

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Situation: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) research efforts often include the use of commercial vessels as survey platforms and to collect information. These activities sometimes require the vessel to be exempted from commercial fishing regulations that would interfere with the data collection project. NMFS may present exempted fishing permit (EFP) proposals for Council review at this meeting. In addition, the Council and NMFS received an EFP proposal from an open access, commercial hook-and-line fisher to test the effectiveness of vertical line gear to selectively harvest various rockfish species without catching canary rockfish, which is overfished and must be avoided (Exhibit C.3.g, Public Comment). The Council should offer comments to NMFS on any EFP applications under consideration.

Council Action:

1. **Recommendations to NMFS on EFPs.**

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit C.3.g, Public Comment.

PFMC
10/13/00