

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR FISHERY AUTHORIZATION-FINAL RANGE OF
ALTERNATIVES/PRELIMINARY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) offers the following suggestions to clarify the deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) authorization range of alternatives (ROA). The HMSMT requested Council clarification on the ROA in [Agenda Item I.2.a, HMSMT Report 1](#).

Species Retention

As described in [Report 1](#), the HMSMT sought clarification regarding species retention in the ROA. The HMSMT has been informed of the Council's intent in its September 2017 motion, and suggests the following to define species retention:

“All species may be retained except species currently prohibited under state or Federal law or regulation.”

Maximum Expected Number of Vessels to Analyze.

The maximum number of permits the HMSMT intends to analyze under an open access fishery is 300. This is slightly higher than the largest number of California drift gillnet (DGN) permits issued (n = 251) during a single year since the early 1980's and takes into consideration any swordfish participants who fished only in Oregon waters or with harpoon. This number is also slightly higher than the maximum number of permits that could be issued under the alternatives for a limited entry (LE) fishery south of Point Conception, and allows for analysis of a number of vessels that might fish solely outside of the LE area under that alternative.

Anticipated HMSMT Analyses for June 2018

The HMSMT has developed a preliminary analysis of the economic and biological effects for a small number of DSBG permits, assuming constant returns to scale, based on scaling up from average economic and biological impacts per vessel estimates in the Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research paper. The HMSMT anticipates using historic Pacific Coast Fisheries Information Network landings and swordfish imports data from the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Science and Technology to develop a demand analysis that can be used to predict the negative impacts on price and profitability of DSBG fishing that may occur with larger numbers of DSBG permits.

In order to examine the spatial extent of the historic swordfish fishery off Southern California, data from California landings receipts, DGN logbooks and observer records will be summarized and mapped so that likely areas of swordfish fishing can be determined. Once these areas are identified, the total area will be calculated and analyzed for spacing of DSBG footprints (5nm² area) within its parameters.

Logbook data from the commercial passenger fishing vessel (CPFV) fishery will also be summarized and mapped to identify areas of potential recreational fishing concentration, and thus areas where interactions between the DSBG fleet and recreational anglers may be an issue. While this data stream only captures effort from the CPFV fleet, there are no other data sources available that can be used to begin characterization of private recreational fishing concentration off Southern California.

Additional informative summaries, such as the density of active DGN and harpoon vessels in the historic DGN and harpoon fisheries will also be provided, so that the Council can use this as an indication of the potential for crowding in a future DSBG fishery.

PFMC
03/13/18