

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP) PROCESS

The Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) allows for exempted fishing permit (EFP) activities to be conducted under a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). However, there is currently no Council Operating Procedure (COP) outlining the process. In recent years, the Council has considered proposals to conduct EFP activities at the March and April meetings.

The proposed COP 23 calls for initial notification of proposed EFP activities at the November meeting, at the same time that sardine harvest specifications are set by the Council. In addition, it allows flexibility such that EFP research that has already been supported by the Council and conducted under a NMFS-issued EFP, could be considered in a more efficient manner.

The Council adopted a draft COP 23 for public review at the September 2012 meeting (provided as Agenda Item G.2.a, Attachment 1), and is scheduled to give final approval at the November 2012 meeting. No comments were received on the draft COP 23 as of the November Briefing Book deadline

Council Action:

1. Adopt Final EFP Process (COP 23).

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.2.a, Attachment 1: Draft Council Operating Procedure 23.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final EFP Process (Council Operating Procedure 23)

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10/16/12