

## HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) reviewed the ten exempted fishing permit (EFP) proposals and has the following comments:

1. We support the seven new deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) permits but want to reiterate our understanding that these permits will, if fished, be a lower priority for final permits than the drift gillnet (DGN) fishermen.
2. The three remaining EFP proposals are different from the other seven as they represent innovative ideas/gear types which differ from the DSBG EFPs.
  - a. We believe the Perez permit EFP has merit to try fishing in areas less than three miles from shore.
  - b. The Brown the midwater snap gear EFP proposal shows promise to try a new fishing technique for pelagic species and is different from the Hall EFP, which has not been fished yet.
  - c. Mr. Bateman discussed his EFP with the HMSAS and expressed his intention to make some modifications to the EFP as submitted. Based on our conversation, we believe the Bateman EFP provides another option for harvesting pelagic species that is different than the Hall or Brown EFPs.

We recommend approval of the seven DSBG EFPs submitted for this meeting and moving the three remaining proposals forward for final consideration during the September meeting.

We have an underutilized resource near our shore that was harvested by DGN, but now has limited landings due to mitigation for protected species and other species of concern, state legislation, and the state buyout of DGN permits. DSBG has some promise for small boats with low overhead to fish for a higher quality product, but with limited landings that will not replace reliance on imports. We encourage the Council to support testing of innovative gear types, other than DSBG, through EFPs to harvest underutilized swordfish stocks and other marketable pelagic species.