

PROPOSED PROTOCOL FOR REVIEWING EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS
FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

Section 8.4.12 of the August 2003 Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) states that the Highly Migratory Species 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). At the September meeting the HMSMT provided two draft protocols. The first draft protocol (Attachment 1) is applicable to EFP proposals submitted after March 31, 2006, for EFPs that are proposed to begin on or **after** April 1, 2007. An interim protocol (Attachment 2) applies to EFP proposals submitted before April 1, 2006, for EFPs that would begin **before** April 1, 2007. (These dates are consistent with the April 1–March 31 fishing year in the HMS FMP.) The Council adopted these two protocols for public review.

At this meeting, the Council should take final action to adopt the protocols as COPs with any recommended changes. The interim protocol, if adopted as a COP, would be used to review an EFP proposal submitted to the Council and included under Agenda Item J.3, Drift Gillnet Management.

Council Action:

Adopt Interim and Final EFP Review Protocols.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item J.2.a, Attachment 1: Protocol for Consideration of Exempted Fishing Permits for HMS Fisheries.
2. Agenda Item J.2.a, Attachment 2: **Interim** Protocol for Consideration of Exempted Fishing Permits for HMS Fisheries.
3. Agenda Item J.2.b, HMSMT Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Interim and Final EFP Review Protocols

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PFMC
10/14/05