

Scott Breneman
222 Broadway
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
Scott@westcaughtfishco.com

February 5, 2018

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Attn: HMS EFP Application
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220
Pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Re: HMS EFP Application

Dear Pacific Fishery Management Council:

My name is Scott Breneman, and I am a fourth generation commercial fisherman. I started my commercial fishing business, West Caught Fish Company, Inc. in 2011. Since then, as well as prior to then, I have been a commercial fisherman. It is my sole income and means of supporting my family.

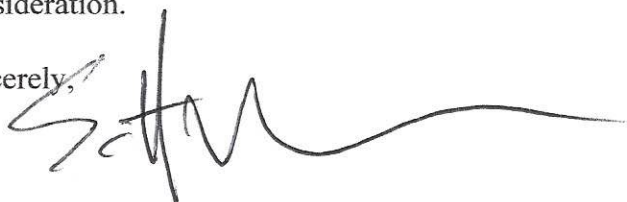
A minimum of twice a week, I fish the Southern California Banks with both my Federal Groundfish Permit, and Highly Migratory Species Permit. Furthermore, in the summer months, we will be fishing these permits in the Central California block based out of Morro Bay. We would concurrently fish our DSBG permit out of those same waters.

As a result of these permits, my boat is already equipped with a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and I participate in the NOAA Observer Program. Prior to starting my business, as well as concurrent to operating my business, I have acted as a Captain as well as crew member for various local swordfish boats.

As I am on the ocean multiple times a week, I often see swordfish. However, I am unable to attempt to catch the swordfish without the appropriate permit. I would actively fish this permit. I definitely believe I would be a great asset to your study with regard to the DSBG permit as I am very knowledgeable about not only fishing, but also swordfish fishing and the local Southern California waters. Furthermore, the vast area that we will be fishing (So. Cal and Central Cal) can help diversify your study.

I hope this letter provides ample support for issuing a DSBG permit to me. Thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Breneman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Breneman
West Caught Fish Company, Inc.

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permit Application Form

Please refer to the instructions for specifics on filling out your application.

1) Application Date: Feb 5, 2018

2) Applicant(s)*:

a) Name: Scott Breneman Phone No: (949) 394 - 1904

Email: scott@westcaught+fishco.com

Address: 222 Broadway, Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Commercial Fishing Permits Held: Fixed Gear Federal Groundfish Permit
Highly Migratory Species Permit

Commercial Fishing Experience:

	Years of experience	Gear type / Type of participation (captain, crew, vessel owner, etc.)
DSBG		
Other swordfish gear	15 yrs	Harpoon / Captain and Crew
Other gear type(s)	20 yrs	Fixed gear longline / lobster trap / Shrimp trap

b) Name: _____ Phone No: () _____ Hook and line / Troll → CAPTAIN and CREW

Email: _____

Address: _____

Commercial Fishing Permits Held: _____

Commercial Fishing Experience:

	Years of Experience	Gear type / Type of participation (captain, crew, vessel owner, etc.)
DSBG		
Other swordfish gear		
Other gear type(s)		

3) Number of vessels*: 1

a) Vessel Name: Wescott Registration Number: CF5257TA

Name of Operator: Scott Breneman

Commercial Fishing Permits Held: Federal Groundfish Permit, Highly Migratory Species Permit

b) Vessel Name: _____ Registration Number: _____

Name of Operator: _____

Commercial Fishing Permits Held: _____

*List information for additional EFP applicants/vessels/participants on a separate page.

4) Do any of the applicants/vessel operators have current/pending state or federal violations in any commercial fishery? Yes No (If yes, follow-up on the nature and status of any violations may be required as part of the application review process.)

5) Duration: The EFP will normally be issued for a two-year period from the date of issuance. If you have good reason for receiving an EFP for a longer period, specify the requested number of years and provide justification for the longer duration:

6) Intended DSBG Configuration (see Attachment A): Standard Linked

Describe proposed gear modifications (if any) that differ from the descriptions in Attachment A:

none

7) Do you intend to target any species other than swordfish? Yes No
 (This does not include other species that may be caught incidentally when targeting swordfish.)
 If you do plan to use the gear to catch other species, list the species and how the fishing method you plan to use would differ (depth, time of day, season, etc.):

8) Fishing Area and Effort:

Area	Number of vessels / Vessel names	Estimated fishing effort in number of days or sets
Southern California Bight (Pt. Conception to the U.S.-Mex. Border)	1/Wescott	50 days
Central California (Point Reyes to Point Conception)	1/Wescott	50 days
Northern California (42° N. latitude to Point Reyes)		
Oregon (Columbia River to 42° N. latitude)		

Please note that the Council is prioritizing applications to fish outside Southern California Bight.

Additional information you think would be helpful in reviewing the application concerning where you plan to fish and the amount of fishing:

The vessel will be fishing banks from Mexican ~~border~~^{border} up to Morro Bay. During the summer months, we are planning to fish our fixed gear out of Morro Bay. This increase in territory can help with your study in various areas.

9) **Data Gaps:** Will your EFP fishing specifically address any of the following data gaps? (See Attachment B for descriptions)

Active gear tending

Gear conflicts/number of vessels

Gear configuration → going to use standard gear

Concurrent gear use

Explain what methods you would use, or information you plan to gather, to address the data gaps you checked off above:

① Active Gear Tending - Planning on keeping gear within site and having flags equipped with radar reflectors in case of fog to eliminate lost gear

② Gear conflict - will fish both ^{permits} together and fish the Central Cal. block which has less boat traffic than So. Cal. bite

③ Concurrent gear use - going to fish both types of gear within site of each other to determine if there is any

- 10) Reporting Requirements and Observer Coverage:** interference with deep set gear
- You must maintain a logbook for reporting catch and other operational information (such as time and location of catch) in a format specified by National Marine Fisheries Service
 - Up to 100% observer coverage may be required on your EFP fishing trips
 - Data gathered as part of the EFP will be publicly available

I acknowledge the above conditions, and verify that I am willing and able to cover the cost of any level of observer coverage required under permit terms and conditions.

If you are unable to cover the entire cost of the observer coverage requirement, please explain what portion you may be able to cover and identify other sources of funding which may be available to help you cover observer costs.

11) **Applicant(s) Signature:**

