

DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR AUTHORIZATION— FINAL RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES AND
PRELIMINARY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR NUMBER OF LIMITED ENTRY
PERMITS

Since March 2016, the Council has been developing a range of alternatives to authorize a fishery using deep-set buoy gear (DSBG). At its March 2018 meeting, the Council adopted a range of alternatives (Attachment 1) and laid out a schedule for reaching final action in March 2019. According to this schedule, at this meeting the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) will provide an update on completing the following tasks:

1. Using available data, including historic gillnet and Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel data, analyze the number of vessels that could operate within the Southern California Bight and the relative level of effort by fishing block.
2. Using data from existing DSBG exempted fishing permit effort and historic PacFIN landings and swordfish imports data from the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Science and Technology estimate the impacts on price and profitability of DSBG fishing that may occur with larger numbers of DSBG permits.

The attached HMSMT Report 1 provides this update.

The Council may provide further guidance on the analysis and the range of alternatives.

Council Action:

Confirm a Range of Alternatives and Adopt a Preliminary Preferred Alternative for the Number of Permits to be Issued Under a Deep-Set Buoy Gear Limited Entry Program, If Possible.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.5, Attachment 1: Deep-Set Buoy Gear Range of Alternatives Adopted at the March 2018 Meeting.
2. Agenda Item G.5.a, HMSMT Report 1.

Agenda Order:

- G.5 Deep-Set Buoy Gear Authorization—Final Range of Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternative for Number of Limited Entry Permits Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Confirm a Range of Alternatives Including the Number of Permits to be Issued Under a Deep-Set Buoy Gear Limited Entry Program, If Possible