

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR 2005

Exempted fishing permits (EFPs) provide a process for testing novel fishing gears and strategies to substantiate methods for prosecuting sustainable and risk-averse fishing opportunities. Because the EFP fisheries harvest or impact a portion of the overall available harvest, preliminary Council approval and harvest set asides for EFPs in 2005 and 2006 were adopted along with 2005-2006 management measures at the June Council meeting.

Sponsors of EFPs approved in June have had the opportunity to revise their applications in response to input received at the June Council meeting and submit final applications at the November Council meeting. Under this Agenda Item, the Council will review and approve EFP applications for 2005. Council-approved applications are then submitted by the applicants to NMFS for permit development and issuance.

Because establishing a permanent monitoring program for the shore-based whiting fishery will not be possible prior to the start of the 2005 fishery, NMFS will again require an EFP for participation in the 2005 shore-based whiting fishery. Terms and conditions of the whiting EFP will be developed over the winter months. As in 2004, the EFP will continue to evaluate monitoring tools appropriate for the shore-based whiting fishery. NMFS is scheduled to update the Council on the development of monitoring program alternatives for the shore-based Pacific whiting fishery under Agenda Item E.1.

Council Action:

Review and approve final EFP applications for 2005.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.3.b, WDFW Report.
2. Agenda Item E.3.b, ODFW Report: Joint ODFW, WDFW, CDFG Application for Issuance of an Exempted Fishing Permit to Allow Retention on Incidentally Caught Species in the Shore-based Pacific Whiting Fishery.
3. Agenda Item E.3.b, CDFG Report 1: Application for Issuance of an Exempted Fishing Permit to Test a Selective Flatfish Trawl (including Scottish Seine) in and area otherwise closed to fishing, 2005.
4. Agenda Item E.3.b, CDFG Report 2: 2002-2003 Shelf Flatfish Exempted Fishing Permit Reports

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Recommendations of the States, Tribes, and Federal Agencies
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Final Approval of EFP Applications for 2005.

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PFMC
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