

FV Patricia J, USCG # 585405, Kent Jacobs and Toni Gomez

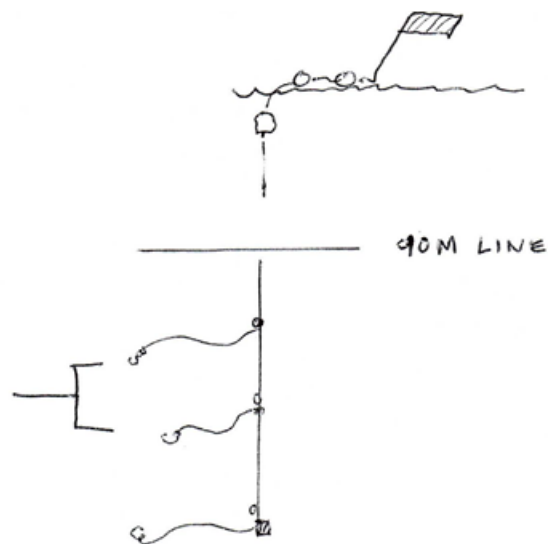
The purpose of this letter is to request consideration for the authorization to fish additional buoys of DSBG above the 10 currently allowed. **I propose to fish up to 15 buoys of standard DSBG a day.** This is up to 5 additional buoys with 1 hook each beyond the current standard DSBG EFP that allows for 10 buoys.

The additional buoys would allow us to keep fishing 10 buoys the way we have been, 1 hook per buoy fished between 800 – 1000 feet depth to promote economic viability. The additional ‘extra’ buoys will be experimentally fished at different depths in the already established depth range below 90 meters minimum (approximately 300 – 800 feet deep, upper ‘non-fished zone’ in my sketch), within 5 nm. footprint, no more than 3 nm. from the vessel, regularly monitored and actively tended, daytime only sun up to sun down, 20 hooks max.

We believe this can add a greater diversity of species landed to this fishery. Successfully adding opah, louvar, and other HMS to the catch would greatly help cover fishing costs. The ability to fish additional standard buoys has been highlighted in many of the DSBG EFP fishing activity annual reports as a potential to increase the economic viability of the emerging DSBG fishery.

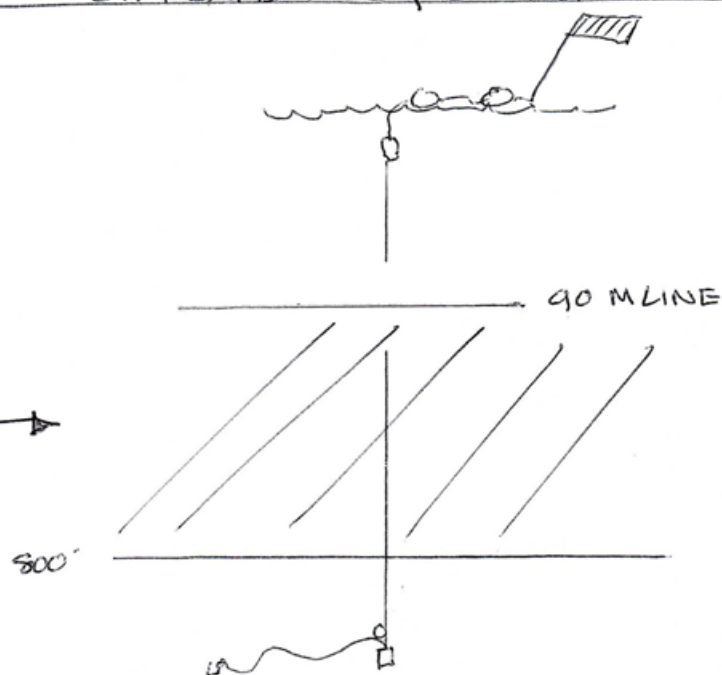
We have been fishing DSBG for four years and to this date have not had success setting 3 hooks on one DSBG set without tangling (see diagram). I believe and have confirmed with on-board NMFS observers that this is a common problem among the entire DSBG fishing fleet and that most all fish with only 1 hook per set, fishing a total of 10 hooks. I believe we need more than 10 hooks in the water in order to maintain economic viability, and to date the linked gear has not produced as hoped. Depth control may be the cause for this.

THESE TOP 2 LEADERS
CONSTANTLY TANGLE
AND HAVE NOT BEEN
PRACTICAL FOR US

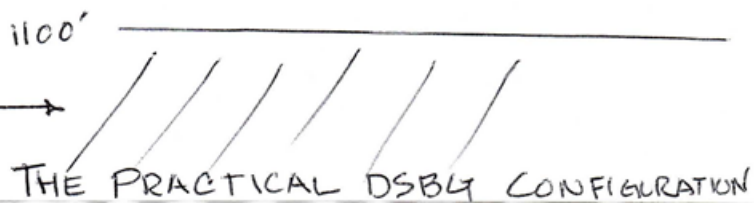


STANDARD DSB4 CONFIGURATION

NON FISHED ZONE →



NONFISHED ZONE →



THE PRACTICAL DSB4 CONFIGURATION

Please reference the instructions for specifics on filling out your application.

2) Applicant(s)*:

Any history of current/pending state or federal violations in any commercial fishery? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Any history of current/pending state or federal violations in any commercial fishery? ☐ Yes ☒ No

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a.2) Other Swordfish gear – Type(s): and line
harpoon, drift net, deep set hand held hook

Years: 40 Type of Participation: captain / crew

a.3) Other gear(s) – Type(s): troll,deep set hook and line,shallow set buoy gear for tuna in Hawaii ,this is the same configuration as DSBG without the flag fished at 10 to 50 fathoms

Years: 10 Type of Participation: captain /crew

b.1) DSBG - Years: 1 Type of participation: crew

b.2) Other Swordfish gear – Type(s): harpoon , deep set hook and line

Years: 2 Type of Participation: crew

b.3) Other gear(s) – Type(s): troll,hook and line

Years: 2

Type of
Participa
tion:

crew

applicants/vessels/participants on a separate page.

***List information for additional EFP**

5) Proposed EFP duration:

2 years

Justification:

at least 2 fishing seasons to test fishing additional buoys

6) Intended DSBG Configuration: ☒ Standard (Attachment A) ☐ Modified (please explain)

a total of up to 20 buoys with standard DSBG EFP configuration (up to 10 additional buoys above the 10 already authorized under standard existing DSBG EFPs) with a single hook on each buoy



7) Target Species: _____ ☐ Swordfish only Other (please list):
Swordfish , Thresher shark, Opah, louvar

8) Fishing Area and Effort (indicate all that apply):

a) ☒ Southern California Bight (Point Conception to the U.S.-Mexico Border):

i) Vessels: Patricia J

ii) Estimate of fishing effort: 100 -150 days

iii) Additional details: weather , fish reports, abundance of fish, i generally put 750-1000 hours on the boat each fishing season

b) ☒ Central California (Point Reyes to Point Conception):

i) Vessels: Patricia J

ii) Estimate of fishing effort:
20-50 days

iii) Additional details: weather ,fish reports,abundance of fish, i generally put 750-1000
hours on the boat each fishing season

c) ☐ Northern California (42° N. latitude to Point Reyes):

i) Vessels: _____

ii) Estimate of fishing effort: _____

iii) Additional details: _____

d) ☐ Oregon (Columbia River to 42° N. latitude):

i) Vessels: _____

ii) Estimate of fishing effort: _____

iii) Additional details: _____

9) Data Gaps: Which of the following data gaps are addressed by your Exempted Fishing Permit application, and how will they be addressed? (See Attachment B) Check all that apply:

a) ☒ Bycatch & protected species interactions

How? any and all bycatch will be released, protected species will be released with the least
possible interaction,and documented and NMFS will be reported to via email or phone
within 24 hours as to type and release condition, also live release of juvenile fish of all
species will be attempted. I have attended a safe handling and release workshop
conducted by NMFS WCR protected resources division prior to fishing the EFP

b) ☒ Active gear tending _____

How? gear will be set in a 2 to 5 sq mile area the boat will remain in the immediate area
strike buoys will be constantly monitored with binoculars and attended to
immediately when a strike occurs

c) ☒ Gear conflicts/number of vessels

How? The number of active swordfish vessels has dropped in recent years and i believe we have a
common respect among one another as far as distance from gear and fishing areas, and at 10
-20 buoys per boat I foresee no problems. A buoy with a tracking device would definitely reduce
conflict just due to lack of visibility .

d) ☒ DSBG time and area use

How? Year round for experimental purposes to see what the possibilities are due to
weather and location the southern California bight is the optimum area ,during good
weather and favorable fish reports fishing 100 miles out and fishing central Ca
above Point Conception to Monterey would be expected.

e) ☒ Gear configuration

How? _____

Fishing 5- 10 additional buoys above the 10 currently allowed under existing standard DSBG EFPs will potentially increase the catch of marketable HMS and contribute toward vessel economic viability.

f) ☒ Concurrent gear use

How? _____

searching for basking swordfish on the surface for harpoon while monitoring the DSBG and trolling should both be easily be done concurrently

Reporting Requirements: Please answer questions identified in application instructions.

I will notify NMFS and CDFW by email 24 hours prior to departure and 24 hours prior to return of fishing trips fish tickets and landing reports will have a unique identifier in the note pad area, photocopies of fish tickets ,landing reports will be sent to designated NMFS and CDFW contacts .a preliminary and final report will be presented annually including catch data. All my conclusions and data will gladly be made public.

10) Observer Coverage:

[1] I acknowledge that observer coverage may be required on up to 100% of my EFP fishing trips, and verify that I am willing and able to cover the cost of such coverage.

If you are unable to cover the entire cost of the observer coverage requirement, please explain what portion you may be able to cover and identify other sources of funding which may be available to help you cover observer costs.

I cannot cover 100% of observer coverage on EFP trips. I think 100% on the first 10 sets and then 30% after that like similar EFP holders at this time is a good way to go, also 100% video or electronic monitoring would be acceptable

12) Applicant(s) Signature:

Date _____