

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS - FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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. In June, the Council preliminary approves applications and in September take final action on a recommendation for any applications receiving preliminary approval.

In June 2019, the Council received an application from Nathan Perez and Thomas Carson to test using deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) at night. Although the Council has used an expedited, one-meeting process to make recommendations on DSBG EFP applications, the Perez-Carson application presents a novel use of the gear (fishing at night) outside the scope of previous use of the gear. Therefore, the Council determined this application should be subject to the two-meeting process.

The Council did not request the applicants to submit a revised application so, for reference, the application submitted in June is provided here as Attachment 1. This second consideration of the application will allow additional public input on the merits of the application and further deliberation by the Council's advisory bodies.

The Council submits its recommendation to National Marine Fisheries Service, which, as appropriate, will subject the application to further review as required by applicable laws.

NMFS published a notice in the Federal Register on August 20, 2019, announcing that the 17 EFP applications recommended by the Council in June 2019 warrant further consideration and requesting public comment. The notice is included here as Attachment 2.

Council Action:

Final Recommendation on Perez-Carson EFP Application.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1: Exempted Fishing Permit Application from Nathan Perez and Thomas Carson.
2. Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 2: Federal Register Notice; Request for Comments (84FR43109).
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

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| I.3 Exempted Fishing Permits - Final Recommendations | Kit Dahl |
| a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| b. Public Comment | |
| c. Council Action: Final Recommendation on Perez-Carson EFP Application | |