

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

In June, the Council received one exempted fishing permit (EFP) application from Mr. David Stephens, a commercial fisherman/educator fishing primarily Southern California waters based out of San Diego. He proposes to test deep-set buoy gear.

According to Council Operating Procedure 20, which outlines the process for Council review of EFPs and recommendations to the Regional Administrator on the issuance of EFPs and related terms and conditions, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) and HMS Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) review EFP proposals in June and make recommendations to the Council for action. Final action on EFPs occurs at the September Council meeting.

Based on initial review, the Council requested that the EFP applicant revise the application according to the recommendations and comments in [Agenda Item D.3.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report](#) and [Agenda Item D.3.a, Supplemental HMSAS Report](#). Additionally, the EFP application should contain clarifications on tending and monitoring gear as discussed in [Agenda Item D.3.a, Supplemental EC Report](#). Attachment 1 contains his revised application. The HMSMT reviewed the revised application at its August 8-11 meeting and submitted a report for the advanced briefing book with its comments (Agenda Item J.2.a, HMSMT Report).

At its June 2016 meeting, the Council also decided that rather than adopting a range of alternatives for authorizing a deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) fishery in September, it would encourage more participation in the fishery through EFPs to facilitate development of alternatives for gear authorization (see Agenda Item J.4 for more details). To support this objective the Council decided to accept applications for EFPs to test DSBG at any Council meeting where HMS items are on the agenda. An [announcement](#) to this effect was posted on the Council website and distributed by email on Friday, July 8th, 2016.

Council Operating Procedure 20 states that “Completed applications for EFPs from individuals or non-government agencies for Council consideration must be received by the Council for review, at least two weeks prior to the June Council meeting.” Assuming this requirement applies to any Council meeting eligible for EFP submission, including the upcoming September meeting, the deadline is Thursday, September 1, 2016, which is after distribution of the advance briefing book. If new applications are submitted by this deadline, they will be distributed as supplements to the briefing materials.

Council Action:

Review Preliminary Proposals and Consider Approving Final Permits as Appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item J.2, Attachment 1: Revised Exempted Fishing Permit Application from David Stephens.
2. Agenda Item J.2.a: NMFS Report.
3. Agenda Item J.2.a: HMSMT Report.
4. Agenda Item J.2.b: Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

J.1 Exempted Fishing Permits

Kit Dahl

- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Review Preliminary Proposals and Consider Approving Final Permits as Appropriate

PFMC

08/22/16