

PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF NEW NON-DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND RESUBMISSION OF PREVIOUS DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR APPLICATIONS

In June 2016, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) announced it would accept for review applications for exempted fishing permits (EFPs) to test deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) at any Council meeting when highly migratory species (HMS) items are on the agenda. Through March 2018, the Council reviewed and made recommendations on 63 DSBG EFP applications including 13 new applications received at the March 2018 meeting. Because of the volume of applications already received the Council decided to pause on receiving any more DSBG EFP applications and revert to the schedule and requirements in Council Operating Procedure (COP) 20, Protocol for Consideration of Exempted Fishing Permits for Highly Migratory Species Fisheries. COP 20 lays out an annual, June-September review schedule for EFP applications.

In March, the Council asked two applicants to resubmit revised applications for review at this meeting. Of those two, Mr. David Hutto resubmitted his application (Attachment 1).

In addition to the resubmitted DSBG EFP application, Dr. John Hall has submitted an application to test short (≤ 5 nm) deep-set pelagic longline gear within the West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (Attachment 2). According to regulations (50 CFR 660.712(a)(9)) deep-set gear “must be deployed such that the deepest point of the main line between any two floats, *i.e.*, the deepest point in each sag of the mainline, is at a depth greater than 100 m (328.1 ft or 54.6 fm) below the sea surface.” Use of pelagic longline gear is currently prohibited in the West Coast EEZ by the HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

Council Action:

Approve New Non-DSBG EFPs for Public Review and Adopt Final Recommendations on Resubmitted DSBG Applications.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 1: Revised Deep-Set EFP From Mr. David Hutto.
2. Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 2: EFP Application from Dr. John Hall to Test Deep-Set Pelagic Longline Gear in the West Coast EEZ.
3. Agenda Item G.6.b, Public Comment 1.

Agenda Order:

- G.6 Preliminary Review of New Non-Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permit Applications and Resubmission of Previous Deep-Set Buoy Gear Applications Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Preliminarily Approve New Non-DSBG EFPs for Public Review and Adopt Final Recommendations on Resubmitted DSBG Applications

PFMC
05/15/18