

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE EXEMPTED  
FISHING PERMIT FOR LONGLINE FISHING IN THE WEST COAST EXCLUSIVE  
ECONOMIC ZONE

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) reviewed the draft environmental assessment (EA) for the longline exempted fishing permit (EFP) application and considered the supplemental report from the Scientific and Statistical Committee regarding the issuance of the EFP.

The HMSAS notes that this proposal is step one in a process of trying to determine whether a longline fishery is an economically viable alternative to the drift gillnet fishery. The HMSAS reaffirms its support for the proposed EFP as a means of evaluating the economic feasibility and recommends that the Council identify a preferred alternative that includes the necessary bycatch and environmental controls.

The HMSAS does not have specific recommendations regarding caps for protected species and defers consideration of such limits to the Highly Migratory Species Management Team.

PFMC  
04/05/07