

## **Exempted Fishing Permit Annual Application Process**

The Alaska Regional Office has established an annual application process for EFPs, starting in 2020. The Alaska Regional Office has 2 application periods, as described below.

Application Deadline: May 1 or September 1, each year.

Presentation to and Review by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council:

- October meeting for May applicants
- February meeting for September applicants

Review Process: Applicants should plan on at least 8 to 12 months from the date of application submittal before the EFP is issued. For more complex projects, contact NMFS Alaska Regional Office at least 12 months ahead of desired EFP fishing start date. Review time depends on the complexity of the project, the type of NEPA review, and [North Pacific Fishery Management Council's](#) meeting schedule. If you plan to do an experiment, the design must be approved by the [Alaska Fisheries Science Center](#) before a permit may be issued. Applicants should work with the AFSC on the experimental design before submitting an EFP application.

Each EFP undergoes NEPA review. NMFS may be able to issue a categorical exclusion (which takes a minimal amount of time) or may need to write an environmental analysis of the impacts of issuing the EFP (which could take a long time). The application and NEPA document would support the decision-making and inform the public of the EFP project. There may be an ESA consultation required.

The Regional Administrator is also required to consult with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council before issuing an EFP. This required a **Federal Register** notice of the receipt of your application (published by NMFS) and may require a presentation of the EFP project to the Council by the applicant.

(Generic Timelines on next page)

## EFP Issuance Timeline\* - May Applicants

Dates	w/ EA or ESA Sect 7	w/ Categorical Excl & no ESA Sect 7
<b>May</b>	Initial contact by applicant; initial application submitted; NEPA Analysis / ESA Consultation initiated	Initial contact by applicant; determination on NEPA analysis & ESA consultation
<b>June</b>	Refine application as needed; EA & ESA analyses on-going	Initial Application submitted; Categorical Exclusion drafted
<b>July</b>	Draft NEPA analysis completed; ESA consultation completed; final draft application submitted; AFSC review requested	Final draft application submitted; AFSC review requested
<b>August</b>	AFSC review received; application revised and finalized; Council Consultation requested; ADFG, USCG, IPHC notified	AFSC review received; application revised and finalized; Council Consultation requested; ADFG, USCG, IPHC notified
<b>September</b>	FR Notice published	FR Notice published
<b>October</b>	Public comment period on application and EA ends; Council Consultation; Permit drafted	Public comment period on application ends; Council Consultation; Permit drafted
<b>November</b>	Regional review, GCAK /GC-ENF /OLE review	Regional review, GCAK /GC-ENF /OLE review
<b>December</b>	Permit Issued	Permit Issued
<b>January</b>	EFP fishing can begin	EFP fishing can begin

\* Timing could be longer depending on project complexity. For more complex projects, contact NMFS Alaska Regional Office at least 12 months ahead of desired EFP fishing start date.



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## EFP Issuance Timeline\* - September Applicants

Dates	w/ EA or ESA Sect 7	w/ Categorical Excl & no ESA Sect 7
<b>September</b>	Initial contact by applicant; initial application submitted; NEPA Analysis / ESA Consultation initiated	Initial contact by applicant; determination on NEPA analysis & ESA consultation
<b>October</b>	Refine application as needed; EA & ESA analyses on-going	Initial Application submitted; Categorical Exclusion drafted
<b>November</b>	Draft NEPA analysis completed; ESA consultation completed; final draft application submitted; AFSC review requested	Final draft application submitted; AFSC review requested
<b>December</b>	AFSC review received; application revised and finalized; Council Consultation requested; ADFG, USCG, IPHC notified	AFSC review received; application revised and finalized; Council Consultation requested; ADFG, USCG, IPHC notified
<b>January</b>	FR Notice published	FR Notice published
<b>February</b>	Public comment period on application and EA ends; Council Consultation; Permit drafted	Public comment period on application ends; Council Consultation; Permit drafted
<b>March</b>	Regional review, GCAK /GC-ENF /OLE review	Regional review, GCAK /GC-ENF /OLE review
<b>April</b>	Permit Issued	Permit Issued
<b>May</b>	EFP fishing can begin	EFP fishing can begin

\* Timing could be longer depending on project complexity. For more complex projects, contact NMFS Alaska Regional Office at least 12 months ahead of desired EFP fishing start date.



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