

## AUTHORIZATION OF DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR AND FEDERAL PERMITTING

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). In June 2016, the Council again discussed potential management measures for a fishery but decided to wait to adopt a range of alternatives for a regulatory program until additional exempted fishing permit (EFP) results became available. At the November 2016 meeting, the Council directed its Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) to develop a preliminary range of alternatives for Council consideration. It asked the HMSMT to consider recommendations in [Agenda Item I.5.a, Supplemental HMSAS Report, November 2016](#), which discusses permit options for DSBG fishery. The HMSMT also consulted [Agenda Item D.5, Attachment 1, June 2016](#), which outlines potential considerations for developing management measures. At its April 2017 meeting, the HMSMT drafted the attached report describing a potential range of alternatives.

The Pflegler Institute of Environmental Research (PIER) has been conducting research and development on DSBG 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](#)) and 2017 ([Agenda Item J.2](#)). The Council has also been regularly accepting DSBG EFP applications for review and recommendation to NMFS on issuance. Although these EFPs are by and large still in the NMFS permitting process, the results are not yet forthcoming, and the Council recognizes that the process for implementing a fishery management program will take some time. Results from EFPs currently in the permitting stage could potentially inform Council decisions at a later stage in program development.

At this meeting, the Council will review the range of alternatives proposed by the HMSMT and provide guidance for further development of the alternatives. In doing so, the Council seeks input from the HMSAS and the public. The Council is scheduled to adopt a range of alternatives for public review in September 2017.

### **Council Action:**

**Develop a preliminary range of alternatives for authorizing a Federal west coast deep-set buoy gear fishery including Federal permitting.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item H.3.a, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Report.
2. Agenda Item H.3.a, HMSMT Report.
3. Agenda Item H.3.b, Public Comment.

### **Agenda Order:**

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| H.3 | Authorization of Deep-Set Buoy Gear and Federal Permitting      | Kit Dahl |
| a.  | Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities |          |
| b.  | Public Comment  |          |

Agenda Order (Continued):

- c. **Council Action:** Develop a Preliminary Range of Alternatives for Authorizing a Federal West Coast Swordfish Deep-Set Buoy Gear Fishery Including Federal Permitting

PFMC  
05/15/17