

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS (EFPs) FOR 2008

Exempted fishing permits (EFPs) provide a process for testing innovative fishing gears and strategies to substantiate methods for prosecuting sustainable and risk-averse fishing opportunities. Applications for EFPs proposed for 2008 are provided as Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachments 1 through 4. The first two proposed EFPs are designed to test different commercial hook-and-line gear configurations and strategies to selectively harvest abundant chilipepper rockfish off central California. The third proposed EFP, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and Environmental Defense, seeks to test hook and line and trap gears in central California in a harvesting cooperative using limited entry trawl permits purchased by The Nature Conservancy. The fourth EFP, sponsored by the Recreational Fishing Alliance and the Golden Gate Fishermen's Association, seeks to test the use of recreational hook and line gear to catch underutilized chilipepper and slope rockfish on Commercial Party Fishing Vessels in north central California in waters seaward of the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) between Pigeon Point and 40°10' N latitude.

The Council reviewed all four EFP applications in June and recommended revisions for each. These revisions were communicated to the EFP applicants and revised applications were submitted. Under this agenda item, the Council will review these revised EFP applications, consider public and advisory body comments, and consider recommending 2008 EFP applications to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Council Action:

Consider the revised EFP applications for 2008 and provide final recommendations to NMFS.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 1: Application for Issuance of an Exempted Fishing Permit to Test a Sustainable Hook and Line Fishery for Chilipepper Rockfish Outside the Non Trawl RCA in Central California (40°10' N Lat.-34°27' N Lat.).
2. Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 2: Exempted Fishing Permit – Chilipepper Rockfish.
3. Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 3: Application for Issuance of an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to Fish Trawl Permits with Longline, Trap, Pot, and Hook-and-Line Gear In A Community Based Fishing Association off the Central California Coast.
4. Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 4: RFA/GGFA Exempted Fishery Permit Proposal for 2008: Recreational Rockfish Catch Composition in the Area Seaward of Rockfish Conservation Area.
5. Agenda Item D.2.d, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Agency and Tribal Comments
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Action: Adopt Final Recommendations for EFPs

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