

**HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON EXEMPTED
FISHING PERMIT (EFP) APPLICATIONS FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES**

The majority of the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) supported the approval of the proposed longline EFP submitted by Pete Dupuy. They note that this EFP is intended to test the economic viability of such a fishery and that any potential expansion, if viable, would have to proceed through the regulatory process. If proved viable, any future fishery would be developed in a way to allow a portion of the drift gillnet fishery to switch to a different gear type under a limited entry program that would be developed by the Council.

A minority of the HMSAS did not support approval of the proposed longline EFP given 3 of 5 target species (bigeye, albacore, and yellowfin tuna) are currently experiencing or potentially approaching overfishing and are subject to international and domestic regulations intended to reduce effort and fishing mortality. In addition, according to the Highly Migratory Species Stock Assessment Fishery Evaluation (p. 106) “it is recommended that there be no further increases in F for any of the fisheries taking Pacific bluefin tuna.” Therefore, it is inappropriate to attempt to develop new fisheries for these species.

There was one vote on the HMSAS to abstain.

PFMC
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