

PROPOSED COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURE (COP) FOR APPROVING
EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

Section 8.4.12 of the August 2003 Fishery Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS FMP) states that the HMS Management Team (HMSMT) will develop a protocol for submission and Council review of exempted fishing permits (EFPs), which will be adopted as a Council Operating Procedure (COP). The HMSMT has provided a draft protocol (Attachment 1) and report (Agenda Item C.3.b) for this agenda item. In their report, the HMSMT recommends that the protocol become effective as of April 2006 for EFP applications applicable to the April 1, 2007–March 31, 2008, fishing year. An interim protocol would apply for applications submitted for EFPs that would be prosecuted before April 1, 2007. Specifically, the HMSMT is developing alternatives for the HMS drift gillnet fishery involving an EFP occurring in 2006, to which this interim protocol would apply.

The Council may wish to provide recommendations on the draft protocol and proposed timeline, which will be circulated for public review. At the November 2005 meeting the Council would take final action to adopt the protocol as a COP with any recommended changes.

Council Action: Adopt a Draft COP for Public Review.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.3.a, Attachment 1: Draft for Public Review: Protocol for Consideration of Exempted Fishing Permits for HMS Fisheries.
2. Agenda Item C.3.b, HMSMT Report.
3. Agenda Item C.3.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt a Draft COP for Public Review

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PFMC
08/30/05