

## 2019 EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS (EFPs) – FINAL APPROVAL

The Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) allows for exempted fishing permit (EFP) activities to be conducted under a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Operating Procedure 23 describes the process for proposing EFPs, in which initial consideration occurs at the November Council meeting, with final action scheduled for the subsequent April Council meeting.

Two EFP notices of intent were submitted for the November 2018 Council meeting and were approved for consideration of full proposals at the April 2019 meeting. Updated proposals are included in the April 2019 Briefing Book materials. One is for aerial survey work in Southern California, submitted by the California Wetfish Producers Association (Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 1). The protocols, methods, and participants remain the same, but the updated proposal includes similar survey and sampling work to be done off Monterey, California, in addition to the Southern California Bight. The other EFP proposal is a proof of concept for research in the Pacific Northwest, submitted by the West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group (Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 2). If approved by the Council, the proponents would then apply to NMFS for the EFPs.

### **Council Action:**

**Approve EFP Proposals for 2019.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 1: California Wetfish Producers Association EFP Proposal.
2. Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 2: West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group EFP Proposal.
3. If received, Public Comments will be Electronic Only (see [e-portal](#)).

### **Agenda Order:**

- E.2 2018 Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) Final Approval Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final EFP Recommendations for 2019