

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON FUTURE AGENDA PLANNING

At its March 2018 meeting, Council action on the authorization of Deep Set Buoy Gear (DSBG) included a motion to direct the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) to conduct additional analyses to inform future discussions on the range of alternatives (ROA) for and authorization of a DSBG fishery. [This motion](#) included a specific timeline and direction to:

1. During the June 2018 Council meeting, receive updates on analyses provided by the HMSMT.
2. During the September 2018 Council meeting, the Council will receive input and advice from the advisory bodies on potential qualifying criteria and any additional updates on impact analyses as available.
3. During the March 2019 Council meeting, adopt a final preferred alternative for NEPA analyses and qualifying criteria, if needed, for a limited entry fishery.

However, the updates on impact analyses and other advisory body input was not scheduled for discussion at the September 2018 meeting. Based on a review of the draft November 2018 agenda (Agenda Item F.7 Attachment 2 September 2018), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) notes that there is no proposed agenda item related to authorization of DSBG. While determining the final preferred alternative is tentatively scheduled for March 2019 (as shown in Agenda Item F.7, Attachment 1, Year-at-a-Glance Summary), there is currently no further opportunity for the HMSMT to provide the Council with an update on their analyses on the ROA prior to final action in March. Nor is there an opportunity at this meeting to receive “input and advice from advisory bodies” or an update on recent results of experimental fishing activity.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has now issued a significant number of new DSBG exempted fishery permits and permit holders are beginning to fish. Information on the results of DSBG fishing effort, any issues regarding crowding or overcapacity, and new data or analyses will be critical to receive prior to the final decision in March.

Therefore, CDFW requests that an agenda item be added to the November agenda to facilitate those updates so that the Council will be fully informed prior to taking final action at their March 2019 meeting.

PFMC
09/10/18