

▶ March 2018 PFMC Meeting

I.2 HMSMT REPORT

DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR AUTHORIZATION RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

- ▶ No Action Alternative
- ▶ Action Alternative 1: Authorize an Open Access Fishery
 - ▶ Definitions
 - A) Gear Description
 - B) Gear Marking
 - C) Active Gear Tending
 - D) Gear Deployment and Retrieval
 - E) Multiple Gears on a Single Trip
 - F) Permitting
 - G) Geographic Area
 - H) Fishery Timing
 - I) Species Retention
 - J) Fishery Monitoring

- ▶ Action Alternative 2: Authorize an Limited Entry Fishery South of Point Conception
 - ▶ Definitions From Open Access Fishery Also Apply
 - A) Permit Possession
 - B) Permit Renewal
 - C) Permit Transfer
 - D) Number of Permits to be Issued
 - E) Qualifications to Obtain a Permit

A) GEAR DESCRIPTION

- 1) Standard Buoy Gear (10 pieces maximum, 30 hooks maximum)
- 2) Linked Buoy Gear (10 pieces maximum, 30 hooks maximum)
- 3) Float and weight requirements
- 4) Minimum size 16/0 circle hooks required

B) GEAR MARKING

- 1) locator flag with light
- 2) radar reflector
- 3) vessel/fisher ID

C) GEAR TENDING

All pieces of gear must remain within a 5 nm diameter area and the vessel may be no more than 3 nm from the nearest piece of gear.

D) GEAR DEPLOYMENT AND RETRIEVAL

Gear may not be deployed prior to local sunrise and must be onboard the vessel no later than 3 hours after local sunset.

E) MULTIPLE GEARS

- 1) Gear types other than DSBG may be used on the same trip when DSBG is used, as long as the requirement to actively tend DSBG is met.
- 2) All landings must be tagged or marked to identify the gear used.

F) PERMITTING

A new gear endorsement for DSBG would be added to the existing Federal General HMS permit.

G) GEOGRAPHIC AREA

The fishery would be authorized in all Federal waters offshore California and Oregon.

H) FISHERY TIMING RESTRICTIONS

The fishery may operate throughout the year.

I) SPECIES RETENTION

All HMS FMP Management Unit Species may be retained and landed. All other species may not be retained or landed.

J) FISHERY MONITORING

- 1) Existing HMS FMP observer coverage requirement
- 2) Logbooks would be required per existing HMS FMP regulations

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A) PERMIT POSSESSION

- 1) LE permit holder must designate a vessel on the permit.
- 2) Individual entities may hold multiple permits, multiple permits may designate the same vessel, but only one permit (10 pieces of gear) may be fished from any one vessel at a time.
- 3) The permit holder would not be required to be onboard the vessel when DSBG is in use.

B) PERMIT RENEWAL

C) PERMIT TRANSFER NOT ALLOWED

D) ALTERNATIVES FOR NUMBER OF LIMITED ENTRY PERMITS TO ISSUE

- 1) Up to 10 permits
- 2) Up to 50 permits
- 3) Up to 150 permits
- 4) Up to 250 permits

D) ALTERNATIVES FOR QUALIFICATIONS TO OBTAIN A PERMIT

- 1) No qualifications
- 2) Only HMS permittees
- 3) Only persons with demonstrated swordfish fishery participation to be allocated based on criteria defined by the Council

ROA CLARIFICATIONS

Gear Definition:

Require that circle hooks be offset no more than 10 degrees?

Use of Multiple Gears:

Mark fish as DSBG, but not further distinguish between SBG and LBG.

Species Retention:

HMSMT proposes revising to "All species may be retained except species currently prohibited under state or federal law or regulation."

ROA CLARIFICATIONS

Maximum Number of Vessels to Analyze Under Open Access:

- 250 vessels
- Based on historic maximum

Qualification to Obtain a Permit :

- Alternative 1 (no qualifications) and 2 (general HMS permit)
- Not restrictive

Limited Entry Area:

Defined as south of a line extending due west of Point Conception, CA
Alternative area could be east of a line extending due south of Point Conception, CA, or a different boundary.

PROPOSED ANALYSES

- 1) Spatial
- 2) Economic
- 3) Biological

SPATIAL ANALYSES (POTENTIAL CROWDING)

- Use California landing receipts, gillnet logbooks, observer records
- Determine historic areas fished
- Total potential fishing area
- Apply DSBG footprint (5nm²)

SPATIAL ANALYSES (POTENTIAL CROWDING)

- Map CPFV logbook data
- Identify recreational fishing areas
- Identify areas with potential gear conflict

ECONOMIC AND BIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

- 1) Preliminary analysis of the economic and biological effects
- 2) Demand analysis