DEEP SET BUOY GEAR RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES ADOPTED AT THE MARCH 2018 COUNCIL MEETING

1) Define the DSBG fishery, for the purpose of analysis, as follows:

a. Permit Possession:

i. Permits will be issued to any "Person" as defined at 50 CFR §660.702.

ii. A person may hold multiple permits, but permits may not be stacked on a single vessel

iii. The permit holder will assign the permit to a specific vessel that may be changed by written request to NMFS not more than one time per calendar year unless a *force majeure* event renders the assigned vessel incapable of operation.

iv. The permit holder will not be required to be onboard

b. Permit Renewal: Permits will be valid for one fishing year and expire if not renewed. Such permits would revert to the issuing Agency and, if a limited entry program is in place, would be made available for issuance.

c. Permit transfer: Transfer of permits will be prohibited unless the Council determines transfer would benefit management.

d. Gear Description:

i. Standard Buoy Gear (SBG) - An actively tended vertical gear configuration that is designed to target west coast highly migratory species. An individual piece of SBG consists of a vertical monofilament mainline suspended from a non-compressible float (>45 lb. flotation) and strike indicator float system that uses a minimum 3.6kg weight to expedite sink rate and facilitate strike detection. A collective gear set includes ten individual pieces of gear that can fish up to three hooks each (30 total hooks maximum; minimum size 16/0 circle hooks with not more than 10° offset) that must be positioned below 90m deep when fishing. Each piece of gear must also include a locator flag, a radar reflector and vessel/fisher identification.

ii. Linked Buoy Gear (LBG): An actively tended gear type in which two or more pieces of standard buoy gear (SBG) may be linked together by means of a horizontal monofilament mainline; no more than three gangions/hooks are connected to this horizontal line per individual piece, not the vertical lines. Serviceable links between each LBG section are suspended at a minimum depth of 11m meters (36 feet) below a non-compressible float system (>45 lb. flotation) that allows for strike detection (based on SBG design standards). No more than 30 hooks (minimum size 16/0 circle hooks with not more than 10° offset) can be deployed simultaneously and all hooks must be fished below >90m. No more than 10 sections of LBG may be used at one time and the overall horizontal footprint of the gear must be less than 5nm. Terminal buoys must include a locator flag, a radar reflector, and vessel/fisher identification.

e. Gear Tending: Require that all gear be within a 5 nm diameter area and that the vessel be no more than 3 nm from the nearest piece of gear.
f. Gear Deployment/Retrieval:
   i. Gear may not be deployed prior to local sunrise
   ii. All gear must be onboard the vessel no later than 3 hours after local sunset
g. Multiple Gears: Multiple gears may be used on a trip. All landings must be tagged or marked to identify gear used.
h. Geographic Area: All Federal waters offshore California and Oregon.
i. Fishery Timing: No restrictions within the existing fishing season/statistical year.
j. Species: All species may be retained and landed unless prohibited by other law or regulation.
k. Fishery Monitoring:
   i. Logbooks will be required
   ii. All monitoring requirements in the HMS FMP will be followed

2) The Range of Alternatives for consideration under NEPA will include

a. Permitting:
   i. Open Access fishery in all Federal water offshore California and Oregon.
   ii. Open Access west of 120° 28' 18" W. longitude and limited access east of 120° 28' 18" W. longitude
b. Capacity:
   i. Not more than 10 permits
   ii. Not more than 50 permits
   iii. Not more than 150 permits
   iv. Not more than 250 permits
c. Qualifications to obtain permits: The Council will determine qualifying criteria with advice from advisory bodies and the public at the time a final preferred alternative is adopted.