

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

October 14, 2009

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2 Statement of purpose and goals of the experiment for which an EFP is needed, including a general description of the arrangements for disposition of all species harvested under the EFP.

We request approval by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) for an EFP to allow The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to continue work under the EFP approved by the Council in November 2007 and in September 2008, to employ up to six Limited Entry Trawl "A" permits using longline, trap, pot, and hook-and-line gear by leasing those permits to no more than six fishermen. Further, as was done in 2008 and 2009, we request permission to use these permits under shared aggregate catch limits for target and bycatch species that are not subject to existing trawl trip limits, but would be subject to a harvest plan that includes

measures to manage the pace of the EFP fishery. These exemptions to the rules governing Limited Entry Trawl permits are necessary to conduct the CBFA experiment. We are not proposing any changes in the EFP project design, but for ease of reference, we have incorporated the same description of the project from the 2009 application.

This second year of the Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) will allow us to continue to test the proposition that establishing a cooperatively managed, community based fishing association that employs trawl licenses to use longline, trap, pot, and hook-and-line gear off the Central California coast, under shared aggregate catch limits for target and bycatch species, can provide several important benefits. This project will continue alongside other related projects in which permits have been leased back to trawl and Scottish seine operations in order to allow us to see the benefits of diversified fishing effort. Under the EFP, the applicants will test whether granting the option of switching from trawl gear to fixed gear types can be manageable and, perhaps, desirable within the larger groundfish fishery management structure. The EFP will also test whether forming relationships among fishermen under a cooperative structure with shared catch limits and several unique elements would mitigate the impact of trawl effort reduction or removal on associated communities and fishermen in these areas.

The applicants propose that reduced bycatch of overfished species and the higher value of target species caught by converting some trawl effort to longline, trap, pot, and hook-and-line gear will improve both the environmental and economic performance of the local groundfish fishery. Further, establishing a community based co-management entity may improve monitoring and compliance in the fishery, and benefit the community by ensuring access to the resource. Because the six trawl permits based in Morro Bay were purchased by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and trawling effort has not been replaced in the area – with the exception of one trawler who is working on a project in cooperation with TNC - the permits could be re-deployed without severe impacts on other fishermen or other fishing ports.

Community based co-management has been identified as a tool for enhancing management and economic benefits in fisheries. The trawl fishery of the Central Coast of California provides a unique opportunity to test this idea in a real-world situation with features not found in current cooperatively-managed fisheries. These features include:

1. Multi-species fishery with several severely depressed stocks and constraining overfished species catch limits;
2. Single owner of multiple permits who can facilitate formation of a cooperative fishing arrangement;
3. Approved, economically viable, more selective alternative gear technologies available; and,
4. Future rationalization that will include gear switching opportunities and may include other provisions that would affect and enable communities' ability to establish this type of fishing enterprise to promote community stability.

To conduct this test, TNC will lease up to six of its Limited Entry Trawl “A” permits, under the exemptions and requirements described in this proposal, to no more than six fishermen to fish using longline, trap, pot, and hook-and-line gear under shared aggregate catch limits

for target species and bycatch. TNC will be the entity responsible for developing the lease arrangements under which fishermen will participate in this EFP and for enforcing the terms of their use, and for ensuring that implementation of this EFP is accountable to state and federal regulatory and reporting requirements.

Further, TNC is working with fishermen participating in the EFP and the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization, the Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association, the City of Morro Bay, the Port San Luis Harbor District, the Department of Fish and Game, and Environmental Defense Fund to develop the terms of the arrangement under which these fishermen will operate on a cooperative basis pursuant to the terms of the EFP. This arrangement will be referred to throughout this proposal as a "community based fishing association" or CBFA. The conditions for this arrangement will be established in the terms and conditions of the lease agreements and reinforced by the terms and conditions of the EFP.

2.1 Background on this EFP and 2010 Activities

This project builds on the foundation laid in the 2008 and 2009 EFPs. Extending the project to a third year of operation under an EFP in 2010 will support the Council's groundfish management goals, maximize the usefulness of the lessons learned, further cement relationships between environmental groups and the commercial fishing industry and provide insight into how the community fishing association created through the EFP will continue through, and beyond, coming management changes in the fishery. In addition, extension to a third year will allow us to respond to lessons learned from an electronic monitoring test conducted in partnership with NOAA's West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) in 2008 and more fully develop monitoring systems which may be informative to implementation of the trawl rationalization program. The extension would provide sufficient data and experience for the partners in this effort to decide if and how to formalize a community based fishing entity and cooperative fishing in this area into a permanent fishing enterprise that could hold fishing privileges and oversee cooperative conservation and management activities. Finally, it will allow the project and the demonstration fishery to continue to operate and provide continued benefit to the Morro Bay/Port San Luis area until the IFQ program is implemented and a permanent arrangement is established.

The Council approved the 2009 EFP in September 2008, NMFS issued the 2009 EFP in May and fishing has been underway since June. We have identified eligible and willing participants (including the return of all three 2008 participants), hired NOAA-trained observers, and made progress on developing the guidelines and harvest plan that will guide implementation and other key milestones. Building on 2008 efforts, we are working to develop incentives to encourage and test more diversified target strategies this year. In addition, TNC worked with WCGOP in 2008 to use the EFP as a platform to test the feasibility of using electronic monitoring (EM) as a component of meeting full accountability requirements. While overall compliance with the EM requirements was outstanding last year, the project revealed some opportunities for improvement. WCGOP does not plan to deploy EM on the EFP in 2009, but we are revising our data collection protocols in 2009 and conducting additional analysis of data collected in 2008 in response to feedback from WCGOP. We believe this EFP project is an outstanding platform to implement a more rigorous EM project in 2010 if capacity and resources permit.

2.2 Disposition of species to be harvested under the EFP

All species caught within the limits authorized for the EFP may be retained and sold by the vessel. All rockfish caught will be retained and, following a dockside census, may be sold by the vessel, except that canary rockfish, yelloweye rockfish, and cowcod may not be sold.

3 **Justification for Issuance of the EFP, including potential impacts of issuing the EFP.**

There are three main points that justify the issuance of this EFP through 2010:

1. It will further the goals and objectives of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.
2. It will provide information regarding the mechanics of trawl IFQ process by providing experience with gear switching, community-based management, and improving monitoring efforts – all of which are or could be important elements of the trawl IFQ program.
3. It will test ways to reduce the impacts on small fishing communities from the trawl IFQ program.

Furthering the Goals of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan: This EFP is designed to test the ability of a community based fishing association that uses gear-switching and shared aggregate catch limits to better achieve Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PCGFMP) goals and objectives. The goals of the PCGFMP are to prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks, prevent habitat loss, maximize the value of the groundfish resource, and to provide opportunities to utilize abundant stocks to the extent possible within the constraints of overfished species rebuilding requirements. However, the current management system provides few positive incentives or opportunities for fishermen to change the way they do business to meet the PCGFMP rebuilding or habitat protection objectives. In addition, regulatory obstructions exist to fishermen being allowed the flexibility to manage their fishing operations in a way that would enhance the value of their catch while reducing their costs. By permitting the use of trawl permits with fixed gear (which will likely offer some improvements in habitat impacts and selectivity), with shared aggregate catch limits, under collective decision-making on pooled access to the resource, this EFP will test the efficacy of a community based fishing association and gear switching as mechanisms for better aligning management and fishing incentives.

Informing Trawl Rationalization: This EFP will approximate some of the conditions that could follow implementation of an IFQ program for the West Coast trawl fishery. Fishermen will likely be confronted with highly constrained limits on target species and bycatch of overfished species, as well as additional regulatory costs (i.e. monitoring). Fishermen may choose a number of strategies to maximize the value of their catch while staying within constraints, including switching gears and pooling effort through a community based entity or other such arrangement as provided for in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA). This entity could be charged with making decisions regarding deployment of fishing effort within constraints established by the Council, for determining distribution of limited human observer coverage across this fishery, and for developing strategies and incentives to achieve harvest targets while remaining below aggregate catch limits for overfished/rebuilding species. Managing quota under an IFQ

program collectively may provide additional conservation and economic benefits, but it will be important that provisions in the IFQ regulations are developed so that these types of arrangements are allowed so that communities like these have the opportunity to retain their traditional groundfish industries.

The trawl IFQ options currently under review call for 100% observer coverage. This EFP will similarly utilize 100% observer coverage and will provide practical and valuable information on how a community would employ and manage observers. Observer coverage is very costly and this new requirement under the IFQ program – if the cost is shifted to the industry – could be prohibitive. While full accountability is necessary and desirable under the IFQ program, it may be worthwhile to think creatively about how to meet this need. In 2008, EM systems were deployed on all participating vessels and, based on what was learned, changes have been made in monitoring and recordkeeping protocols in 2009. It is the proponents' intent to field test these protocols with EM again in 2010. By acting in a coordinated manner, fishermen may be able to reduce costs while still providing required information to managers. Furthermore, the EFP will illuminate the challenges of monitoring and managing a community based fishing association in the context of the larger west coast groundfish fishery. The EFP will also provide information on costs of management under a rationalized fishery.

In addition, the EFP will provide practical experience in developing a working relationship between the community based fishing association, the PFMC, and NOAA Fisheries. Through lease agreements, The Nature Conservancy – acting for and in collaboration with the community based fishing association - will hold participants to constraints specified in the EFP, and ensure compliance with the regulatory and reporting requirements established by the PFMC the regulatory and reporting processes established by the PFMC, the State of California, and NOAA Fisheries. This will provide insights as to how community based organizations in the future might be used to assist managers in getting timely information about the fishery including members' compliance with regulatory requirements.

Reducing Impacts on Fishing Communities: Evidence suggests that cooperative, community based fishing associations offer an opportunity to strengthen fisheries on the West Coast. Regulations to rebuild stocks and protect habitat promote fisheries sustainability and address the consequences of overcapacity, but at a very high economic and social price to fishing communities. Public perceptions about trawl fishing practices, market dislocations, increasing costs and diminishing harvest opportunities, as well as buyouts to reduce capacity have taken their toll on communities that rely on the groundfish trawl fleet. On a large scale, rationalization of the trawl fleet is likely a net benefit, but its effects on a community scale are less clear. Community fishing associations could provide an opportunity for fishermen to coordinate their efforts, pool resources, and make collective investments in fishery infrastructure, in order to optimize the value of the resource, meet rebuilding and habitat conservation requirements, and preserve fishing heritage. This part of the experiment is consistent with PCGFMP objectives to provide for the sustained participation of fishing communities, and minimize adverse economic impacts.

The use of shared aggregate catch limits for target species and bycatch proposed by this EFP will allow the community based fishing association to take steps that are likely to improve the opportunity offered to fishermen and the community, including through the following means:

1. Enhancing harvest efficiency– by coordinating on harvest, members can reduce costs of harvest by sharing information, eliminating redundant effort, diversifying effort, and reducing the incentive to stuff capital.
2. Commanding increased price – switching to longline, trap, pot, or hook-and-line gear is likely to deliver a higher quality or preferred product that may command a higher price.
3. Pooling risk – by sharing an aggregate catch limit for bycatch, the group is able to spread compliance risk across members and minimize effort associated with individual fishing operations, including the race to fish. This could enable more targeted harvesting, and has the potential to raise revenues and reduce costs.

While community based fishing associations that operate under shared caps and facilitate gear switching will likely prove to be a valuable approach in many places around the country, practical experience is extremely limited.

4 Statement of whether the proposed EFP has broader significance than the applicant’s individual goals.

While cooperative management has been used successfully in fisheries throughout the world, there is less knowledge about how such an approach could work on the West Coast, in a constrained multispecies fishery, within the management options created by new provisions of the MSFCMA which allow the establishment of community based entities as part of Limited Access Privilege Programs, such as IFQ programs. This EFP will provide managers with insights into how a fishing association could work to achieve PFMC/NOAA Fisheries’ strategic goals for groundfish and FMP objectives; information that will be useful in development of regulations or guidelines governing establishment of CFAs or other community based approaches pursuant to language in the MSFCMA (Sec. 303A(c)(4)).

Management measures related to rationalization, such as the trawl IFQ program, will require enhanced monitoring, because such programs emphasize individual accountability to catch limits. This EFP will explore how to structure cost-effective and responsive monitoring system - from the perspective of both fishermen and fishery managers.

5 Expected total duration of the EFP

This EFP will be valid for at least one year, and will allow the continuation of a demonstration project initiated under an EFP in 2008 and continued in 2009. This demonstration project is intended to lay the groundwork for a permanent fishing enterprise that could hold fishing privileges and oversee cooperative conservation and management activities.

6 Number of vessels covered under the EFP

This EFP will use six Limited Entry Trawl “A” permits held by The Nature Conservancy and will include no more than six fishery participants and will employ no more than six vessels.

7 A description of the species (target and incidental) to be harvested under the EFP and the amount(s) of such harvest necessary to conduct the experiment; this description should include harvest estimates of overfished species

This proposal requests an Exempted Fishing Permit be issued to The Nature Conservancy to grant permission to lease up to six Limited Entry Trawl “A” permits to fishermen for use

with longline, trap, pot, and hook-and-line gear. Further, we request permission to use these permits under a shared aggregate catch limit and, rather than be subject to existing trawl trip limits, be subject to measures established by the fishing association to pace fishing effort throughout the year. (See section 12)

Under this EFP, TNC will lease up to six permits to a specified set of participants in the fishing association who will have the opportunity to fish up to specified aggregate catch limits of target species and bycatch species. If the fishing association is on track to exceed its bycatch cap prior to reaching its target species cap, then fishing under the EFP will end (prior to its reaching the target species aggregate catch limits).

7.1 Proposed Catch Limits for Target Species

For the 2008 EFP, the following species were identified, through an examination of catch histories of the six permits that are the subject of this proposal, Morro Bay ex-vessel revenue data, and interviews with Central Coast fishermen, to have been historically harvested under the six trawl permits used for this experiment and to be accessible in commercially viable amounts using gear specified in this proposal. There is one exception to this last statement – flatfish are included here in greatly reduced amounts compared to trawl landings and it is unlikely that these caps will be reached during the course of this EFP.

For the requested 2010 EFP, we propose that the list of species for which aggregate catch limits are requested remain the same as was approved by the PFMC in 2008 and 2009. With regard to the aggregate catch limits proposed for each species, we would develop proposed amounts for 2010 following a similar rationale to that used for establishing the 2009 levels.

Species:	Aggregate Catch Limit approved for EFP in 2009:	Aggregate Catch Limit requested for EFP in 2010:
Sablefish	165 mt	300 mt
Southern Slope Rockfish	50 mt	60 mt
Blackgill Rockfish	20 mt	40 mt
Longspine thornyhead	60 mt	30 mt
Shortspine thornyhead	60 mt	60 mt
Lingcod	15 mt	15 mt
<i>Other:</i>		
Chilipepper rockfish	20 mt	20 mt
Splitnose Rockfish	1000 lbs	1 mt
<i>Flatfish:</i>		
Dover sole	10 mt	10 mt
Petrale sole	10 mt	6 mt
Other flatfish	10 mt	10 mt

The aggregate catch limit requested for sablefish was based on the catch history of the six permits purchased by The Nature Conservancy in 2006, which provides a good starting point because this trawl capacity was removed very recently from the Conception Area and has not been replaced.

Aggregate catch limits for species other than sablefish are based on estimates of catch history, potential catch deemed necessary by the applicants to effectively prosecute the EFP, interest from fishermen likely to participate in catching these species, and the need to minimize adverse impacts on other fishermen and areas.

7.2 Proposed Catch Limits for Rebuilding Species

In 2008, aggregate catch limits for rebuilding species were recommended by the California Department of Fish and Game and further refined by the PFMC based on the overfished species scorecard. Recognizing the complex issues related to allocating overfished species, we propose to work with the PFMC to develop appropriate hardcaps for overfished species in 2010 based on additional information on stock status, GMT deliberations, and the development of the 2010 scorecard. The 2009 EFP aggregate catch limits may serve as a starting point for that process:

Species:	Aggregate Catch Limit approved for EFP in 2009:	Aggregate Catch Limit suggested for EFP in 2010:
Canary Rockfish	50 lbs	50 lbs
Yelloweye Rockfish	150 lbs	150 lbs
Widow Rockfish	2 mt	2 mt
Darkblotched Rockfish	1000 lbs	1 mt
Pacific Ocean Perch	300 lbs	300 lbs
Cowcod	440 lbs	440 lbs
Bocaccio	5 mt	5 mt

The only proposed increase in an aggregate catch limit for a rebuilding species is for darkblotched rockfish. This reflects the proposed increase in southern slope rockfish and blackgill rockfish. We assumed a bycatch rate for darkblotched rockfish of 0.5% - 1% of southern slope rockfish catches. This assumption is based on personal communication with NOAA-training observers familiar with the local fishery and bycatch rates observed under the EFP to date. In addition, fishing effort under the 2008 and 2009 EFPs have been voluntarily restricted to depths greater than 175 fathoms (the EFP required fishing occur in waters deeper than 150 fathoms). This additional measure is deemed necessary by all fishermen to manage risk and avoid darkblotched bycatch. A small increase in darkblotched rockfish is requested to further enable efforts to diversify harvests.

All caps will be apportioned to individual vessels within the fishing association to achieve the goals of the EFP.

8 Infrastructure to monitor, process data, and administer the EFP.

The Nature Conservancy will be the entity to which the EFP, if approved, is issued and the entity principally responsible for managing implementation of this EFP.

- 8.1 The Nature Conservancy will manage all fishing leases and will be responsible for enforcing the terms that govern their use. This will include working with fishermen to establish lease terms that reflect the purposes and goals of this EFP. TNC will be responsible for ensuring accountability to relevant State and Federal regulatory and legal requirements.

- 8.2 Data collection, analysis, and reporting will be managed by a dedicated project manager under contract to The Nature Conservancy and who works closely with a local community based fishery association committee (“the Committee”) that is comprised of representatives of the sponsors of this proposal and the participants in this EFP.
- 8.3 The project manager’s responsibilities include but are not limited to the following tasks:
- Facilitating communication among EFP participants;
 - Ensuring that no vessel is allowed to fish without an observer and that observer work guidelines are complied with;
 - Monitoring and enforcing compliance of vessels with the terms and conditions of the EFP;
 - Collecting and compiling socioeconomic and other fishery data; and,
 - Preparing, in cooperation with the Committee and others, as appropriate, reports to the PFMC on progress under this EFP.
- 8.4 At-sea monitoring will be done by NOAA-trained observers under contract between TNC and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission with costs covered jointly by project sponsors.
- 8.5 Data collection and processing for the research questions presented in the proposal will be managed as follows:
- Information regarding the operation of the community based fishing association will be compiled by the project manager working in close coordination with the participants and the Committee.
 - Economic data will be collected by the project manager and analyzed by an economist under contract to The Nature Conservancy for this purpose.
- 8.6 A Committee has been formed that will serve as the board of the proposed community based fishing association. This Committee includes representatives from the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen’s Organization, the Port San Luis Commercial Fisherman’s Association, the City of Morro Bay, the Port San Luis Harbor District, The Nature Conservancy, and Environmental Defense Fund. The Committee’s responsibilities include:
- Implementing a process to choose participants including, developing the application, distributing it to likely participants, screening for eligibility, and – in the event more than six eligible fishermen indicate interest – the Committee will convene an impartial selection panel to make the final recommendation regarding selection;
 - Overseeing development of the EFP harvest plan with participating fishermen;
 - Overseeing the budget;
 - Overseeing the project manager; and,
 - Ensuring compliance with all EFP reporting requirements.

9 Mechanism to ensure that the harvest limits for targeted and overfished species are not exceeded and are accurately accounted for.

All participating vessels will be required to land fish in Morro Bay or Port San Luis. Harvest limits for each vessel will be established by the fishing association through the harvest plan. Catch information will be monitored using observer data collected at-sea and fishery landing receipts. Catches of rockfish will also be monitored through a dockside census of retained rockfish. All participants will enter into data sharing agreements as a condition of the lease agreement to facilitate access to fishery information and will be required to submit copies of catch information to the project manager within 48 hours after each fishing trip taken under this EFP.

Total landings and discard of all species will be accounted for by the project manager who will provide regular reports. For in-season monitoring relative to catch limits, data on catches will be collected on a by-permit basis and cumulatively for the EFP from observer data and tracked relative to aggregate catch limits, and reported every two weeks to NOAA Fisheries. The project manager will move to more frequent tracking as the EFP approaches its catch limits. All fishing will cease prior to attaining the aggregate catch limits associated with this EFP. Any unintentional overages will be reported to NMFS as quickly as possible.

Although this proposal requests an exemption from trip limits, the purposes for establishing trip limits including pacing and maintaining the fishery throughout the year, reducing discards, and protecting overfished species, are extremely important. Before fishing may commence, the fishing association will develop specific guidelines in a harvest plan that describes how fishing under the EFP will achieve these purposes.

10 Description of the proposed data collection and analysis methodology

10.1 In what ways can a community-based fishing association help to meet management objectives while simultaneously improving the economics of the fishery and the fishing community?

The Central Coast represents a unique set of circumstances for developing a cooperative fishing association, referred to in this project as a CBFA focused on both economic optimization and improved management performance. Historically, the majority of Morro Bay and Port San Luis fisheries' access to the groundfish resource has been through their trawl fleet. While other forms of fishing activity take place in these communities, trawlers from these areas have been responsible, for example, for up to a quarter of the sablefish harvest in the Conception Area.

Changing economics, increasing costs of doing business, and regulations have driven many fishermen who trawled to seek other options – many of them choosing to sell their permits and find other ways to earn their livings. These individual decisions have taken their toll on these communities as well. Within the prospect of rationalization of the trawl sector and individual quotas, looms the possibility that remaining access will soon move permanently to the north and access for central coast communities to the resource off their shores will be lost.

Provisions in the reauthorization of the MSFCMA provide for the creation of community-based entities as a way for fishing communities to cooperate and maintain access to the resource under a quota share program. This project provides a practical opportunity to

develop a fishing association that can improve the conservation performance of the fishery (particularly with regard to bycatch of depleted species), provide economic opportunity for fishermen, improve accountability to managers, and enhance community stability and other benefits from the fishery.

Following the 2008 EFP, the process of establishing a CBFA, selecting members, developing performance benchmarks and harvest plans, and its operation during the fishing year was documented in the form of a first year report to the PFMC and NMFS. For the 2010 EFP, we will document the third year of operation of the community based fishing association, focusing on refinements in governance, data collection and management, monitoring, harvest planning, and organization that will emerge from this experience.

10.2 How does the economic performance of the fishery change under gear switching and cooperative local management?

Fishing under the 2010 EFP will produce more economic information and will be able to provide additional information on the contributions of the community based fishing association to the well-being of the community and the viability of the enterprise. More information is critical to understanding whether we are able to meet our community goals as we will have worked through many of the inevitable challenges associated with starting an enterprise like this, as artifacts introduced by start-up challenges will be less of a confounding variable in the interpretation of performance data.

Through this project, we will provide information on changes in fishing behavior, revenue, marketing opportunities, distribution channels, product value, and costs of monitoring. In addition, as in 2009 we will gather information and report on the socioeconomic consequences at the community level and other relevant information.

11 Description of how vessels will be chosen to participate in the EFP

TNC will be responsible for developing the lease agreements under which the six Limited Entry Trawl “A” Permits that are the subject of this EFP will be fished and will be responsible for enforcing the terms of their use, including, but not limited to, monitoring and observer requirements, data collection and information sharing, participation in the fishing association and compliance with association guidelines regarding implementation of the fishery, distribution of target and bycatch species, and mechanisms to pace the fishery throughout the year. Failure to comply with lease conditions and agree upon association guidelines will result in revocation of permission to fish under the EFP.

The selection process will be run by the Committee described in section 8.5. Eligible applicants are those that meet the following criteria, developed jointly by the applicants:

- Meets PFMC eligibility requirements for participating in an EFP fishery as described in Council Operating Procedure No. 19.
- Experience using specified gear, with preference given to those with experience fishing in the geographic area of study.
- Willingness and ability to land in Morro Bay or Port San Luis.
- Access to a suitable vessel that meets Coast Guard safety requirements and can carry an observer.

Interested fishermen in the Central Coast area will be given the opportunity to complete an application to aid in determining their eligibility. A final participant selection process to narrow down participants will include an impartial selection committee convened and overseen by the Committee.

12 For each vessel, the approximate time and places fishing will take place, and the type, size and amount of gear to be used

Under this EFP, no more than six vessels will use longline, trap, pot, and hook-and-line gear and will have the opportunity to fish between the date the 2010 EFP is issued and December 2010. Fishing will be constrained to the area between 36°00' North latitude (Point Lopez) and 34°27' North latitude (Point Conception) and in waters outside of the seaward boundary of the Rockfish Conservation Areas (deeper than 150 fathoms).

All fishing by EFP vessels will be done in compliance with state and federal regulations, with the exception of the exemptions granted by this EFP.

Vessels will be required to land fish in Morro Bay or Port San Luis.

Participants in the fishing association and the Committee will work cooperatively to develop a harvest plan for the fishing association that describes how fishing under the EFP will proceed. This plan will describe the requirements for participation in the EFP and the penalties for failure to comply. In addition to specifically describing the structure of the association, the specific goals and purposes – as described in this EFP, and the group's decision-making process, roles and responsibilities and communication requirements.

13 Signature of applicant (on behalf of all applicants)



Erika Feller, Marine Project Director
California Coastal & Marine Program
The Nature Conservancy