

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) REPORT ON HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS) ACTIVITIES

Observer training

The West Coast Region Observer Program held new and refresher trainings July 7-18, 2025, in Long Beach, Newport Beach, and La Jolla, California. Observers have been deployed for HMS exempted fishing permits (EFP) activities.

Night-set buoy gear EFPs

On July 22, 2025, NMFS published a Federal Register Notice announcing the receipt of two new EFP applications. This notice also announces the Council recommendations on those EFPs announced during the June 2025 meeting ([90 FR 34440](#)). The public comment period is open through August 21, 2025.

Issuance of HMS EFPs

On June 3, 2025, NMFS issued two EFPs for exploratory fishing with extended linked buoy gear and five EFPs for fishing with midwater snap gear after completing Federal review, including Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act, and issuing a Record of Decision on the Final Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

PFMC
08/25/25