

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR 2015 FISHERIES

At the direction of the Council, staff distributed a letter on July 2, 2014, soliciting Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) proposals to test gear types that could serve as an alternative to using drift gillnets (DGN) to catch swordfish in the west coast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), or to test different approaches to contemporary DGN fishery management practices; the letter also describes a revised schedule of September-November meetings for the Council to review and make recommendations on EFPs (see Attachment 1).

Council Operating Procedure 20 (COP 20, Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 2), describes proposal contents and criteria for evaluating any EFP proposals received by the Briefing Book deadline. In addition, the HMSMT developed supplemental evaluation criteria at the request of the Council (Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 3).

As of the deadline (August 17), one EFP proposal was submitted by The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries (Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 4).

Council Action:

Consider Preliminary Adoption of Exempted Fishing Permits; Provide Additional Guidance as Necessary

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 1: July 2, 2014, Letter Soliciting Exempted Fishing Permits to Test Alternative Gears and/or New Approaches or Methods for the California Large Mesh Drift Net Fishery.
2. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 2: Council Operating Procedure 20, Protocol for Consideration of Exempted Fishing Permits for Highly Migratory Species Fisheries.
3. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 3: HMSMT Report, June 2014.
4. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 4: Preliminary Exempted Fishing Permit Application: Alternative Swordfish Target Fishing Gears and Methods, Submitted by The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kit Dahl
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider Preliminary Adoption of Exempted Fishing Permits; Provide Additional Guidance as Necessary