

2018 EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS (EFPs) – FINAL APPROVAL

The Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) allows for exempted fishing permit (EFP) activities to be conducted under a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Operating Procedure 23 describes the process for proposing EFPs, in which an initial notice of intent is submitted for consideration at the November Council meeting, with final action scheduled for the subsequent April Council meeting.

Two EFP proposals were submitted for the November 2017 Council meeting, and are included in April 2018 Briefing Book materials. One is for aerial survey work in Southern California, submitted by the California Wetfish Producers Association (Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1) and the other is primarily for biological sampling in the Pacific Northwest, submitted by the West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group (Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 2). If approved by the Council, the proponents would then apply to NMFS for the EFPs.

Council Action:

Approve EFP Proposals for 2018.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1: California Wetfish Producers Association Revised EFP Proposal.
2. Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 2: West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group EFP Proposal.
3. Agenda Item C.2.b, Public Comment 1.

Agenda Order:

- C.2 2018 Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) Final Approval Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Final Action to Adopt EFP Recommendations for 2018