

AUTHORIZATION OF DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR AND FEDERAL PERMITTING

Since March 2016, the Council has been developing a range of alternatives to authorize a fishery using deep-set buoy gear (DSBG). At the June 2017 Council meeting, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) submitted for Council consideration a report describing a preliminary range of alternatives ([Agenda Item H.3.a, HMSMT Report](#)). The Council provided the following guidance for further development of the alternatives:

1. Limit further analysis of the area for authorizing the fishery to Federal waters off California and Oregon.
2. Include voluntary trade-in alternatives that would allow drift gillnet (DGN) permittees to surrender a permit in exchange for one or more DSBG permits.
3. Refine gear retrieval requirements so as to discourage the use of gear at night while providing reasonable accommodation for gear retrieval that extends after dusk.
4. Develop an alternative to restrict the fishery to depths greater than 150 fathoms.
5. Develop guidelines for engaging in other commercial fishing activities on the same trip where DSBG is deployed. Use of other gear would have to be compliant with active tending requirements for DSBG.
6. Develop a permitting alternative to include a DSBG endorsement on the current Federal HMS permit.
7. Develop an alternative that would restrict DSBG fishing in the Southern California Bight to weekdays only.

The Council also clarified that an open access permitting alternative for the DSBG fishery would be implemented by adding DSBG to the list of gear endorsements in Section 2 of the current Federal Pacific HMS permit application. There is no restriction on selecting one or more of these endorsements except that the applicant should “mark only gears that the vessel will use to harvest highly migratory species.”

The HMSMT met August 8-10, 2017, to address Council guidance and prepare the attached report containing an updated range of alternatives.

Council Action:

Review and Adopt the Preliminary Range of Alternatives for Authorizing a Federal West Coast Swordfish Deep-Set Buoy Gear Fishery Including Federal Permitting.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item J.6.a, HMSMT Report 1.
2. Agenda Item J.6.b, Public Comment 1.

Agenda Order:

- J.6 Authorization of Deep-Set Buoy Gear and Federal Permitting Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Review and Adopt the Preliminary Range of Alternatives for Authorizing a Federal West Coast Swordfish Deep-Set Buoy Gear Fishery Including Federal Permitting

PFMC
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