

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) REPORT ON  
DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR (DSBG) EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP) APPLICATIONS

**Updates on the Status of DSBG EFPs**

On November 16, 2017, NMFS published a *Federal Register* Notice soliciting public comment on twelve DSBG EFP applications that were recommended by the Council during the September 2017 meeting ([82 FR 53480](#)). The 30-day public comment period will close on December 18, 2017. All EFP applicants request an exemption from a single prohibition (the use of unauthorized gear to harvest highly migratory species (HMS)) under the Fishery Management Plan for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS FMP) to test the effects and efficacy of using DSBG and deep-set linked buoy gear to harvest swordfish and other HMS off of the U.S. West Coast.