

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR 2015 FISHERIES

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS), while favoring the development of exempted fishing permits (EFPs) to supplement the drift gillnet fishery, feels at this time there was not sufficient time for EFPs to be submitted and that the current EFP application needs more specifics to be considered viable. The cost of the current EFP application, which is to test the performance of five swordfish target gear types in time/area zones thought to be of high concentration of swordfish and low concentration of bycatch of protected or undesirable species, in comparison to the average performance of the drift gillnet fleet fishing under existing fishery regulations, is not financially feasible for the current fishermen. In the future, any EFP of any nature needs to have funds from outside sources to be feasible. The HMSAS requests the Council solicit funds to cover the expenditures of doing this type of EFP.

PFMC
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