



FACT SHEET: EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

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Exempted fishing permits (EFPs) allow for experimental fisheries that are exempt from the usual fishing regulations. They are a way for people and organizations involved in the fishery to experiment with new gears or techniques in order to contribute to changes in fisheries management. The Council recommends EFPs to National Marine Fisheries Service, which is responsible for granting them.

Examples of past projects supported by an EFP include developing new gear types for an underutilized fishery and developing devices to reduce catch of prohibited species.

WHY EFPs?

EFPs are commonly used to explore ways to reduce impacts on depressed stocks, encourage innovation and efficiency in the fisheries, provide access to constrained stocks while measuring the bycatch associated with certain fishing strategies, and to evaluate current and proposed management measures. EFPs can also be used to study how to increase the use of underutilized species, explore areas of expansion for the groundfish fishery, and make harvesting more efficient.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Anyone who is planning on fishing activities that would otherwise be prohibited by the regulations can apply for an EFP. This includes Federal or state agencies, marine fish commissions, nonprofit organizations, and individuals. You don't have to be the owner or operator of the vessel(s) for which the EFP is requested, but a copy of the EFP paperwork must be on the vessel at all times during the project.

APPLYING FOR AN EFP

The deadlines for submitting EFP proposals varies depending on the fishery. (EFPs are conducted for groundfish, highly migratory species, and coastal pelagic species, but not salmon). The table on the next page provides a more detailed schedule for submitting and

reviewing proposals.

Applicants for an EFP in any fishery must submit a completed application in writing that explains and justifies the goals of the EFP. The advisory bodies, the Council, or the Scientific and Statistical Committee may ask for additional information. It can take several Council meetings for all of the necessary review to occur.

An example EFP (to fish trawl permits with fixed gear in a community-based fishing association) is available at <http://tinyurl.com/olwouvX>. Information for highly migratory species is here: <http://tinyurl.com/y93snk44>, and for coastal pelagic species see <http://tinyurl.com/yc6a85ms>. [[How about salmon?](#)]

FOR BEST RESULTS

For best results, you should work with a NMFS Science Center on the experimental design before submitting an EFP application to assure that your experimental design is sound. This will speed up the review process.

The NMFS Regional Administrator is required to consult with the Council before issuing an EFP, and NMFS may also need to write an environmental analysis of the impacts of the EFP. This usually involves a Federal Register notice of the receipt of your application and your presentation of the EFP project at a Council meeting. Plan on at least 6 to 12 months from the date of application submittal before the EFP is issued.

For more information on EFPs, see the next page and contact:

- Groundfish: Jim Seger (james.seger@noaa.gov).
- Highly Migratory Species: Kit Dahl (kit.dahl@noaa.gov)
- Coastal Pelagic Species: Kerry Griffin (kerry.griffin@noaa.gov)

All are available by telephone at 503-820-2280.

FACT SHEET: EFPS

GENERAL EFP SCHEDULE

	Preliminary applications due	Additional review	Next Council action	Preliminary report	Final report
Groundfish (for 2021-2022 management cycle) Link to Detailed Instructions (COP 19)	November 2021 (odd year) briefing book deadline. Council considers which applications to forward for review.	SSC* and GMT may review between November and June.	EFPs are discussed by Council in June 2022 (even year) and, if approved, recommended to NMFS for the 2023-2024 management cycle.	Applicant presents preliminary report on results to the GMT, GAP in November 2023.	Report presented to GMT, GAP, SSC, Council in September of 2024 (or 2025 if EFP is two years?).
Highly Migratory Species Link to Detailed Instructions (COP 20)	June (any year). Proposals will be reviewed by HMSMT and HMSAS and Council will take preliminary action on approval.	Possible review by SSC or other advisory bodies.	September (of same year): Council takes final action on approval.	June (following year): Applicant must present preliminary report to the HMSMT.	September (same year): Applicant must present final report to HMSMT, Council, and possibly SSC.
Coastal Pelagic Species Link to Detailed Instructions (COP 23)	November (any year). Possible presentations to SSC, CPSMT, CPSAS, Council.	Possible review by SSC or other advisory bodies.	March (following year): Applicant submits final proposal. SSC, CPSMT, CPSAS review. Council takes final action, although this may be postponed until April. After final action, applicant submits report to NMFS.		Applicant submits final report “in a timely manner.”

*CPSAS: Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel. CPSMT: Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team. EFP: Exempted fishing permit. GAP: Groundfish Advisory Subpanel. GMT: Groundfish Management Team. HMSMT: Highly Migratory Species Management Team. HMSAS: Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel. NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Service. SSC: Scientific and Statistical Committee.

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