APPLICATION TO THE PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL FOR AN HMS FMP EXEMPTED FISHERY PERMIT AS MODIFIED PER COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

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Statement of goals:

Transition of harvesting swordfish stock off of California and Oregon Coasts from Drift Gillnets to Shallow- Set Longlines (SSLL);and Deep-set Longlines (DSLL) for all Federal Drift Gillnet (DGN) permit holders. To fish between 12 miles and 200 miles off the West Coast south of the 46 degree 16 minutes N latitude line. All marketable catch from EFP fishing will be sold as prescribed through current regulations with fish ticket documentation.

Justification is warranted due to closure of the DGN fishery.

My goal for the EFP is to transition all Federal DGN Vessels to 10 mile Longlines with up to 500 hooks per set per vessel to harvest swordfish and tuna.

Duration of the EFP shall be three years with a possible permit justification per Pacific Fisheries Management Council recommendations. Three years is best, due to cost of transitioning to new fishing gear.

Number of vessels covered under the EFP would start with the 19 vessels that have swordfish DGN landings within the last five years.

Target species shall be swordfish, tuna, opah and make shark. Incidental fish would be retained if marketable. Species that are not marketable or are protected would be released alive. Estimated harvest per trip for swordfish are from 4,000 to 8,000 lb. Tuna harvest would be difficult to determine due to IATTC recommended harvest limits.

Observer coverage should be 25% of all sets, same as the current DGN coverage.

Data collection will include observer reports, logbooks, and fish receiving tickets by State and NMFS.

First priority will go to current DGN vessels with landings in the last five years from the Federal DGN Fishery. Second priority will go to all other Federal DGN permit holders.

SSLL season for swordfish should be from September 1st through January 31st. DSLL season for tuna should be from May 1st through January 31st. All fishing should be south of the 46 degrees 16 minutes North line from 12 miles to 200 miles from the Mainland shore. All SSLL and DSLL sets shall have a maximum length of 10 miles and have a 500 hook maximum per set. The length of line and hooks is as stated above will best fit current DGN vessel capacity.

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