

Staff Summary for June 17-18, 2026

9. Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) Application**Today's Item**Information Action

Receive, consider, and potentially act on an EFP application (Commission tracking #2025-01) to collect data on commercial harvest of the southern subpopulation of Pacific sardine.

Staff recommends removing this item from the agenda; the applicant has withdrawn the application.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Department transmitted accepted EFP application to Commission June 20, 2026
- Published notice of receipt of EFP application June 27, 2026
- Application withdrawn April 20, 2026
- **Today discuss and consider removing consideration of this EFP application June 17-18, 2026**

Background

The Commission and Department jointly administer the EFP Program, authorized by the California Fisheries Innovation Act of 2018 (California Fish and Game Code Section 1022) and implemented through Section 91, Title 14. The program fosters innovation in California's marine fisheries by allowing limited, short-term exemptions from state fishing laws to test new management approaches or conduct research. Learn more about the program, at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/EFP> and <https://fgc.ca.gov/EFP>.

On May 5, 2025, Long Beach Bait Company, entity administrator Richard Ashley, submitted an EFP application for a Tier 4 EFP with a permit fee reduction to collect data on commercial harvest of the southern subpopulation of Pacific sardine using a habitat model to inform purse seine fishing south of Point Conception. On June 20, 2025, the Department transmitted acceptance of the EFP application to the Commission. On June 27, 2025, the Commission issued a Notice of Receipt of EFP Tracking ID#2025-01.

On April 20, 2026, the applicant notified the Department of their desire to withdraw the EFP application (Exhibit 1).

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation**

Commission staff: Under agenda item 1, remove this agenda item.

Exhibits

1. [Email from Owen Mulvey-McFerron, EFP Program Coordinator, Department Marine Region](#), received April 24, 2026

Motion (N/A)

From: Mulvey-Mcferron, Owen [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2026 1:58 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>; Ashcraft, Susan [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Newell, Caroline [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Maxey, Samara@Wildlife <[REDACTED]>; Ivens-Duran, Morgan [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Wildlife Experimental Fishing Permit Program <efp@wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: FW: EFP Application

Susan and Caroline,

The Department has received a request to rescind an EFP application from Richie Ashley and has accepted this request (see below).

This EFP application (FGC #2025-01) is now closed, and no further action by the Commission is needed.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Owen

Owen Mulvey-McFerron
EFP Program Coordinator
Marine Permitting Project
California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife | Marine Region
3883 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA, 92123
Phone: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Wildlife Experimental Fishing Permit Program

Sent: Friday, April 24, 2026 1:36 PM

To: Rich Ashley <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Brady, Briana <[REDACTED]>; Ugoretz, John <[REDACTED]>;
<[REDACTED]>; Wildlife Experimental Fishing Permit Program
<efp@wildlife.ca.gov>; Ivens-Duran, Morgan <[REDACTED]>;
<[REDACTED]>; Waggoner, Claire <[REDACTED]>;
Kord, Eric <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: EFP Application

Mr. Ashley,

The Department has received your request to rescind your EFP application and has officially closed your application.

Thank you for your patience and coordination with us through this process.

If you have any further questions or wish to apply for another EFP in the future, please let us know.

Thanks,

Owen

Owen Mulvey-McFerron

EFP Program Coordinator
Marine Permitting Project
California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife | Marine Region
3883 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA, 92123

Phone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Rich Ashley <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 5:41 PM

To: Wildlife Experimental Fishing Permit Program <efp@wildlife.ca.gov>

Cc: Brady, Briana [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Ugoretz, John [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>

Subject: EFP Application

[REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

This email pertains to the EFP application from Richard Ashley and Long Beach Bait Company.

With is email, I am rescinding my application to fish the Southern Subpopulation of Pacific Sardine for directed harvest. I has been deemed that recent action by the PFMC makes this not a viable proposal at this time.

Please reach out if you require any further information on my part.

Respectfully,

Richard Ashley

Long Beach Bait Company

F/V Provider

F/V LB Carnage