

Hello,

My name is J.J. Gerritsen, I own and operate a 73-foot, commercial pole and line albacore boat. Annually I participate in the seasonal albacore fishery which in recent years, has taken place off the coast of Northern California, Oregon, and Washington. I am a member of the American Albacore Fishing Association (AAFA), and the albacore fishery is my sole income for supporting my family.

I live and keep my boat (Piky) in San Diego. Every spring I leave San Diego and head up the California and Oregon coast in search of the most fertile areas to catch albacore. I fish mostly offshore outside the 200-fathom curve generally from 20 to 100 miles off the beach. A trip can range from 1 to 4 weeks in duration. I often see swordfish while fishing albacore in these regions. I'm interested in finding out on a scientific level if there is truly a viable fishery in these waters. I believe DSBG is a fishery that can be fished concurrently with the albacore fishery. My season usually goes into late summer or early fall; then I begin to slide back down the coast in hopes of a late catch off Central California. When making this slide in recent years, I have seen good swordfish sign from Oregon to Point Conception. I want to test the DSBG to determine based on the amount of swordfish I see off the coast of California and Oregon if there is a viable DSBG fishery in this region. I believe I can help fill data gaps in areas where extensive research has not yet been conducted. My goal is to use the EFP to help collect data on this underutilized resource.

Thank you for considering my application,



J. J. Gerritsen

Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permit Application

1) Application Date: 3/7/2019

2) Applicant(s)*: a) Name: J.J. Gerritsen

Phone No: (619)816-8414

Email: Freshcaughttuna@gmail.com

Address: 993 Surrey Drive, Bonita, CA, 91902

Commercial Fishing Permits Held: HMS, High Seas Permit

Any history of current/pending state or federal violations in any commercial fishery? No

3) Number of vessels*: One

a) Vessel Name: Piky

Registration Number: 570036

Name of Operator: J.J. Gerritsen and Gregory Minobe

Commercial Fishing Permits Held: HMS, High Seas Permit

Any history of current/pending state or federal violations in any commercial fishery? No

4) Commercial Fishing Experience of EFP Participants*:

a. 1) DSBG - Years: 0

Type of participation: N/A

a. 2) Other Swordfish gear – Type(s): N/A

Years: 0

Type of Participation: N/A

a. 3) Other gear(s) – Type(s): Pole and line, troll, CPFV

Years: 30

Type of Participation: Owner/Operator

5) Proposed EFP duration: Two years

Justification: I expect a learning curve. I am confident that with two years of effort, I will become efficient in this fishery, and able to provide valuable data where gaps presently exist.

6) Intended DSBG Configuration: ☒ Standard (Attachment A) ☐ Modified (please explain)

I intend to utilize the option to use both DSBG and LBG depending on conditions. I am not proposing any modifications to the current standard and linked buoy gear requirements or configurations

7) Target Species: ☒ Swordfish only ☒ Other (please list)

I plan to only target swordfish but will also maintain proactive stewardship in responsible fishing practice. Including, retaining all marketable species and carefully releasing all protected and unmarketable species of bycatch.

8) Fishing Area and Effort (indicate all that apply):

a) Southern California Bight (Point Conception to the U.S.-Mexico Border):

i) Vessels:

ii) Estimate of fishing effort:

iii) Additional details:

☒ b) Central California (Point Reyes to Point Conception):

i) Vessels: Piky

ii) Estimate of fishing effort: 90 days total between Oregon, Northern CA, and Central CA zones.

iii) Additional details: The days of fishing in this area will be dependent on the success of fishing in this zone. To optimize fishing success, I may need the flexibility to move to the Northern CA or Oregon zone if it appears to be a better producer of the target species.

☒ c) Northern California (42° N. latitude to Point Reyes):

i) Vessels: Piky

ii) Estimate of fishing effort: 90 days total between Oregon, Northern CA, and Central CA zones.

iii) Additional details: The days of fishing in this area will be dependent on the success of fishing in this zone. To optimize fishing success, I may need the flexibility to move to the Oregon or Central CA zone if it appears to be a better producer of the target species.

d) ☒ Oregon (Columbia River to 42° N. latitude):

i) Vessels: Piky

ii) Estimate of fishing effort: 90 days total between Oregon, Northern CA, and Central CA zones.

(iii) Additional details: The days of fishing in this area will be dependent on the success of fishing in this zone. To optimize fishing success, I may need the flexibility to move to the Northern or Central CA zone if it appears to be a better producer of the target species.

9) Data Gaps: Which of the following data gaps are addressed by your Exempted Fishing Permit application, and how will they be addressed? (See Attachment B) Check all that apply:

a) ☒ Bycatch & protected species interactions

How?

All bycatch if marketable will be kept and processed. All nonmarketable and protected species will be promptly and carefully released. Both marketable and nonmarketable bycatch will be logged and recorded for NMFS, CA DFW, and OR DFW. If an ESA-listed species is entangled or hooked, I will report the species and its release condition to the NMFS point of contact via email or phone within 24 hours after every EFP trip. In addition, the vessel operators will take the required safe handling and release workshop held by the NMFS WCR Protected Resources before fishing the EFP.

b) ☒ Active gear tending

How?

I anticipate simple active gear tending keeping all pieces of gear insight at all times for timely strike response to minimize bycatch mortality and prevent gear loss.

c) ☒ Gear conflicts/number of vessels

How?

I believe fisherman generally respect each other's areas. I would consider one mile to be adequate separation from another fisherman's gear. I plan to fish above point conception and as far north as the Oregon Washington border. At this point, I do not anticipate gear conflict in these areas.

d) ☒ DSBG time and area use

How?

I expect to fish this gear in central and northern CA as well as Oregon water from August through December.

e) ☒ Gear configuration

How?

I plan to fish both DSBG and LBG. The method used will be determined based on which gear type is performing better under specific conditions.

f) ☒ Concurrent gear use

How?

I am hoping that the pole and line/troll albacore fishery will be a viable concurrent fishing activity with the EFP.

10)Reporting Requirements: Please answer questions identified in application instructions.

Records of catch and bycatch (retained) will be maintained in landing receipts that will be shared with NMFS and CA DFW or OR DFW. Discarded bycatch will be noted and shared with NMFS

and CA DFW or OR DFW. If more than one gear type is used on a trip, swordfish and other marketable species harvested with DSBG or LBG will be marked (tag/fin clip/other) in a way that allows identification and tracking. Catch that is not landed commercially will be separately identified and shared with the proper governmental agencies.

11)Observer Coverage:

☒ I acknowledge that observer coverage may be required on up to 100% of my EFP fishing trips, and verify that I am willing and able to cover the cost of such coverage.

If you are unable to cover the entire cost of the observer coverage requirement, please explain what portion you may be able to cover and identify other sources of funding which may be available to help you cover observer costs.

12)Applicant(s) Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.