

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT ON  
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS) ACTIVITIES

**Deep-Set Buoy Gear Updates**

In April, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will issue the second year's worth of limited entry deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) permits to qualified fishermen. This will bring the number of issued DSBG permits to a maximum of 75, out of a total of 77 qualified applicants. We are currently preparing to conduct a quality control check of DSBG observer, logbook, and landings data for calendar year 2023.

In preparation for the 2024 fishing season, NMFS will notify DSBG permit holders of the requirements to carry observers, when requested, and to submit pre-trip notifications 48 hours in advance by contacting the observer provider at (800) 522-7622 or (562) 427-1822. The pre-trip notifications are instrumental in NMFS ability to place observers. The requirement to carry an observer, when requested by NMFS, applies to all persons holding an HMS permit.

PFMC  
02/09/24