

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
PROPOSED COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURE (COP)
FOR APPROVING EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed the proposed Protocol for Consideration of Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fisheries. The SSC supports the proposed protocol but suggests its review be limited to EFPs with a significant scientific component. We recommend the following changes in the draft document prior to public review.

- 1) Section C.1: change “The HMSMT and SSC will review” to “The HMSMT will review.”
- 2) Section C.5.b: change “the HMSMT can refer the application to the SSC’s HMS subcommittee for comment” to “the HMSMT can refer the application to the SSC for comment.”
- 3) Section C.5.c: change “the HMS subcommittee” to “ the SSC”.
- 4) Section E.2: change “A final written report on the results of the EFP and the data collected must be presented to the HMSMT, SSC and Council at the September meeting” to “A final report on the results of the EFP and the data collected must be presented to the HMSMT and the Council at the September meeting. Those EFPs containing data analysis that could benefit from a scientific review may be forwarded to the SSC for comment.”