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May 21, 2019,

Agenda Item J.5
Attachment 11
June 2019

Mr. Chuck Tracy, Chairman Anderson, and council members
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I wanted to follow up with you after filing my online application for a DSBG EFP. I know there might be some confusion all the way around. Hopefully I can explain more by presenting a cover letter to you.

Yes currently, since Jan. 1, 2019 I am listed as an operator on both my vessels under my sons' EFPs. Last December, sons fished both boats each on their own and successfully landed fish as was planned though those initial EFPs. I was able to crew for them a few days in December after my probation was over in November and cleared to do. I then fished both boats a total of 9 days in January of 2019. So, I am currently and actively fishing, and while I am very thankful and grateful for those involved with helping me through the process up to this point which has allowed me to participate and provide data to the council, I didn't want to lose out on the opportunity for a future EFP as well by not formally applying if that was the case. I wasn't clear or certain how the process worked for getting an EFP in my name for now or in the future? So, I thought it was better to at least formally apply then not have anything indicating I would like to expand our efforts moving forward over the next year. I just didn't know the process of EFP issuance, and I didn't want to get left out from some sort of technicality so to speak. I would like for both my sons' EFPs to continue in their names (not transfer names), but I was wanting one for me as well (3rd one for family).

As indicated in Ben and Jack Stephens annual EFP fishing report, there has been no actual determination at this time whether larger vessels or smaller vessels are more productive or economical in the DSBG fishery. Though, based upon limited efforts for preliminary data, it seems there exist a potential for smaller vessels to be equally productive and economical to operate.

Hopefully, through increased efforts, my sons and I can better determine the economic feasibility of operating smaller boats in this fishery. The only difference in my current application vs. my sons' is primarily that we would like to extend our fishing boundaries to Central Coast in order to have the ability to trailer the smaller boat north of Point Conception above the SCB if weather and fishing conditions are favorable. This will help us further determine if smaller trailerable vessels, like the DEA can operate up and down the coast much like the urchin fishery did in the 80's and 90's. We do already have another (3rd) commercial vessel on a trailer that can be rebuilt and out fitted for the 2020 fishing season, thus I am trying to plan for that as well.

To further clarify, we are planning on possibly expanding our efforts with a third vessel which would require the 3rd EFP, I think? From my understanding, the June meeting is the only time the council is accepting new applications for EFPs and then it takes time for screening and approval which is another reason I wanted to have something in place for next season. If applying now is not the correct route, then please let me know what the best route or option would be? I would like to continue to keep working with the council and providing data for this fishery.

As always, thanks for all your time and consideration,

David Stephens

F/V Tres Mujeres; DEA



Deep-Set Buoy Gear Application

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Application Date Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Applicant(s):

***We have provided room for two applicant names below - Applicant a) and Applicant b). If you have additional applicants/vessels/participants, please fill them in the field at the bottom of this form.**

Applicant a) Dave Stephens

Email elmo.stephens@yahoo.com

Phone Number (760) 2077504

Address 1009 Osborne Street
Vista, California, 92084
United States

Commercial Fishing Permits Held: Swordfish, HMS, Lobster, Sea Urchin, Sea Cucumber

Commercial Fishing Experience:

	Years of Experience	Gear type / Type of participation (Captain, Crew, Vessel owner, etc.)
DSBG	1.5	Standard DSBG aboard F/V Gold Coast (crew); F/V DEA (crew & additional operator); F/V Tres Mujeres (additional operator)
Other swordfish gear	10	Harpoon aboard F/V Tres Mujeres (operator)
Other gear type(s)	35	Albacore troll/bait; dive fisheries; Trap fisheries (Lobster, Live Fish, Crab); Hook and Line; Gillnet; as either operator or crew

Number of vessels*: 2

Vessel a) Name: Tres Mujeres

Registration Number: Doc #1066033; DFW # 51790

Name of Operator: Dave Stephens; Ben Stephens; Jack Stephens

Commercial Fishing Permits Held: Standard DSBG EFP; HMS; General Swordfish; Sea Urchin; Sea Cucumber; Lobster

Vessel b) Name: DEA

Registration Number: CF0012 HY; DFW # 25851

Name of Operator: Dave Stephens; Ben Stephens; Jack Stephens

Commercial Fishing Permits Held: Same as above for F/V Tres Mujeres

*List information for additional EFP applicants/vessels/participants in the field at the bottom of this form.

Do any of the applicants/vessel operators have current/pending state or federal violations in any commercial fishery? (If Yes, follow-up on the nature and status of any violations may be required as part of the application review process).

No

Duration: The EFP will normally be issued for a two-year period from the date of issuance. If you have good reason for receiving an EFP for a longer period, specify the requested number of years and provide justification for the longer duration:

Requesting an EFP for remainder of 2019-2021

Intended DSBG Configuration (See [Attachment A](#))

Standard

Do you intend to target any species other than swordfish? (This does not include other species that get caught incidentally when targeting swordfish)

Yes

If you do plan to use the gear to catch other species, list the species and how the fishing method you plan to use would differ (depth, time of day, season, etc.):

Yes, the DSBG may be used to target Opah or Tuna species on the upper most hook (100-200M) during the day. The vessel may also target various Tuna, Yellowtail, Dolphinfish using hook&line methods during both daytime and night time fishing activities while on the same trip.

Fishing Area and Effort:

	Number of vessels/Vessel names	Estimated fishing effort in number of days or sets
Southern California Bight (Pt. Conception to the U.S.-Mex. Border)	2- F/V Tres Mujeres; F/V DEA	100 days per year
Central California (Point Reyes to Point Conception)	1 - F/V DEA	50 days per year
Northern California (42 degrees N. latitude to Point Reyes)		

Please note that applications to fish outside the Southern California Bight will be looked on more favorably in the review process.

Additional information you think would be helpful in reviewing the application concerning where you plan to fish and the amount of fishing:

Because F/V DEA is a smaller 24ft. trailerable vessel, my sons and I would like have the option to be able to pursue fishing the gear north of the SCB pending weather and fishing conditions in order to determine the potential economical and operational effectiveness of a smaller mobile operation outside of the SCB.

Data Gaps: Will your EFP fishing specifically address any of the following data gaps? (See [Attachment B](#) for descriptions)

Active gear tending

Gear conflicts/number of vessels

gear configurations

Concurrent gear use

Explain what methods you would use, or information you plan to gather, to address the data gaps you checked off above:

My sons and I would like to continue pursuing all data gaps by participating in increased fishing days for 2019 and 2020 by:

- using a variety of gear tending methods including, high powered binoculars and drones
- determining gear conflicts while fishing in concentrated vessel areas
- gear configurations by using multiple hooks on 1 vertical line (not to exceed 3 allowable) at depths below 100M baited with various baits
- Concurrent gear use by practicing traditional harpoon methods and Hook and Line using bait and troll gear

Reporting Requirements and Observer Coverage:

- You must maintain a logbook for reporting catch and other operational information (such as time and location of catch) in a format specified by National Marine Fisheries Service
- Up to 100% observer coverage may be required on your EFP fishing trips
- Data gathered as part of the EFP will be publicly available

I acknowledge the above conditions, and verify that I am willing and able to cover the cost of any level of observer coverage required under permit terms and conditions.

Yes

If you are unable to cover the entire cost of the observer coverage requirement, please explain what portion you may be able to cover and identify other sources of funding which may be available to help you cover observer costs:

I would like to pursue using Federal/State grant funds to cover observer cost, but would be willing to cover cost through DSBG fishing operations only if it is economically feasible.

Applicant a) Signature:

Paul Hopkins
