

Highly Migratory Species Management Team Report on Final Recommendations on Non-Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permits

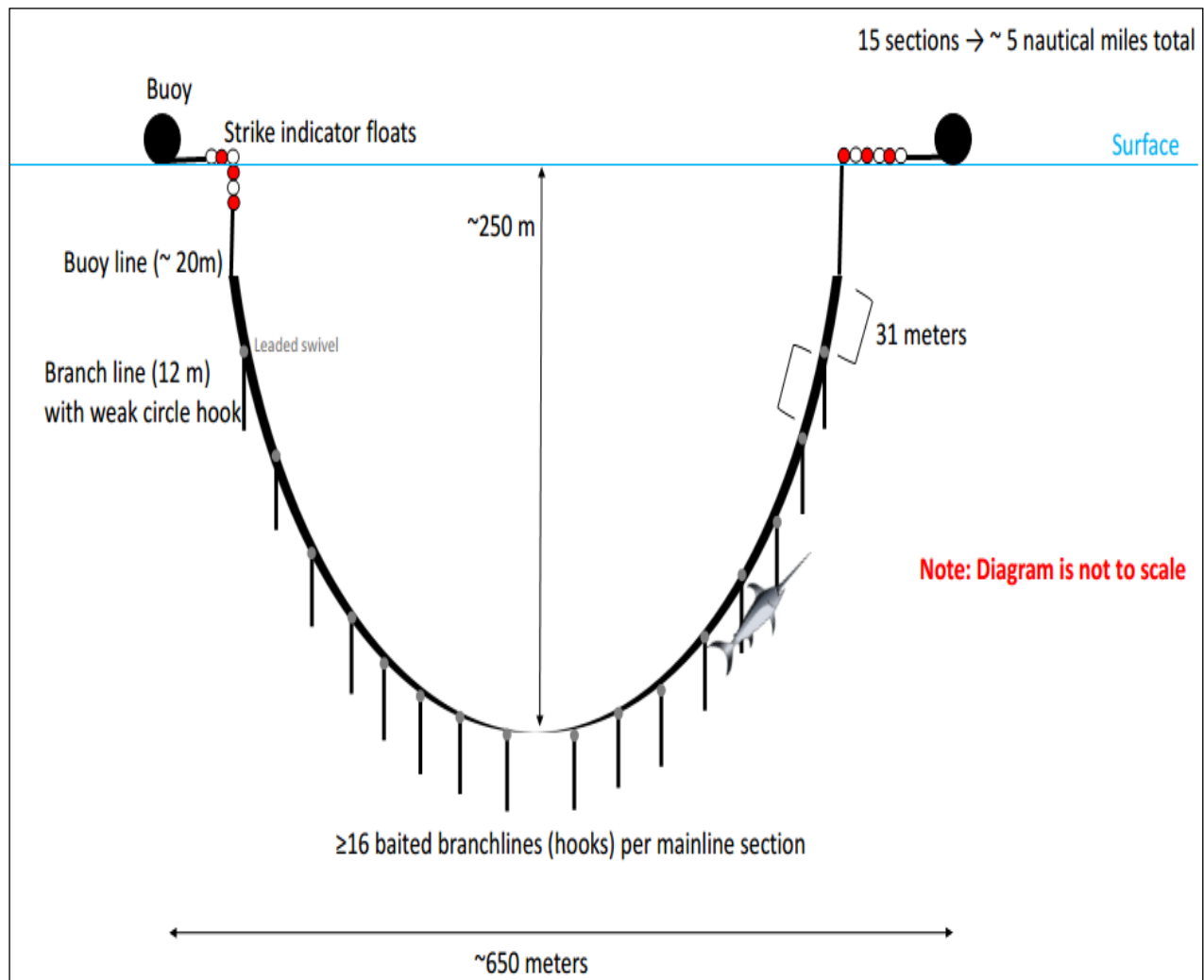
The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) reviewed Dr. John Hall's initial exempted fishing permit (EFP) application at the June 2018 Council meeting. At that time, the HMSMT concluded "there is considerable merit in this EFP application. The proposed EFP has the potential to provide the Council with valuable information to inform future EFPs as well as potential future consideration of longline authorization" ([G.6.a Supplemental HMSMT Report](#)). The HMSMT's report also summarized further discussions with Dr. Hall, which clarified some initial questions. Following discussion, the HMSMT proposes referring to this gear configuration as "pelagic deep-set shortline", since the mainline is between an eighth and a twelfth of the length of the mainline used for pelagic deep-set longline gear, and making that distinction is important for the proper consideration of this EFP (see figure 1).

For the September 2018 meeting, Dr. Hall re-submitted his application with some modifications. The revised application includes the use of strike detection buoys along the length of the main line, coupled with "active tending", similar to that of deep-set linked buoy gear. Along with strike buoys and active tending, Dr. Hall also indicated that he would be employing all known bycatch avoidance techniques for marine mammals, seabirds, sea turtles, and sharks. In addition, Dr. Hall has specified that he will not fish within 35 miles of the Channel Islands or the mainland north of the Southern California Bight.

Additionally, Dr. Hall indicated that the average amount of time required to set the line was one hour and that the line could be retrieved in two hours, with an average of 15 minutes to haul an individual section of line (15 sections total). Once the section was hauled, hooks would not be reset. He does not anticipate a set without indication of a strike being left to soak for more than three to four hours.

These considerations, coupled with Dr. Hall's extensive fishing experience, address any additional concerns the management team had regarding Dr. Hall's EFP. Therefore, the HMSMT recommends that the Council approve Dr. Hall's EFP with 100% observer coverage for all sets.

Figure 1. Configuration of proposed pelagic deep-set shortline gear.



Credit: CDFW - Morgan Ivens-Duran

PFMC
09/08/18