HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON NEW NON-DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND RESUBMISSION OF PREVIOUS DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR APPLICATIONS

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) reviewed the exempted fishing permit application submitted by John Hall, owner of Coastal & Offshore Pacific Corp. The HMSAS supports the application. John Hall proposes to use a short, deep-set pelagic longline with hooks at a minimum 100m depth. Approval of this exempted fishing permit will provide useful information on the utility of short lines in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Of specific interest to members of the HMSAS is the rate of marketable catch, the rate of incidental catch, and the market value of shortline catch as compared with other swordfish gear used inside the EEZ, such as drift gillnet and deep-set buoy gear. It is possible to haul the gear in within 2 hours, potentially allowing for the production of high quality fish and the possibility of fishing multiple sets in a day.

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