

## HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON PROPOSED DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

In evaluating the exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications received at the June 2017 meeting, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) discussed additional considerations that the Council may wish to address concurrently.

- The HMSMT suggests the Council recommend that National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) verify deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) experience of applicants prior to exempted fishing permit (EFP) issuance, to determine whether they qualify for Level 2 observer coverage.
- The HMSMT recognizes that the majority of applications it recommends preliminary approval of are only missing an estimate of the anticipated number of fishing days. To avoid delay, the Council could approve any such applications at this meeting, pending the applicants' submission of this missing information to NMFS prior to EFP issuance.
- After review of EFP applications, the HMSMT has found several areas of the application template which could benefit from revision/clarification. The HMSMT requests Council permission to make such clarifying changes to the template, without need for formal Council review and approval, which would assist applicants in correctly completing and submitting future applications.

The HMSMT bases its recommendations for observer coverage in these EFP applications on the three tiered criteria developed in the November 2016 Supplemental HMSMT Report 2 ([Agenda Item I.4.a](#)).

The HMSMT reiterates that all EFP applicants must also comply with other state and Federal regulations in addition to EFP terms and conditions. Notably, the vessel(s) engaged in EFP activity must be listed on a Federal HMS permit, for which only U.S. citizens may apply. Thus, while U.S. citizenship is not a requirement for EFP issuance, if a non-citizen applicant is also the owner of the vessel identified on the EFP application, the HMS permit citizenship requirement may delay or prevent these individuals from obtaining EFPs.

### **Summary of HMSMT Recommendations for New EFP Proposals**

*I.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 1;* Explanatory letter and DSBG EFP application from R. Cullen

#### **A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council approval
- Level 1 observer coverage

#### **B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20
- Applicant proposes to fish in Central California, primarily Saint Lucia Bank
- Applicant does not have DSBG experience. EFP will help inform learning curve and success for inexperienced fishers.

- **C) Suggestions and Comments:**
- The HMSMT requested the applicant provide in depth explanation for proposed use of braided line (aside from saving deck space) and how the benefits of use would outweigh any potential increase in interaction, as well as the proposed number of days fished for each geographic region.
- The applicant submitted a letter to the June advanced briefing book indicating that he would not use braided line and intended to fish DSBG 10 days per year.
- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**II.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 2;** Revised DSBG EFP application from A. Lorton & D. Haworth

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council approval
- Level 1 observer coverage

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20
- Application addresses important data gap of gear use in Central and Northern California and Oregon
- Proposes to test linked buoy gear (LBG) which has yet to be fished under an EFP
- Applicant does not have DSBG experience. EFP will help inform learning curve and success for inexperienced fishers for both DSBG configurations.

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- The HMSMT requested the applicant resubmit the application with all (areas) completed, clarification as to which configuration(s) of DSBG they proposed to fish, and to do so on the application, not in written email form.
- The HMSMT feels that the testing of GPS or radar technology to indicate a strike would be beneficial to informing DSBG authorization, but recommends the Council require active tending requirements to be observed.
- The HMSMT is recommending Level 1 observer coverage for LBG, but suggests the Council maintain 100% coverage until otherwise approved.
- The HMSMT found the resubmitted application to be complete, thorough and well done.
- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**III.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 3;** DSBG EFP application from B. Ball

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council approval
- Level 2 observer coverage upon NMFS verification of 10 DSBG days/sets

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20

- Applicant has experience on a Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research (PIER) DSBG EFP vessel
- Proposes to fish up to 9 months of the year – could collect data for times that the gear has yet to be tested.

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- The applicant does not provide an EFP duration; the HMSMT suggests the Council approve for the standard two-year period.
- The HMSMT recommends Level 1 observer coverage until verification of participation in 10 sets is submitted to NMFS, and Level 2 coverage thereafter. Applicant can then return to the Council to request lower coverage.
- This application could help to inform the differences in performance between inexperienced fishermen and those trained under PIER.
- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- Provide additional information (vessel, number of days/sets) on DSBG experience to NMFS.

**IV.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 4; DSBG EFP application from J. Ford**

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council approval
- Level 1 observer coverage

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20
- Proposes fishing entirety of California and Oregon coastline
- Applicant suggests use of “beeper buoys” which will assist with gear tending/retrieval
- Concurrent harpoon and drift gillnet (DGN) fishing
- Applicant does not have DSBG experience. EFP will help inform learning curve and success for inexperienced fishers.

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- This EFP could collect much needed data from waters north for the SCB for SBG.
- The HMSMT recommends the Council require active tending requirements to be observed despite use of beeper buoys.
- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- None

**V.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 5; DSBG EFP application from M. Graves**

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council approval
- Level 1 observer coverage

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20
- Applicant proposes use of drone and/or radio signal monitoring of gear
- Proposes majority of fishing effort in Central California
- Concurrent blackgill rockfish fishing
- Applicant does not have DSBG experience. EFP will help inform learning curve and success for inexperienced fishers.

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- The HMSMT recommends the Council require active tending requirements to be observed despite use of drones and/or other monitoring techniques.
- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- None

**VI.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 6; DSBG EFP application from R. Kennedy**

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council approval
- Level 1 observer coverage

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20
- Concurrent troll/jig fishing
- Applicant proposes possibly using additional flotation
- Applicant does not have DSBG experience. EFP will help inform learning curve and success for inexperienced fishers.

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- None

**VII.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 7;** DSBG EFP application from A. Lutoshkin

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council preliminary approval
- Level 2 observer coverage upon NMFS verification of 10 DSBG days/sets

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- Applicant does not specify the intended number of days of fishing effort.
- Unclear if the applicant has prior DSBG experience or incorrectly filled out application.
- The HMSMT recommends Level 1 observer coverage until verification of participation in 10 sets is submitted to NMFS, and Level 2 coverage thereafter. Applicant can then return to the Council to request lower coverage.
- The Data Gaps section of the application is lacking detail and does not indicate whether applicant understands all requirements.
- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- Provide estimated number of fishing days.
- Provide additional information (vessel, number of days/sets) on DSBG experience to NMFS.

**VIII.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 8;** DSBG EFP application from L. Maassen

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council approval
- Level 1 observer coverage

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20
- Applicant does not have DSBG experience. EFP will help inform learning curve and success for inexperienced fishers.

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- Applicant submitted email to HMSMT indicating estimated number of fishing days.
- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- None

*VIII.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 9; DSBG EFP application from S. Masuda*

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Recommend resubmission

**B) Merits:**

- Applicant indicates intent to fish off all of California and Oregon coastline.
- Applicant does not have DSBG experience. EFP will help inform learning curve and success for inexperienced fishers.

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- Application is incomplete; missing fishing experience, proposed number of fishing days, concurrent gear types (if any), and checked data gap boxes but provided no additional information.
- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- Complete all other sections of the application: fishing experience, estimated number of fishing days, concurrent gear types, data gaps.

*X.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 9; DSBG EFP application from M. McCarthy*

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council preliminary approval
- Level 1 observer coverage

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20
- Applicant indicates intent to fish all of California and Oregon coastline
- Applicant does not have DSBG experience. EFP will help inform learning curve and success for inexperienced fishers.

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- The applicant does not specify the estimated number of fishing days for each two-month period or specify intended concurrent gear types.
- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- Provide estimated number of fishing days and concurrent gear types (if any).

***XI.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 9;*** DSBG EFP application from M. McCorkle

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council preliminary approval
- Level 1 observer coverage

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20
- Applicant does not have DSBG experience. EFP will help inform learning curve and success for inexperienced fishers.

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- The applicant does not specify the estimated number of fishing days.
- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- Provide estimated number of fishing days.

***XII.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 9;*** DSBG EFP application from R. Rynkevic

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council preliminary approval
- Level 1 observer coverage

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20
- Applicant does not have DSBG experience. EFP will help inform learning curve and success for inexperienced fishers.

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- The applicant does not specify the estimated number of fishing days.
- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- Provide estimated number of fishing days.

***XIII.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 9;*** DSBG EFP application from D. Selck

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council approval
- Level 1 observer coverage

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20
- Applicant proposes fishing only in Central California
- Concurrent gear use of harpoon and troll

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- This applicant could collect a substantial amount of information regarding SBG configuration in the Central California area.
- Applicant has expressed willingness and ability to carry observers and/or any additional scientific staff if needed.
- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- None

*XIII.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 9; DSBG EFP application from A. Shvets*

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council approval
- Level 1 observer coverage

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20
- Applicant proposes to fish SBG on the same trips as crab traps and/or gillnets (but not concurrently), as well as harpoon and troll.
- Applicant does not have DSBG experience. EFP will help inform learning curve and success for inexperienced fishers.

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- None

*XV.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 9; DSBG EFP application from A. Sidielnikov*

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council approval
- Level 1 observer coverage

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20



- Applicant does not have DSBG experience. EFP will help inform learning curve and success for inexperienced fishers.

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- Applicant attended April MT meeting and worked with the MT to ensure his application was complete.
- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- None

*XVI.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 9; DSBG EFP application from T. Sokolova*

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council preliminary approval
- Level 1 observer coverage

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20
- Applicant does not have DSBG experience. EFP will help inform learning curve and success for inexperienced fishers.

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- Applicant does not indicate estimated days of fishing effort
- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- Provide estimated days of fishing effort.

*XVII.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 9; DSBG EFP application from P. Spinale*

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council approval
- Level 1 observer coverage

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20
- Applicant does not have DSBG experience. EFP will help inform learning curve and success for inexperienced fishers.

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- Applicant indicates a willingness to test modifications to the gear should the Council express interest or see need.

- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- None

**XVIII.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 9;** DSBG EFP application from B. & J. Stephens

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council approval
- Level 2 observer coverage upon NMFS verification of 10 DSBG days/sets

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20
- Applicants have experience on PIER EFP DSBG vessels.
- Use of drones would provide new information.

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- This application could provide information on viability (feasibility?) of smaller vessels operating DSBG.
- The HMSMT recommends Level 1 observer coverage until verification of participation in 10 sets is submitted to NMFS, and Level 2 coverage thereafter. Applicant can then return to the Council to request lower coverage.
- This application could help to inform the differences in performance between inexperienced fishermen and those trained under PIER.
- The HMSMT understands that the applicants' father had submitted an EFP application that the Council approved in September, 2016, and under which both applicants intended to fish.
- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- Provide additional information (vessel, number of days/sets) on DSBG experience to NMFS.

**XIX.) Agenda Item H.4 Attachment 9;** DSBG EFP application from V. Sviridov

**A) HMSMT Recommendation:**

- Council preliminary approval
- Level 2 observer coverage upon NMFS verification of 10 DSBG days/sets

**B) Merits:**

- Aligns with Council goals
- Complete in regard to COP 20

**C) Suggestions and Comments:**

- The HMSMT recommends Level 1 observer coverage until verification of participation in 10 sets is submitted to NMFS, and Level 2 coverage thereafter. Applicant can then return to the Council to request lower coverage.
- Applicant does not include estimated number of fishing days.
- This application could help to inform the differences in performance between inexperienced fishermen and those trained under PIER.
- The HMSMT has determined that the proposal does not include a significant scientific component that warrants SSC review.

**D) Requested Revisions:**

- Provide the estimated number of fishing days.
- Provide additional information (vessel, number of days/sets) on DSBG experience to NMFS.

**HMSMT Recommendation Summary**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Team Recommendation</b>	<b>Observer Coverage</b>	<b>Requested Revisions</b>
<i>Cullen</i>	Approval	Level 1	None
<i>Lorton Haworth</i>	Approval	Level 1	None
<i>Ball</i>	Approval	Level 2	Vessel, # sets/days of DSBG experience
<i>Ford</i>	Approval	Level 1	None
<i>Graves</i>	Approval	Level 1	None
<i>Kennedy</i>	Approval	Level 1	None
<i>Lutoshkin</i>	Preliminary approval	Level 2	Provide estimated number of fishing days, vessel, # sets/days of DSBG experience
<b>Maassen</b>	<b>Approval</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>None</b>
<i>Masuda</i>	Resubmission	-	Complete all sections of the application: fishing experience, estimated number of fishing days, concurrent gear types, data gaps
<i>McCarthy</i>	Preliminary approval	Level 1	Provide estimated number of fishing days and concurrent gear types (if any)
<i>McCorkle</i>	Preliminary approval	Level 1	Provide estimated number of fishing days
<i>Rynkevic</i>	Preliminary approval	Level 1	Provide estimated number of fishing days
<i>Selck</i>	Approval	Level 1	None
<i>Shvets</i>	Approval	Level 1	None
<i>Sidielnikov</i>	Approval	Level 1	None
<i>Sokolova</i>	Preliminary approval	Level 1	Provide estimated number of fishing days
<i>Spinale</i>	Approval	Level 1	None
<i>Stephens</i>	Approval	Level 2	Vessel, # sets/days of DSBG experience
<i>Sviridov</i>	Preliminary approval	Level 2	Provide estimated number of fishing days, vessel, # sets/days of DSBG experience

**Bold text** indicates additional information was received after the BB deadline

PFMC  
06/12/17