

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP) PROCESS

According to [Council Operating Procedure 20](#) (COP 20), the Council annually reviews applications for exempted fishing permits (EFPs) at the June and September meetings. At the March 2014 meeting (Agenda Item K.5) the Council discussed soliciting EFPs to test gear types that could serve as an alternative to using drift gillnet (DGN) to catch swordfish in the west coast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), or to test different approaches to contemporary DGN fishery management practices. Based on public testimony recommending that the Council develop research protocols for evaluating alternative fishing gear types and methods, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) was directed to develop criteria for evaluating EFP proposals to supplement the criteria found in COP 20. The HMSMT met May 7-9 in Carlsbad, California, and drafted a report with recommendations on supplemental evaluation criteria (attached as Agenda Item E.3.b, HMSMT Report).

At the April 2014 Council meeting under the agenda item dealing with future meeting planning and workload, the Council decided to suspend the June-September EFP process as described in COP 20, to allow for the policy discussion scheduled for Agenda Item E.2 to have occurred and to first adopt evaluation criteria before soliciting and/or reviewing EFPs. Therefore, the Council needs to decide on a revised schedule for considering and adopting EFP proposals. The Council also may wish to circulate a call for EFP proposals specifically to test alternative gear types. As an example, the Council solicited EFP proposals to test electronic monitoring methods in the groundfish fishery through an announcement circulated to fishery participants and posted on the Council website (Agenda Item E.3.a, Attachment 1).

Letters have been received from Mr. John D. Hall, Zephyr Fisheries LLC and Mr. Frank Crivello III expressing interest in participating in any test of pelagic longline gear in the west coast EEZ that may be authorized under an EFP. These letters are attached as Agenda Item E.3.c, Public Comment. A letter from Oceana is also attached under Agenda Item E.3.c, Public Comment, with recommendations on criteria for evaluating EFPs.

Council Action:

Confirm Process, Intent, Schedule, and Evaluation Criteria for Current Cycle EFPs

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.3.a, Attachment 1: Example EFP Solicitation Notice Letter.
2. Agenda Item E.3.b, HMSMT Report.
3. Agenda Item E.3.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Confirm Process, Intent, Schedule, and Evaluation Criteria for EFPs beginning in 2015

Kit Dahl