

J.4 HMSMT Report

Deep Set Buoy Gear – Range of Alternatives and Limited Entry Criteria

Summary

- 1) Revisions to the Proposed Action and Purpose and Need**
- 2) Revisions to the Gear Definitions**
- 3) Limited Entry Permit Alternatives**
- 4) Limited Entry Qualifying Criteria**
- 5) Updated ROA Analyses**
- 6) Other Considerations**
- 7) Recommendations**

Proposed Action & Purpose and Need

- Clarify that the purpose of the action is specific to DSBG gear
- DSBG gear is part of a broader regional swordfish fishery
- New information on economic and bycatch performance warrants revision of purpose and need

Gear Definition

- Configuration of surface components of gear revised to reduce likelihood of protected species entanglement
- Based on revision of Terms and Conditions for the current DSBG EFPs
- Includes input from the EC

Limited Entry Permit Alternatives

Refine the LE permit alternative range adopted at the June 2018 meeting to specify:

“Not more than 25 permits per year, not to exceed 300 total”

Would allow for a more gradual rate of issuance, allowing for consideration of uncertain spatial, biological and economic effects.

Limited Entry Qualifying Criteria Considered

Alternative 1: Tiered Criteria

- Option 1: Includes DGN permit trade-in tiers
- Option 2: No DGN permit trade-in tiers

Alternative 2: Permit Possession

- Option 1: Possession of a current swordfish (harpoon) or DGN permit
- Option 2: Possession of a current swordfish, DGN permit or EFP

Alternative 3: Stand-alone DGN Permit Trade-In

- Option 1: 3 to 1
- Option 2: 2 to 1

Alt 1: Tiered Criteria – Option 1

Option 1: Tiered Criteria		Multiple Permits Issued Per Individual	One Permit Issued Per Individual
Ranking Category	Potential Permits	Cumulative Total	Cumulative Total
1. "Active" EFP Recipients*	up to 68	68	68
2. "Active" DGN Permit - Trade-in	up to 34	102	93
3. "Active" Swordfish (harpoon) Permit	15 + 10 DGN	127	101
4. "Active" DGN Permit - No Trade-In	34 - trade in	127	101
5. "Inactive" DGN Permit - Trade-in	up to 30	157	126
6. "Inactive" DGN Permit - No Trade-In	30 - trade in	157	126
7. "Inactive" EFP Recipients*	68 - active	157	126
8. "Active" Expired DGN & Swordfish Permits	1 DGN + 7 HPN	165	130
9. "Inactive" Expired DGN & Swordfish Permits	9 DGN + 66 HPN	240	198
10. Other West Coast Swordfish Landings	35	275	233
11. First-come, first-serve	300 minus Cumulative Total	300	300

Alt 1: Tiered Criteria – Option 2

Option 2: Tiered Criteria

		Multiple Permits Issued Per Individual	One Permit Issued Per Individual
Ranking Category	Potential Permits	Cumulative Total	Cumulative Total
1. "Active" EFP Recipients*	up to 68	68	68
2. "Active" DGN Permit	34	102	93
3. "Active" Swordfish (harpoon) Permit	15 + 10 DGN	127	101
4. "Inactive" DGN Permit	30	157	126
5. "Inactive" EFP Recipients*	68 - active	157	126
6. "Active" Expired DGN & Swordfish Permits	1 DGN + 7 HPN	165	130
7. "Inactive" Expired DGN & Swordfish Permits	9 DGN + 66 HPN	240	198
8. Other West Coast Swordfish Landings	35	275	233
9. First-come, first-serve	300 minus Cumulative Total	300	300

Alt 2: Permit Possession

Option 1: Permit Possession

Category	Potential Permits	Multiple Permits Issued Per Individual	One Permit Issued Per Individual
		Total	Total
DGN or Swordfish Permit (as of 10/23/2018)	64 DGN + 53 harpoon	117	117

Option 2: Permit Possession

DGN, Swordfish or DSBG (as of 10/23/2018)	64 DGN + 53 harpoon + 68 EFP	185	154
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Alt 3: Stand-Alone DGN Permit Trade-In

Option 1: 3 for 1

Issuance of three DSBG permits for the surrender of an active DGN permit and one DSBG permit for the surrender of an inactive DGN.

- Would allocate up to 132 DSBG permits (102 active + 30 inactive)

Option 2: 2 for 1

Issuance of two DSBG permits for the surrender of an active DGN permit and one DSBG permit for the surrender of an inactive DGN.

- Would allocate up to 94 DSBG permits (64 active + 30 inactive)

Updated Analyses

1) Spatial

Working with SWFSC scientist Stephanie Brody to use EcoCast to hindcast spatial availability of swordfish in the SCB using historic DGN observer data.

2) Biological

Updated expanded potential annual catch for LE permit alternatives using the same data as analyses done for June 2018 meeting

3) Economic

Updated data are not yet available. The HMSMT plans to provide an updated version of the economic analysis should subsequent data become available.

Permit Structure

- Only 11 LBG permits have recently been issued and no data are available for the HMSMT to use for ROA analysis.
- Should the Council choose a LE permit alternative, the Council could consider the following approaches:
 - 1) Postpone final action until sufficient baseline LBG data can be collected
 - 2) Specify a portion of LE permits to be issued as LBG at a later date, with the remainder as SBG (e.g. max 300 LE permits, 50 would be issued as LBG)
 - 3) Separate authorization of the two gear configurations into separate actions

EPO/WCPO Stock Status

- Tagging data submitted is temporally limited to a period of higher than average temperatures and may not accurately represent average stock structure
- The HMSMT does not feel that it is the appropriate entity to provide such an analysis or determination, nor is there sufficient data for the HMSMT to do so
- West Coast fishery harvests a minimal amount of swordfish, unlikely to critically affect the stock
- Wait for more information to further inform stock structure considerations

Logbook

- NMFS has been developing a DSBG logbook
- The HMSMT was able to review and provide feedback
- Additional minor changes will be incorporated in subsequent versions

Recommendations

1. Adopt the revised Proposed Action.
2. Adopt the revised Purpose and Need.
3. Adopt the revised gear configuration definition.
4. Allow for an individual to receive multiple DSBG permits if they qualify under more than one LE permit qualification criterion.
5. Specify that the order of LE permit issuance within a criteria tier be ranked based on total swordfish landings for that tier's gear type, giving higher priority to those with higher landings during the 2013/14 to 2017/18 period for DGN and harpoon, and up until a Council specified date for DSBG EFPs.
6. Refine the LE alternatives adopted in June 2018, to specify an alternative for issuing not more than 25 permits per year, not to exceed 300 total.
7. Select, as the Range of Alternatives for LE qualifying criteria, Alternative 1, option 1 (includes DGN permit trade-in qualifying tiers); Alternative 2, option 2; and Alternative 3, option 2.