

PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF NEW EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR 2021

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 (COP) 23 describes the process for proposing EFPs. Under COP 23, an initial notice of intent is to be submitted in time for inclusion in the November Briefing Book, with final action typically occurring at the subsequent April Council meeting.

Three notices of intent are included in the November Briefing Book materials. One is for biological sampling in the Pacific Northwest to support acoustic-trawl survey research, submitted by the West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group (Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 1). Another is for point sets supporting aerial survey work in Southern California, submitted by the California Wetfish Producers Association (CWPA) (Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 2), and the third is for biological sampling in California, also submitted by the CWPA (Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 3). Per COP 23, one or more of these proposals may be reviewed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee.

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to adopt the preliminary EFP proposals for public review, with final approval scheduled for April 2021. Proponents would be required to submit updated proposals for the advance April Briefing Book. If approved by the Council in April, the proponents would then apply to the NMFS for the actual permit.

Council Action:

Adopt preliminary EFP proposals for public review.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 1: West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group Notice of Intent and Proposal for Biological Sampling.
2. Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 2: California Wetfish Producers Association Notice of Intent and Proposal for Aerial Survey Point Sets.
3. Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 3: California Wetfish Producers Association Notice of Intent and Proposal for Biological Sampling.

Agenda Order:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| H.1 Preliminary Review of New Exempted Fishing Permits for 2021 | Kerry Griffin |
| a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| b. Public Comment | |
| c. Council Action: Adopt Preliminary EFPs for Public Review | |