

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP) FOR SARDINE AERIAL SURVEY RESEARCH

At its March 2010 meeting, the Council adopted for public review an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application submitted by members of the commercial Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) fishing industry. The EFP application proposes utilizing the 5,000 metric ton (mt) research set-aside that was established by the Council as part of the 2010 harvest guideline (HG). The intent of the proposed research is to continue and expand on aerial surveys that were conducted in 2008 and 2009 by industry representatives, and to conduct a pilot project in the Southern California Bight to investigate alternative survey methods. The aerial survey will utilize 4200 mt and the pilot project will utilize 800 mt of the set aside. The Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) advisory bodies advised improving and expanding the research in 2010 by setting aside a portion of the 2010 HG for research that can be conducted, at least in part, outside of the directed fishery. Because all or part of this activity may happen during an otherwise closed period, an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be required.

The applicants revised their research proposal, based on concerns expressed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee, the CPS Management Team, and the CPS Advisory Subpanel. The revised application is attached as Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 1.

The Council is tasked with making a final recommendations on EFPs for 2010. Should the EFPs be denied and the proposed research not occur, the 5,000 mt set-aside will be reallocated to the third period (September 15-December 31) of the directed fishery as adopted by the Council in November 2009 and implemented in regulation by NMFS.

Council Action:

Adopt Final EFP Recommendations.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 1: West Coast Aerial Sardine Survey 2010 Application for Exempted Fishing Permit, revised.
2. Agenda Item F.1.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:** Adopt Final EFP Recommendations

Kerry Griffin

PFMC
2/25/2010