

DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR AND FEDERAL PERMIT UPDATE

At its March 2016 meeting, the Council provided guidance on developing a range of alternatives to authorize a fishery using deep-set buoy gear (DSBG). The Pflegler Institute of Environmental Research (PIER) has been conducting research and development on deep-set buoy gear since 2010 with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and other partners. Use of the gear under a PIER sponsored exempted fishing permit (EFP) began in 2015 and has shown promising results as reported the Council in March 2016 ([Agenda Item F.3](#)).

With regard to permitting, the Council has expressed an intention to consider a limited access (limited entry) permit program for any authorized DSBG fishery. In addition, in 2014 the Council expressed its intent to create a Federal limited access permit for the California large mesh drift gillnet (DGN) fishery, which would supplement or supplant the current California state limited access drift gill net shark and swordfish permit for this fishery. Stakeholders and the Council have also discussed whether a permit program should foster a transition of current DGN permit holders to a future DSBG fishery through permit conversion, incentives, or other mechanisms. California Senate Bill 1114, discussed at the April Council meeting, would establish a state permitting framework to promote such a transition.

Attachment 1 discusses the range of considerations that should be addressed in developing alternatives for authorizing a DSBG fishery and permitting of West Coast swordfish fishery.

In March 2016 the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) recommended a June check-in with the Council for guidance to continue scoping alternatives. ([Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report, March 2016](#))

The current Year-at-a-Glance meeting planner (Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 1) proposes the Council adopt a range of alternatives for authorizing a DSBG fishery in September 2016. Guidance at this meeting will help the HMSMT and HMS Advisory Subpanel refine alternatives, encompassing the permitting issue, for potential adoption in September.

Council Action:

Provide Guidance on the Range of Alternatives for Authorizing a Federal Deep-Set Buoy Gear Fishery and Federal Permitting of West Coast Swordfish Fisheries.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.5, Attachment 1: Considerations for Developing Alternatives for Deep-Set Buoy Gear and Federal Permitting of the West Coast Swordfish Fishery.
2. Agenda Item D.5.b, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- D.5 Deep-Set Buoy Gear and Federal Permit Update Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Provide Guidance on Developing the Range of Alternatives for Authorizing a Federal Deep-Set Buoy Gear Fishery and Federal Permitting of West Coast Swordfish Fisheries

PFMC
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