



# Recreational Swordfish

*17 March 2020*

*Presented to:*

**CA Fish & Game Commission**  
**Marine Resources Committee**

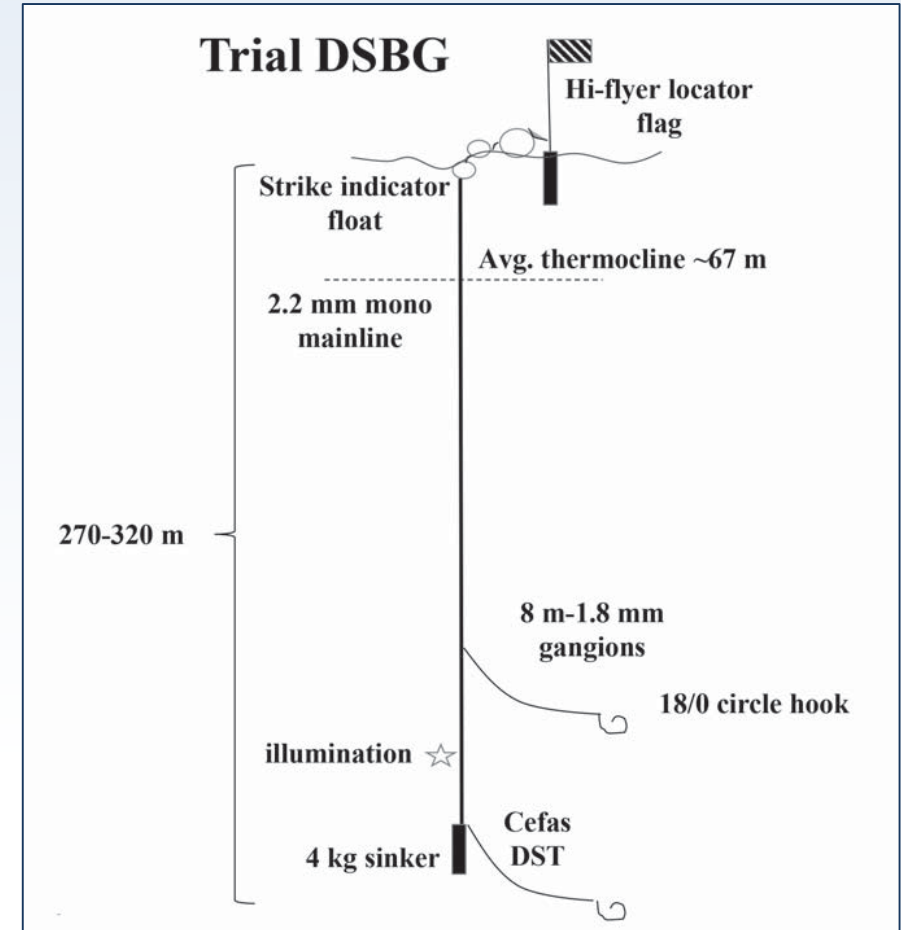
*Presented by:*

**John Ugoretz**  
**Environmental Program Manager**  
**Marine Region**



# Recreational “Deep Drop” Increase

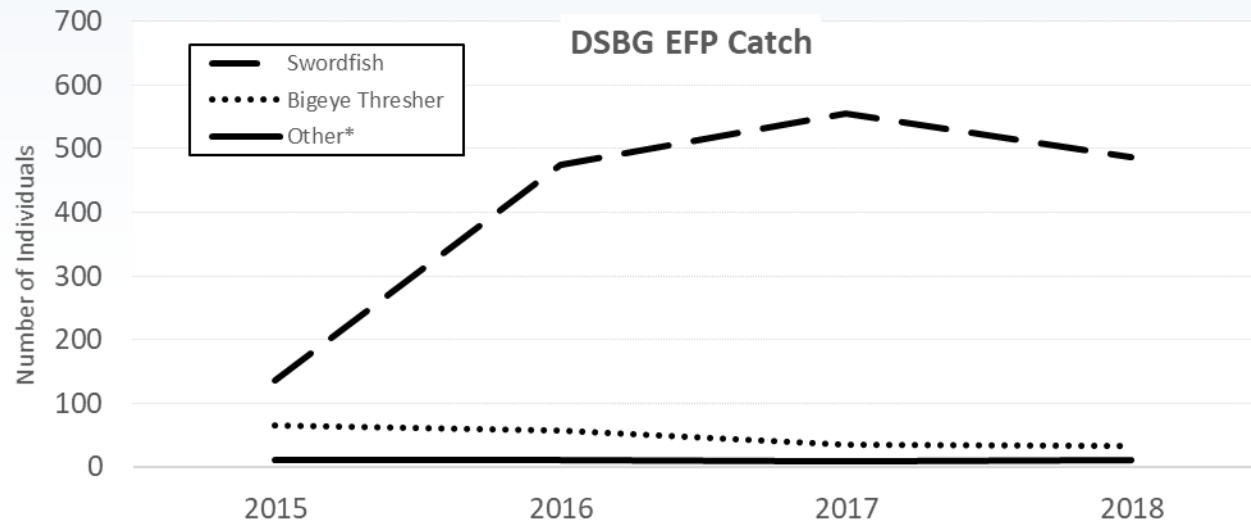
- Developed to target swordfish at depth during the day - federal EFP
  - Minimum fishing depth
  - No fishing in state waters
  - No nighttime fishing
  - Observer coverage
  - Gear requirements
    - 10 pieces of gear (30 hooks max)
    - Line material and diameter restrictions
    - Circle hooks
    - Weights and floats to limit entanglement risk





# Recreational “Deep Drop” Increase

- Pacific Fishery Management Council approved in June 2019
  - 50 permits initially, 25 additional each year
  - 300 permit maximum
  - Intended to supplement existing commercial swordfish gears





# Recreational “Deep Drop” Increase



I love the enthusiasm!!! We're gonna crack the code on this fishery! Why don't we set up a Facebook group for everyone who's interested?

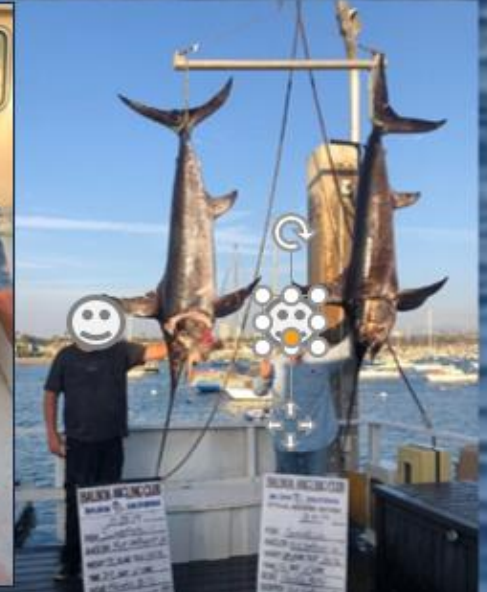
I'm in !



## Tuna/Swordfish

Summer offshore trips have been nothing short of unprecedented the past few seasons on 200- to 300-plus-pound bluefin. We also had 15 swordfish for the season. Book now for prime moons and weekends, especially

[LEARN MORE](#)

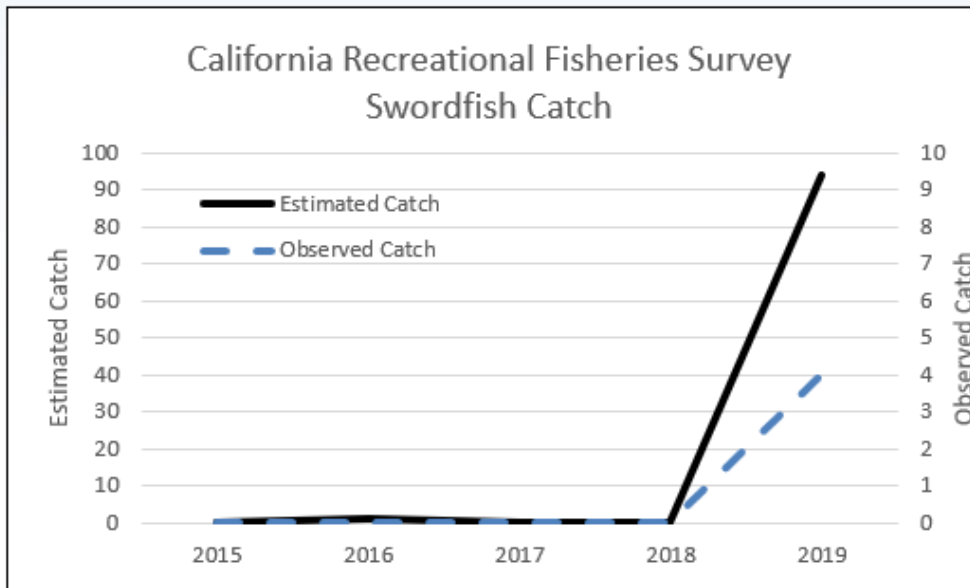
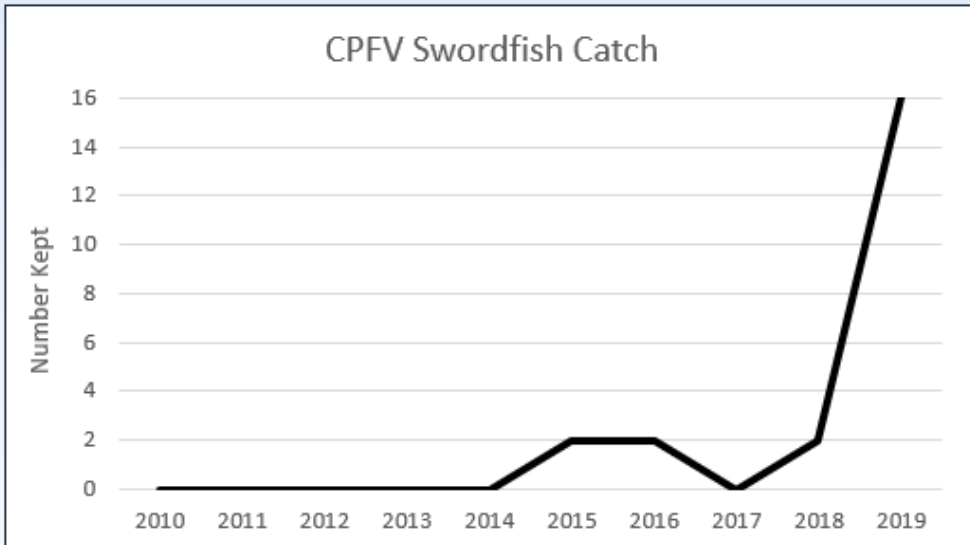


Email Address

SIGN UP



# Concerns



- Rapid increase in both effort and success
- Potential for waste
- Unverified reports of commercialization
- Potential for gear conflicts



# Concerns

- Limited tracking of recreational HMS
  - Estimates recognized as inaccurate
  - Numbers reported for international management
  - Accurate reporting is paramount



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# Potential Solutions

- Reduced bag limit to 1 per person per day
  - Swordfish & Striped Marlin
- Annual and/or boat limits
- Billfish tag and/or report card
  - Affixed immediately upon boating fish
  - Requires online reporting of catch
  - Could be broadened to other highly migratory species
- Gear restrictions
  - Require circle hooks
  - Prohibit wire leaders
  - Prohibit night fishing



# Thank You

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