

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
UPDATE ON EXISTING DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) continues to applaud the work of Chugey A. Sepulveda, PhD and Scott A. Aalbers, MS along with the fishermen participating under the Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research exempted fishing permit (EFP). We are encouraged the data gathered from their work will be part of a holistic approach to the harvest of swordfish off the U.S. West Coast. Adding Deep Set Buoy Gear (DSBG) to the suite of harvest methods will be helpful in reducing our reliance on imported swordfish, and reducing the U.S. seafood deficit.

The HMSAS also wishes to thank the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for issuing 51 standard DSBG EFPs in time for them to be prosecuted this season. We are also encouraged by the detail of the economic data provided in [Agenda Item G.4.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1](#). We are looking forward to the data and information provided by these EFPs as we believe this will be instructive in informing the future of an authorized DSBG fishery.

Regarding [Agenda Item G.4.a, Supplemental Public Comment 1](#) submitted by Mr. McCarthy on behalf of himself and other EFP applicants from Northern California, we are supportive of Council reconsideration of the activity requirement for such applicants.

PFMC
06/10/18