

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) REPORT ON EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP) APPLICATION APPROVAL

Stephens Deep-Set Buoy Gear (DSBG) EFP Application

NMFS has provided guidance to the EFP applicant in order to address the issues identified during the June 2016 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting by the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT)¹, the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS)², and the Enforcement Consultants (EC)³. The applicant, Dave Stephens, has amended and resubmitted the application directly to the HMSMT for their evaluation and review. NMFS believes that the application has merit and aligns with the Council's intent to continue development of a DSBG fishery through the expanded use of EFPs to collect necessary data, and therefore supports issuance of the EFP.

¹ [Supplemental HMSMT Report, June 2016](#)

² [Supplemental HMSAS Report, June 2016](#)

³ [Supplemental EC Report, June 2016](#)