

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS (EFP) FOR 2010

At its November 2009 meeting, the Council adopted harvest specifications and management measures for the 2010 Pacific sardine fishery. As part of the management measures the Council set aside 5,000 metric tons (mt) of the 2010 harvest guideline (HG) as a research set aside. The intent of the research set aside is to continue and expand on aerial surveys that were conducted in 2008 and 2009 by industry representatives. 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 pilot survey conducted in 2008 was limited to areas in the Pacific Northwest. The 2009 survey expanded into areas off California. Expanding the scope of the survey is of interest to both the scientific and fishing industry representatives who have expressed an interest in expanding the geographic coverage of the survey as well as exploring the use of new survey technologies such as hydroacoustics and satellite imagery. A primary intent of this research is to better inform the assessment of Pacific Sardine abundance. Survey methods used in 2009 have been reviewed and approved for use in the 2010 update of the Pacific sardine assessment, but any new research employed during 2010 will require a thorough peer review before being used in the next full assessment scheduled for 2011. The current proposal for an EFP, submitted by representatives of the fishing industry, is attached as Agenda Item H.3.a, Attachment 1.

At the March meeting the Council is tasked with adopting a proposal for 2010 Pacific sardine research for public review. The Council is scheduled to make final recommendations on EFPs for 2010 at its April 2010 meeting in Portland, Oregon. Should the EFPs be denied and the proposed research not occur, the 5,000 mt set aside is scheduled to 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 Exempted Fishing Permit for Public Review.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.3.a, Attachment 1: West Coast Aerial Sardine Survey 2010 Application for Exempted Fishing Permit.
2. Agenda Item H.3.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Agencies and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt EFP proposals for Public Review

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