

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

A majority of the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) endorsed the Highly Migratory Species Management Team's (HMSMT's) support for the proposed exempted fishing permit (EFP).

A minority of the HMSAS did not support the EFP on the grounds that:

- The EFP does not address reductions of finfish bycatch, which is the Council's highest priority for EFPs in the fishery management plan.
- Bigeye are overfished, the U.S. is under a 150 mt cap, and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) science staff recommends a significant (40%) reduction in eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) fishing mortality.
- Yellowfin tuna are on the verge of an overfished condition, with an IATTC assessment working group recommending purse seine closures of up to six months per year.
- The latest assessment results for albacore strongly indicate overfishing, and the U.S. delegation will recommend a cap on all EPO albacore effort.

Therefore, there is no need to promote new and likely unsustainable fisheries.

PFMC
06/14/05