

**APPLICATION TO THE PACIFIC 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 California and Oregon Coasts from Drift Gillnets to Pelagic Hook Gear for Federal Drift Gillnet (DGN) permit holders.

To fish between twelve miles through 200 miles off the West Coast, south of the 46 degrees 16 minutes North 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 Federal DGN Vessels to ten mile area Hook Gear with up to 300 hooks per set above Point Conception. Below Point Conception reduce the area of gear to five miles with up to 150 hooks per set per vessel, to harvest Swordfish and Tuna.

Duration of the EFP should be three years with a possible permit justification per Pacific Fisheries Management Council recommendations.

Number of vessels covered under the EFP would start with four vessels that have DGN landings within the last five years. Four vessels would give twice the data for determining the possibility of a permit. If only two vessels are authorized, more time would be needed for statistical inference.

The four vessels would include:

1. John Bateman, FV Margaret O. Length 50.5 feet Document # 545886
40 years Commercial Fishing including Drift Gillnet Swordfish, Albacore Troll, and Squid Perse Seine.
2. John Hett, FV Temptation Length 52 feet Document # 620078
37 years Commercial Fishing including Drift Gillnet Swordfish, Albacore Troll, Squid Perse Seine, and Longline Swordfish.
3. Arthur Lorton, FV Sea Haven Length 65 feet Document # 635102
40 years Commercial Fishing including Drift Gillnet Swordfish, Albacore Troll and Bait, Salmon and Rockfish.
4. Steve Mintz FV DJ Length 55 feet Document # 550062
40 years Commercial Fishing including Drift Gillnet Swordfish, Harpoon, Salmon, Albacore Troll and Bait, Longline Tuna, Deep Set Bouy Gear and Link Gear

Ability to add Captains to EFP vessels would optimize flexibility and improve safety.

Target species shall be Swordfish, Tuna, Opah, and Mako Sharks. Incidental catch 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 4000 to 8000 pounds. Tuna harvest would be difficult to determine due to IATTC recommended harvest limits.

Observer coverage should be 100% or Electronic monitoring of all sets. Applying for Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant to cover Electronic monitoring. Data collection will include observer reports, logbooks, and fish Receiving Tickets by State and NMFS.

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

Pelagic Hook Gear season for swordfish should be from September 1st through January 31st. this gear would be set shallow at night for swordfish.

Pelagic Hook Gear for Tuna would be set at night with hooks below 30 fathoms and the season would start May 1st through January 31st.

All fishing will be south of the 46 degrees 16 minutes north from twelve miles to 200 miles from the mainland shore. December 15th through January 31st, sets will be beyond 25 miles from the mainland shore.

All Pelagic Hook Gear for Swordfish and Tuna above Point Conception shall have a maximum area of ten nautical miles and have 300 hooks, maximum, per set.

All fishing below Point Conception and East of the 120 degree West Longitude shall have a maximum area of five nautical miles and use up to 150 hooks per set.

Recommendations:

Gear Markings - Vessel Document Number on start and end bouys with Radar reflectors, flags, and white lights.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will be on at all times during fishing and in port.

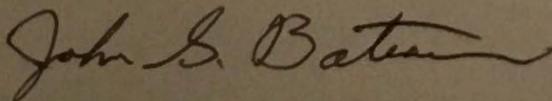
Automated Identification System (AIS) will be used during fishing operations to monitor traffic and avoid interactions with other vessels.

All bouys will have 500 pound breakaways in case a ship hits a bouy. The main line will always be below shipping draft.

All vessels will carry line clippers, dip nets, and belt cutters to disengage any hooked or entangled animals.

All vessels shall use a line setting machine or line shooter to set the main line. This will stop birds from eating the bait. When birds are following the boat, using a line setting machine or line shooter to set the main line will cause the line to sink as soon as it hits the water.

The length of gear and hooks as stated above will best fit current DGN Vessel capacity.



John S Bateman
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