

G.4 Highly Migratory Species Roadmap: Exempted Fishing Permits Metrics and Benchmarks – Final

Council Tasks:

1. Confirm the FIW's recommendation to not develop 'acceptable levels of bycatch' and focus instead on benchmarks used to evaluate EFP performance.
2. Review the FIW's work to date to establish bycatch metrics and benchmarks for evaluating EFP performance and provide any feedback.
3. Consider and provide guidance on the FIW's current recommended species and species group list for evaluating EFP bycatch performance.
4. Consider and provide guidance on the FIW's updated preferred options for economic metrics and benchmarks for evaluating EFP economic viability.
5. Review the FIW's recommendations for developing EFP guidance and materials.
6. Consider proposed modifications to COP 20 and request the Executive Director return with updated COPs for Council adoption in June.

CDFW Motion G.4:

I move that the Council:

- 1) Endorse the FIW proposed edits to COP 20 ([Item G.4.a Supplemental FIW Report 2](#)) with the change to the EFP Data Reporting Timeline found in the HMSMT Report ([Item G.4.a. Supplemental HMSMT Report 1](#)) for adoption when next considered on a Council agenda.
- 2) Endorse the FIW recommendations in Agenda Item [G.4.a FIW Report 1](#), regarding:
 - a. The proposed economic metrics and benchmarks pending further recommendations in November;
 - b. The use of benchmarks rather than acceptable levels of bycatch for evaluating EFP performance;
 - c. The proposed list of species and species groups; and
 - d. The recommendations on EFP guidance and materials.
- 3) Direct the FIW to develop an overall bycatch benchmark and individual species/species group bycatch benchmarks (either counts, catch rates, or catch ratios depending on species or species group) using the proposed species list and the information described in the report.
- 4) The Highly Migratory Species Roadmap be revised as follows.
In the Action items section, item 1 b:

b. ~~Define acceptable levels of bycatch/bycatch mortality for protected and non-marketable species~~ Develop benchmarks for bycatch of identified species or species groups released dead to be used in evaluation and management of HMS EFPs. and authorized fisheries. (Also supports EFP Framework Development)

Bycatch benchmarks will be used to support Council consideration of whether to recommend that National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) renew HMS EFPs and to support Council evaluation of EFP results and potential recommended regulatory actions and/or FMP amendments, including authorization of new fishing gears or methods. Benchmarks are not regulatory in nature and will not be used as a basis for the Council to recommend that NMFS revoke EFPs.

Moved by John Ugoretz

Seconded by Christa Svensson

Motion passes unanimously