

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON PROPOSED DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR
EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) have reviewed the documents pertaining to Agenda Item J.3.a criteria for approving proposed Deep-Set Buoy Gear (DSBG) and Linked Buoy Gear (LBG) Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP), and have the following comments. The Council will be considering the authorization of DSBG and LBG as fishing methods to selectively target Swordfish and other Highly Migratory Species (HMS). The EC met with industry, HMS Management Team, Nongovernmental organizations and public in developing the following suggested criteria that considers industries' desire to harpoon while their DSBG and LBG are set, factors in ability to mitigate interaction with by-catch and prohibited species while establishing an enforceable EFP.

1. Actively Tending definition: The fishing vessel must maintain a distance of no more than 3nm from any piece of gear and maintain properly configured gear in accordance with their EFP.
Note: The 3-mile rule is sufficient given industries' economic incentives to prevent lost gear, higher ex-vessel price of catching live swordfish and releasing by-catch to re-bait and get gear back in water as soon as possible.
2. Each piece of DSBG and ends of LBG must have a radar reflector and be marked with flags and buoys marked with their official number.

PFMC
03/11/17