

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
AUTHORIZATION OF DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR AND FEDERAL PERMITTING

Deep-set Buoy Gear Retrieval Options

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) proposes that there be no time limit on gear retrieval for deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) exempted fishing permits (EFPs) at this time and any future authorized fishery. Considering that this fishery is currently under an EFP, the HMSAS feels that this could be one of the areas that we can collect data on this subject. EFP participants currently are already initiating gear retrieval before dark. However, fish can be hooked just before sunset and may take multiple hours to bring in, or there could be equipment failure, etc. There is no incentive to fish at night so there is no identified need to enforce a time limit on gear retrieval.

Permit Trade-in Option

It could be that some drift gillnet (DGN) permit holders may be interested in VOLUNTARILY trading their permits for multiple standard buoy gear/linked buoy gear (SBG/LBG) permits. The HMSAS is against any type of mandatory permit trade-in requirements.

PFMC
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