

## HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR PERMIT CLARIFICATIONS

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) reviewed the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reports (i.e., H.4.a, Supplemental Reports [1](#) and [2](#)), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife report (CDFW [H.4.a, Supplemental Report 1](#)) which addresses issues raised in these reports as well as the November 2020 NMFS report ([Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1](#)).

The CDFW report's definition of "exempted fishing permit (EFP) holder" with respect to Tiers 1 and 3 appears to be consistent with Option B in [Supplemental NMFS Report 2](#). Under this option, the HMSMT interprets "EFP holder" to include:

1. Vessel operators listed on an EFP who conducted deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) fishing effort and individually completed the effort requirements;
2. EFP managers and/or EFP vessel owners who oversaw an EFP that collectively met the effort requirements, regardless of whether they were onboard (an) EFP vessel(s) while the qualifying DSBG effort occurred.

In a joint discussion, the HMSMT heard concerns raised by some Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel members about the permit surrender provisions related to large-mesh drift gillnet trade-in programs in the permit tiers. It would be beneficial for the Council to clarify the process for permit surrender, including when an individual is determined to have "surrendered" their permit.