

## EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR 2023-2024 - FINAL ACTION

The Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan allows for Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) activities to be conducted under a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service. 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.

Three EFP notices of intent were submitted for the November 2022 Council meeting and were approved for consideration of full proposals at the April 2023 meeting. If approved, the allowed take of Pacific sardine under EFPs will be considered along with the management measures for the 2023-2024 Pacific sardine management measures (see Agenda Item H.4). The proposals from the California Wetfish Producers Association are included as Attachments 1 and 2. Over the winter, it was determined that the activities proposed under the West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group (WCPCG) EFP ([Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 3, November 2022](#)) fall under the scientific research permit for the survey activities performed by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center and therefore an EFP is not needed. A letter from the WCPCG is included in the materials under this agenda item removing their EFP for consideration for 2023-2024 (Attachment 3).

### **Council Action:**

#### **Adopt Final EFP Recommendations for 2023-2024 Fisheries.**

#### Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 1: California Wetfish Producers Association Point Sets Sampling Proposal.
2. Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 2: California Wetfish Producers Association Biological Sampling Proposal.
3. Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 3: March 13, 2023 Letter from West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group Withdrawing EFP Proposal.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

#### Agenda Order:

- H.2 Exempted Fishing Permits for 2023-2024 - Final Action Jessi Doerpinghaus
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final EFP Recommendations for 2023-2024 Fisheries