

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON EXEMPTED
FISHING PERMITS – PRELIMINARY

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) reviewed the exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications submitted for Council review at this meeting and makes the following recommendations:

Application from Nathan Perez, Donald Krebs, and Stephen Mintz requesting simultaneous use of 20 buoys, including fishing at night (night-set buoy gear, NSBG) (Attachment 1)

The HMSAS believes allowing the applicants to fish with 20 buoys is too many at this time. As a more incremental approach, we recommend an EFP allowing 10 buoys at night, given that this type of fishing hasn't been extensively tested yet, and allowing 15 buoys during the day, which would be a prudent level to initially assess the effects of using more buoys.

Applications from Donald Krebs for NSBG with 10 buoys (Attachment 2) and Nathan Perez to extend his current NSBG EFP for two years (Attachment 3)

We understand that Donald Krebs and Nathan Perez are requesting separate EFPs for NSBG, even if they plan to coordinate their fishing activities.

The HMSAS supports these two requests.

Applications from Andrew Hemstreet (Attachment 4) and Kenton Ephan (Attachment 5)

Since deep-set buoy gear is a legal gear, the exemption they are requesting is to the requirement to possess a limited entry permit to fish in the Southern California Bight. The HMSAS does not support issuing EFPs to these two individuals for this purpose since it circumvents the qualification process that has just been implemented.

The five applications on which the Council deferred a recommendation in September 2022. (Four applications to use 15 pieces of gear and one application for "extended" linked buoy gear)

In fairness to the applicants, the HMSAS recommends the Council lay out a clear schedule for when they will take action on these applications.