

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE  
COMMERCIAL AND SPORT HOOK AND LINE SWORDFISH FISHERY

The HMSAS would like to bring the Council's attention to an issue raised in many of the deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) exempted fishery permit reports (Informational Report 12, June 2020) and public comment by Mr. Dave Stephens under Agenda Item B.1. There has been a significant increase in fishing effort by recreational vessels using "deep drop" hook-and-line gear to target swordfish, which is very similar to DSBG. California Department of Fish & Wildlife has been taking steps to address this issue as evidenced by [a recent presentation](#) by Mr. John Ugoretz to the California Fish and Game Commission. However, we believe there may be a Council role in addressing an emerging commercial-recreational fishery conflict, which affects federally managed swordfish fisheries, including the DSBG fishery the Council recently took final action on.

The HMSAS discussed a number of ideas that may address this emerging conflict and requests the Council schedule this issue on a future agenda to scope potential Federal management actions that could alleviate this developing conflict. A starting point would be to improve federally sponsored data collection for the recreational fishery, which could be a basis for developing catch accountability measures.

PFMC  
06/11/20