

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS - FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

At the June 2019 Council meeting, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) provided the Council with an overview of an exempted fishing permit (EFP) application submitted by Mr. Nathan Perez and Mr. Thomas Carson to fish a modified configuration of both standard and linked deep-set buoy gear (DSBG). Due to the proposed modifications to the existing gear configurations (i.e., fishing at night at a depth of ~300 ft and modification of the buoy-array to include an indicator light), the HMSMT recommended this gear be referred to as night-set buoy gear (linked and standard; NSBG, NSBG-L, NSBG-S) to make a clear distinction between the gear described in this application and DSBG (June 2019 [Agenda Item J.5.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report 1](#)).

The HMSMT also recommended the Council preliminarily approve the Perez/Carson EFP to fish both NSBG-S and NSBG-L under 100 percent observer coverage, as the HMSMT found the approach had sufficient merit to allow a single vessel to test the approach.

After considering the applicant's public comment at the June 2019 meeting, and further discussion, the HMSMT feels the Council should approve the EFP and recommend that National Marine Fisheries Service issue it.

PFMC
09/14/19