

## EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Situation: The Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) authorizes issuance of exempted fishing permits (EFPs) for exempted fishing consistent with the goals and objectives of the FMP.

In part, Section 2.2.8 states:

"Exempted fishing" is defined to be fishing... not allowed under the FMP. Under this FMP... NMFS... may authorize... harvest of CPS for experimental or exploratory fishing that would otherwise be prohibited. NMFS... may restrict the number of EFPs by total catch, time, or area. NMFS... may also require any level of industry-funded observer coverage for these EFPs.

Exempted fisheries are expected to be of limited size and duration and must be authorized by an EFP issued for the participating vessel in accordance with the criteria and procedures specified in 50 CFR §600.745. The duration of EFPs will ordinarily be one year. Permits will not be renewed automatically. An application must be submitted to the Regional Administrator for each year. A fee sufficient to cover administrative expenses may be charged for EFPs. An applicant for an EFP need not be the owner or operator of the vessel(s) for which the EFP is requested as long as the proposed activity is compatible with limited entry and other management measures in the FMP.

This FMP authorizes mandatory data reporting and mandatory on-board observers with exempted fishing permits. Installation of vessel monitoring units aboard vessels with exempted fishing permits may be required.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will report on application(s) for exempted fishing permits.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. If necessary, review and comment on EFP application(s).**

Reference Materials: None.

PFMC  
05/08/01