

## EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

Pacific Fishery Management Council (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 the option to make a final recommendation on EFPs at this meeting, if appropriate.

Deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) became legal gear in Federal regulations in 2023 to fish in Federal waters off of California and Oregon. Therefore, an EFP is no longer necessary to use this gear type. This year the Council will not recommend issuance of EFPs to test simultaneous deployment of more than ten pieces of DSBG or more than ten pieces of night-set buoy gear (NSBG). The Council will begin considering and recommending issuance of EFPs for such purposes once the DSBG fishery has been operational for two seasons.

Two EFP applications were received as of the May 8, 2024, deadline from Stephen R. Mintz (Attachment 1) and Wesley Langowski (Attachment 2), both for NSBG.

### **Council Action:**

**Adopt preliminary or final exempted fishing permit applications, as appropriate.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 1: Exempted Fishing Permit Application from Stephen R. Mintz for NSBG.
2. Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 2: Exempted Fishing Permit Application from Wesley Langowski for NSBG.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

### **Agenda Order:**

- G.3 Exempted Fishing Permits Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Preliminary or Final Exempted Fishing Permit Applications, As Appropriate