

Proposal for a Standard DSBG EFP with 20 Buoys in Total. Date 2-15-2023

We would like to propose a two year Deep- Set Buoy Gear (DSBG) Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) utilizing a total of 20 pieces of standard DSBG gear (i.e. 10 pieces in addition to the 10 already allowed under existing standard DSBG EFPs). The goal is to increase swordfish and marketable HMS catch to increase economic returns in the DSBG fishery. Fishing activity would also show that 20 pieces of gear are manageable to maintain and actively monitor, are selective for swordfish and marketable HMS, and avoid protected species interactions.

We would only use one hook per piece of DSBG and 20 hooks total, and not exceed the 30 hook limit of existing DSBG EFPs. We would keep the 20 buoys in the same allowed footprint (i.e. within 5 nm) of the 10 buoy standard DSBG. All other existing DSBG EFP terms and conditions would be adhered to such as, minimum depth, active tending, buoy and hook specifications, reporting, and observer coverage. We don't see any conflict with this gear between commercial and sport fishermen.

We would also like to test 20 pieces of DSBG at night using our Night Deep Set Buoy Gear (NDSBG). F/V Bearflag 2 has shown that they can manage 10 pieces of gear at night easily and not cause conflict with other commercial fishermen or sport fishermen.

Our vessels are equipped with multiple radars, flybridge, and have towers. Our crew is well trained to monitor the buoys and use gyros-stabilized binoculars to actively tend the gear for miles. Since testing DSBG from the beginning and F/V Bearflag 2 testing night set buoy gear (NSBG) during the 2020 season, we have been able to retrieve all of our gear every day and night without any loss of gear.

As a group we will be able to provide data every year for this EFP, even if some boats are out fishing other fisheries. We believe and discussed between each other that 20 buoys is the right amount of gear to be fished and managed for this unique fishery. This 20 buoy configuration will easily fit in the 5 mile footprint that is currently allowed. 15 sets would be beneficial, but would not be the true potential of this fishery, and that is why we would like to use 20 sets to show that it would be manageable without gear loss or conflict. With 20 pieces of gear, this fishery could be a viable fishery and would increase the season average catch per day from 1.5 fish to potentially 3 per day while maintaining a substantial and safe fishery.

Nathan Perez L39090
F/V Bear Flag 2 F&G 24447/Documentation 558683
5158 Bellvale Ave, San Diego, CA 92117
8582322027
nathanjperez@gmail.com

Donald Krebs L02565
F/V Gold Coast F&G 35101/Documentation
3566 Bacontree pl, San Diego CA 92111
6199879699
Dkgoldcoast@live.com

Steve Mintz L 02180
F/V DJ F&G 22580/Documentation 550062

10 Del Santello, Lake Elsinore CA 92532
6199906911
Srmintz7@gmail.com