

# Federal Drift Gillnet Permits

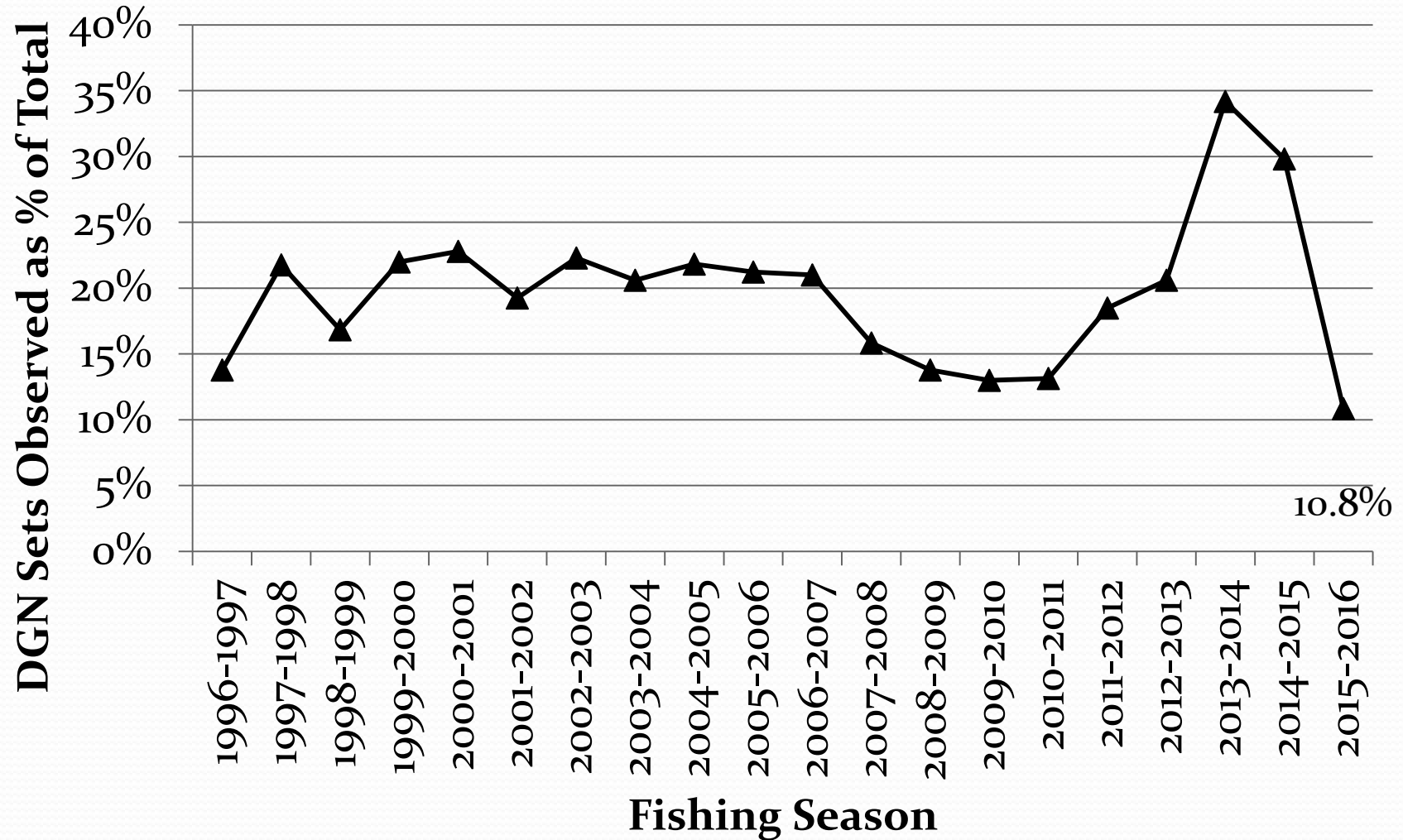
Geoff Shester  
Comments to PPMC on Agenda Item J.5  
September 19, 2016

# Drift Gillnet Hard Caps and Monitoring

- Council requested implementation by August 2016
- No proposed rule to date
- Monitoring requirements will not be in rule
- Industry refused funding for Electronic Monitoring
- DGN MMPA permits expired



## DGN Observer Coverage







NOAA MMHSRP Permit #18786

**NOAA Documentation:** **10/17/15** Sub-adult humpback whale  
**Los Angeles, CA** JUST OUTSIDE LA LIGHT; 2nd report APPROX. **4 MILES OFF DEL MAR**; 32 44.89  
N 117 15.995 W "MOUTH AND HEAD ENTANGLED IN **LARGE MESH NETTING**, right side and  
pectoral covered with netting; NETTING CUTTING INTO ROSTRUM AND ABRASIONS ON  
LEADING EDGES OF FLUKES. **PHOTOS SHOW MESH SIZE** AND ATTACHMENT POINTS;  
ACTIVELY SWIMMING WITH SHORT DIVES AND MULTIPLE CONSECUTIVE BREACHES FOR  
THE HOUR RESCUE TEAM ON SCENE; Not safe to close approach due to breaching behavior; **great**  
**documentation**; Resight on 11/1/15; 2nd report BLUE GILLNET"









Short-finned pilot whale killed in CA DGN fishery, NOAA





Megamouth shark killed in CA  
DGN Fishery, NOAA

# Concerns

- Federalizing DGN permits alone does not further goals of reducing bycatch or promoting increased landings with clean gear
- Limited range of alternatives: Council would benefit from additional analysis
- Sole purpose for fast-tracking is to remove CA legislature involvement
- Problematic to issue new permits and retire them shortly after
- Ensure limits on permit transfers remain consistent with state limits



# Add Alternative(s) to Range

- Only issue federal DGN permits to state DGN permit holders with recent swordfish landings
  - 5 years of June 2014 control date
  - Consider compensation mechanisms
- Authorize and issue permits for a federal DSBG fishery (based on PIER EFP config)
- Establish DGN permit trade-in mechanism

# Swordfish Management & Monitoring Plan 2015

## **Limit fishing effort in the DGN fishery**

- Implement a federal limited entry permit for the DGN fishery. Possession of this federal limited entry permit would be required to fish with DGN gear in federal waters.
- Determine the appropriate number of federal limited entry permits based on the bycatch reduction goal.
- Develop appropriate qualification criteria to obtain the federal permit.
- Consider how a federal limited entry permit could facilitate transitioning DGN fishery participants to other gear types. For example, a limited entry permit could be designed to include endorsements for more than one gear type or to encourage swapping a DGN permit for a permit for another fishery/gear type.
- Investigate mechanisms to compensate state permit holders that do not qualify for a federal permit.



# A Comprehensive Vision

- Implement DGN hard caps and monitoring (*PFMC Motion Sept 2015*)
- Permitting:
  - Limit effort by issuing federal DGN permits to active fishermen based on bycatch reduction goals (*SMMP*)
  - Authorize and permit DSBGs as successfully tested (10-20 permits) (*PFMC Motions in Nov. 2015 and March 2016*)
  - Enable voluntary DGN permit trade-ins for DSBG permits (*SMMP*)
- New EFPs to explore Linked Buoy Gear and new areas
- Import standards/restrictions through MSA and MMPA

***All these can and should happen concurrently as a package***