

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) REPORT ON
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING
REGARDING HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES FISHERIES

NMFS recommends deleting Agenda Item H.4, *Report on Ongoing Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)*, from the June 2017 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting agenda. Council Operating Procedure (COP) 20 states that “a preliminary report on the results of EFPs and the data collected must be presented to the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) at the June Council meeting of the following year.” During Agenda Item J.2 at the March 2017 Council meeting, Dr. Chugey Sepulveda presented an update to both the HMSMT and Advisory Subpanel on the Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research’s EFP activity since 2015. Tim Ferguson also submitted an interim progress report of his EFP activity to date. It is NMFS’ opinion that the next *Report on Ongoing EFPs* agenda item should occur during the June 2018 meeting, consistent with COP 20.