

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANAL REPORT ON  
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON NON-DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR EXEMPTED FISHING  
PERMITS (EFPS)

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) supports the approval of the modified exempted fishing permit (EFP) application, noting that it now includes the use of active tending and strike indicators on each buoy, the use of only monofilament in the branch lines facilitating release of species (such as sharks and marlin) without removing the animal from the water by using the long handled clipping tool to cut the monofilament line close to the hook, and the ability to land individual fish without pulling the entire mainline.

In addition, the EFP, if approved, will require the applicant to fish more than 35 nautical miles west of all the Channel Islands and the mainland coast north of Pt. Conception, and to avoid the Pacific leatherback critical habitat and all marine protected areas. The applicant will also be required to use all other approved mitigation methods to avoid sea birds (i.e., side-setting, Tori (bird) line, no 'lazy' lines), large, 'weak' circle hooks (meeting Federal standards) for sea turtles and marine mammals. Finally, it was noted that the applicant proposes to use the only U.S. Pacific longline vessel that is rated Category III (i.e., no interactions in the last 5 years) in the National Marine Fisheries Service List of Fisheries.

PFMC  
09/08/18