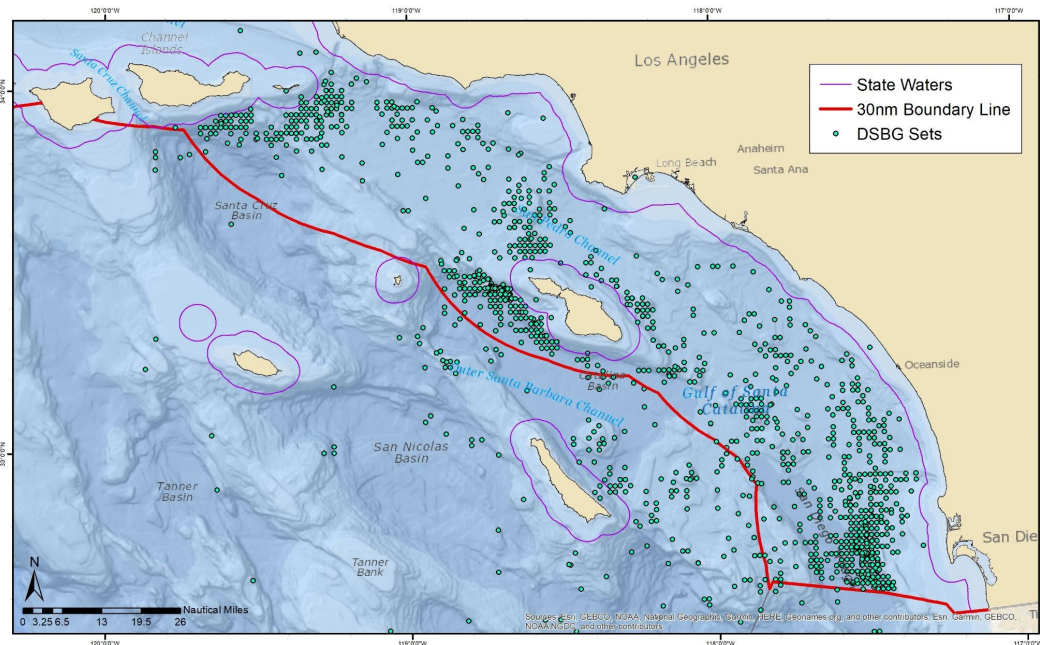


HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM  
REPORT ON EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS - FINAL ACTION

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) reviewed the six exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications submitted to the Council for final consideration at the September 2022 meeting and confirmed that the applications were consistent with the recommendations made at the June 2022 Council meeting. As per the Council's June 2022 motion, the HMSMT reviewed compliance with logbook and EFP reporting requirements and found all applicants to be in compliance with these requirements in 2021.

Application #6 (Pfleger Institute of Environmental Research (PIER)) proposed a 30 nautical mile (nm) coastal buffer zone for Extended Linked Buoy Gear (XLBG) outside which gear must be set to reduce chances of interactions with other fisheries and protected species. The HMSMT supports PIER's proposed XLBG exclusion zone (interpreting it as 30 nm from the mainland shore) as it excludes the area where most DSBG effort has been conducted to date (Figure 1). The HMSMT appreciates the time and effort that individuals put into modifying their applications and recommends that the Council approve all applications for activities in Federal waters with 100 percent observer coverage, until further Council guidance is provided.



**Figure 1.** 30nm buffer demarcation proposed in Pfleger Institute of Environmental Research (PIER) Extended Linked Buoy Gear application (attachment 6) and PIER deep-set buoy gear set locations, 2015-2017.