

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON THE  
UNMANAGED FORAGE FISH PROTECTIVE INITIATIVE

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) reviewed the proposed amendment language for the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) found in Section 7.3 of Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 1. The HMSMT finds this amendment language suitable to address the purpose of this Initiative and consistent with the contents of the FMP.

The HMSMT also reviewed the proposed Council Operating Procedure (COP) 24, Protocol for Consideration of Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) for Shared Ecosystem Component Species, found in Section 7.6 of Attachment 1. Although the title of this COP implies it would only apply to EFPs that would target forage fish Ecosystem Component (EC) species, the body of the COP text does not specify this clearly. For example, the Purpose section states “This Council Operating Procedure (COP) provides a standard process for the Council, its advisory bodies, and the public to consider EFP proposals. The specific objectives of a proposed exempted fishing activity may vary. EFPs can be used to explore ways to develop stock surveys and assessments, explore the potential for a new fishery on Shared EC Species, or to evaluate current and proposed management measures.” However, this section does not make clear that the scope of the COP is limited to the Shared EC species. This ambiguity should be corrected to avoid future confusion over its applicability in relation to other COPs, such as COP 20, covering the EFP review process under the HMS FMP.

PFMC  
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