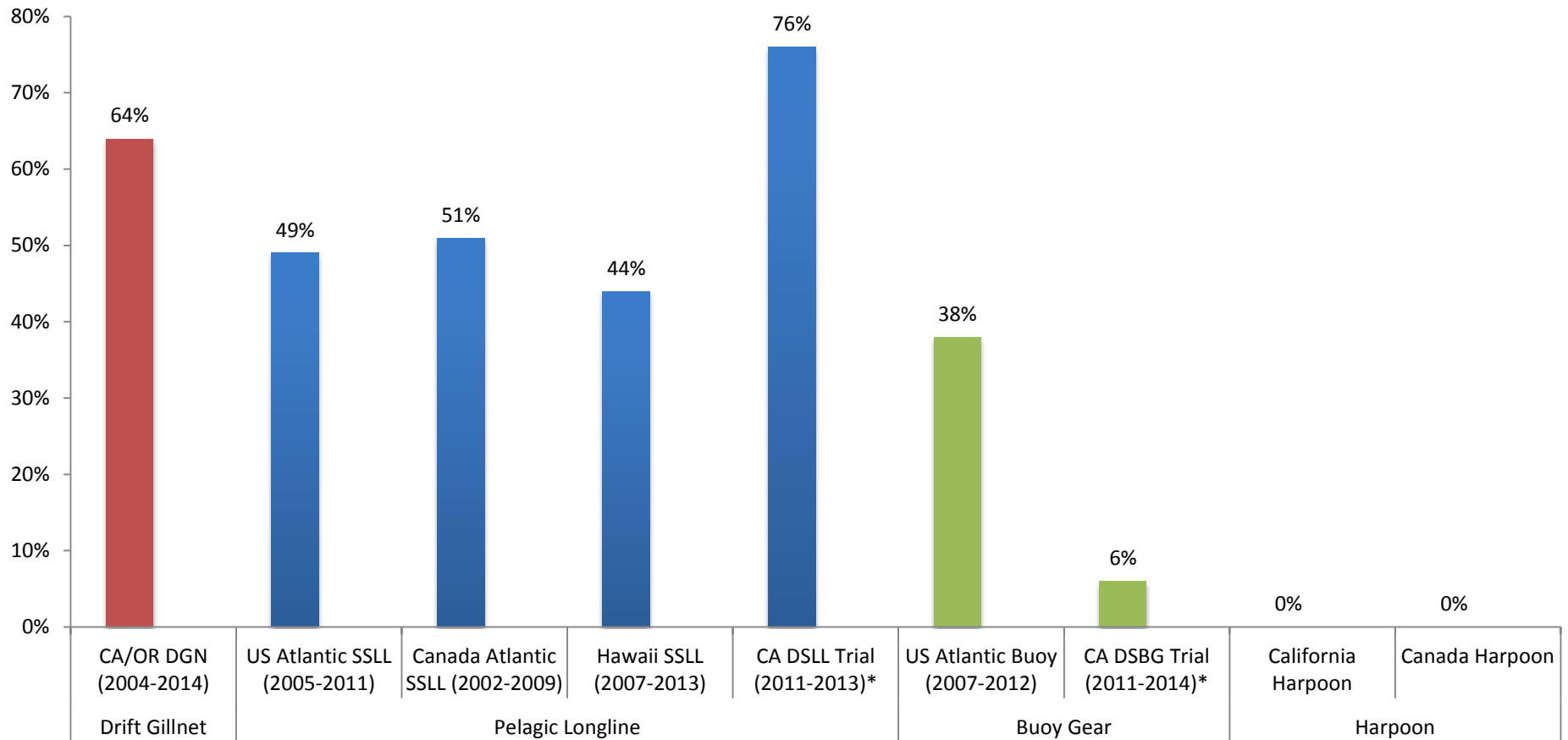
- Surface fishing at night
- 64% discard rate
- More cetacean bycatch than all other US West Coast and Alaska fisheries combined
- Frequent interactions with protected species



Deep-set buoy gear

- Deep fishing in day
- 97% marketable species
- Minimal bycatch mortality
- No protected species mortality to date
- Profitable, higher value catch

Swordfish fishery discard rates



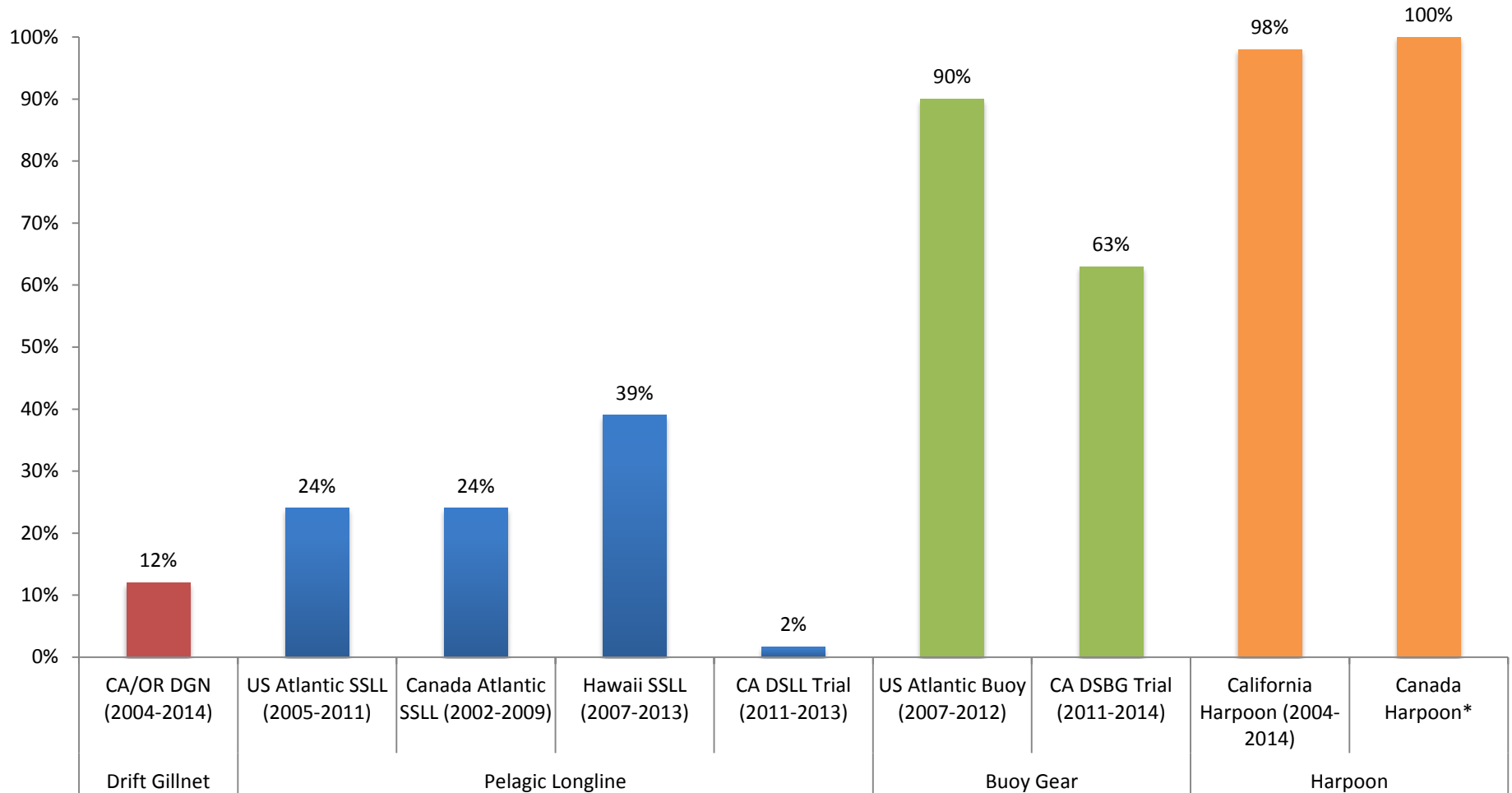
* Non-marketable species were assumed to be discards.

** Estimates based on Coan et al, 1998.

From Oceana Nov. 2015 Report:

*Providing Domestically Caught U.S. West Coast Swordfish:
How to Achieve Environmental Sustainability and Economic Profitability*

Percentage of total catch that is swordfish



California harpoon data from 2015 HMS SAFE Table 16.

* Based on estimates from Coan et al, 1998.

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How to Achieve Environmental Sustainability and Economic Profitability*

Purpose and need

- Swordfish Management & Monitoring Plan
 - Support economically viable West Coast swordfish fishery
 - Reduce protected species bycatch
 - Reduce unmarketable finfish catch
- DSBG authorization provides opportunity:
 - Incentivize voluntary transition from DGN to DSBG
 - Provide new fishing opportunity
 - Provide compensation for phasing out DGN

Authorize Deep-Set Buoy Gear

- Gear configuration should match EFPs
 - (max 10 pieces of gear per permit; active tending, etc)
- Time-area closures
 - Provide access to PLCA, federal waters only, prevent targeting other species
- Observer coverage
 - Pilot initial program to confirm bycatch remains low
 - Transition to electronic monitoring
- Training on proper/effective use of DSBG

Create federal Limited Entry permit system allowing active DGN fishermen three options:

Each active DGN permit holder would decide which option works best for them:

Keep DGN Permit

Keep DGN & Purchase a LE
Buoy Gear Permit

Exchange DGN Permit for
Multiple Buoy Gear Permits

Other Permitting Considerations to Include in Scope

- DSBG permits transferable (allows access to other fishermen)
- Increase fees for DGN permits
- Address latent DGN permit holders
 - Retire permits?
 - Allow exchange DGN permit for DSBG permit?
- Active harpoon fishermen may purchase DSBG permit
- DGN permits become non-transferable and/or sunset

Concurrent & Future Actions Outside DSBG FMP Amendment

- Transition fund (Ocean Protection Council)
 - Observer costs
 - Further experiments
 - Training
- Loans for new gear (California Fisheries Fund)
- Future EFPs: Further improvement to DSBG design
- Move toward electronic monitoring
- Marketing efforts for DSBG
- Continue efforts toward import restrictions for swordfish fisheries not meeting U.S. standards

Swordfish Catch Potential

DGN: 2.1 swordfish/boat/trip
(1990-2013 observer data)



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DSBG: 1.3 swordfish/boat/trip
(2015 PIER DSBG EFP)



16 DSBG Vessels produce same amount of swordfish as 10 DGN vessels

DSBG swordfish sells for a higher price (\$6-8/lb) than DGN swordfish (\$3-5/lb)



Conclusion



- DSBG is proven clean, profitable way to increase local swordfish landings
- Opportunity to meet multiple Council goals
- Scope should include
 - DSBG Authorization
 - Limited entry permitting system linked to DGN
 - Incentives for voluntary gear transition
- Please initiate FMP amendment at this meeting