

## EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

Council Operating Procedure (COP) 20 lays out an annual, June-September schedule for reviewing exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications for highly migratory species (HMS) fisheries. According to COP 20, the HMS Management Team (HMSMT) and HMS Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) review EFP applications in June and make recommendations to the Council for action. Final action on EFPs then occurs at the September Council meeting. Only those EFP applications that were considered in June may be considered in September. However, the Council has been following a one-meeting, expedited process for review and approval of deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) EFP applications.

In June 2021 the Council reviewed 10 applications and recommended National Marine Fisheries Service issue EFPs for the seven applications received to test DSBG. The Council forwarded the remaining three applications for further consideration and final action at this meeting. Applicant John Bateman proposed testing pelagic longline gear on selected vessels that have participated in the drift gillnet fishery ([Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 2, June 2021](#)). Applicant Austen Brown proposed testing a midwater snap gear configuration of his own design ([Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 4, June 2021](#)). Applicant Nathan Perez proposed testing DSBG in selected areas inside three miles (state waters), which is currently not permitted under EFP terms and conditions ([Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 9, June 2021](#)). The Council requested that Mr. Bateman and Mr. Brown submit revised applications with more detail about the requested activities. Mr. Bateman submitted a revised application describing “pelagic hook gear” (Attachment 1) and Mr. Brown’s revised application is Attachment 2. The application from Mr. Perez contained sufficient information but the Council decided that a two-meeting process was appropriate to reach a final recommendation on this proposal since it proposes a nonstandard use of DSBG. His June application is reproduced here as Attachment 3.

### **Council Action:**

#### **Adopt Final Recommendations on Exempted Fishing Permit Applications.**

#### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 1: Revised Exempted Fishing Permit Application for Pelagic Hook Gear Received From Mr. John Bateman.
2. Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 2: Revised Exempted Fishing Permit Application for Midwater Snap Gear Received From Mr. Austen Brown.
3. Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 3: June 2021 Exempted Fishing Permit Application to Use Deep-Set Buoy Gear in State Waters Received From Mr. Nathan Perez.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- D.3 Exempted Fishing Permits Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Recommendations on Exempted Fishing Permit Applications

PFMC  
08/16/21