

Oregon Recreational Yellowtail Rockfish EFP Application

A. Date of application
May 27, 2009

B. Applicants

Southern Oregon Sport Fishermen
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Oregon Anglers
Contact:

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C. Statement of purpose and goals

This is an application for a renewal with minor changes to an existing EFP. The existing is either running or in the late stages of permitting. This EFP will test the possibility of conducting a recreational fishery targeting an underutilized species using special gear. This gear will be designed to avoid and/or minimize impacts on species of concern. Full retention of all rockfish species will be required.

D. Justification for EFP

In the next few years recreational fishing depth and area closures are to become the most constraining in history. This is due primarily to one species, yelloweye rockfish. These closures apply to the entire water column for most groundfish FMP species. Yelloweye reside near the bottom in select habitats. Midwater species exist in relative abundance, yet are inaccessible. It is believed that special gear can be developed which can provide access to midwater species without causing any additional impacts to yelloweye rockfish. Bottom habitat is all that needs protection from hooking impacts. This could provide increased opportunity for recreational fisheries and relieve fishing pressure on nearshore species. Increased opportunity is something that has been lacking for many years of incremental constraints on all fisheries. This EFP will allow legal retention of prohibited species for comprehensive utilization of limited data sources.

E. Broader significance and fleetwide applicability

Recreational midwater specific gear can be used by anglers to access underutilized fish stocks without undue complication for enforcement. Only a longer leader and a float differentiate this gear from standard practice.

F. Duration of EFP

One year with a possible renewal application in June of 2010 if necessary.

G. Number of vessels covered under this EFP.

There will be a total of 10 recreational charter vessels covered. They are as follows:

1. Capt. Ken Butler, *Prowler*, Bandon, OR (541) 347-3508
2. Capt. Jon Brown, *Kerri-Lin*, Garibaldi, OR (503) 355-2439
3. Capt. Darrel Harper, *Umatilla II*, Newport, OR (541) 867-4470
4. Capt. Lars Robison, *Sampson*, Depoe Bay, OR (541) 765-2545
5. Capt. Mick Buell, *Norwest*, Garibaldi, OR (503) 322-0007
6. Capt. Wayne Butler, *Mis-Chief*, Bandon, OR (541) 347-9126
7. Capt. Joe Ockenfels, *Siggi-G*, Garibaldi, OR (503) 322-3285
8. Capt. Mike Sorenson, *Miss Raven*, Newport, OR (541) 867-4470
9. Capt. Bob Bales, *D&D*, Garibaldi, OR (503) 322-0007
10. Capt. Bill Whitmer, *Shamrock*, Charleston, OR (541) 888-9021

Alternate Vessel

Capt. Bill Whitmer, *Betty Kay*, Charleston, OR (541) 888-9021

H. Description of species and amounts.

Target species are yellowtail rockfish. Expected encounters of overfished species include widow, canary, and yelloweye rockfish. A bag limit of 15 rockfish will be used and this quantity is the base for impact estimates.

There will be 10 vessels and 12 anglers average per trip. There will be 30 trips. This will result in 360 angler-days.

Total estimated impacts (caps):

Widow = 3.0 mt	(ref.)3,529 fish x 0.85 kg(ODFW 1993-1999)
Canary = 2.6 mt	1620 fish x 1.58 kg
Yelloweye = 0.2 mt	90 fish x 2.18 kg

The above impacts by weight will be the total caps for this EFP. A reference catch rate by average number of fish per angler per trip will be monitored for the duration of this project.

Overfished species maximum catch rate:

- Widow rockfish 10 per angler
- Canary rockfish 4.5 per angler
- Yelloweye rockfish 0.25 per angler

I. Monitoring

At-sea on board observers will be used on all trips. These observers will be PSFMC certified groundfish observers. They will be provided through ODFW sampling and observer programs.

J. Data collection and analysis methodology

Monitoring and data.

Direction of observer coverage will be under Mr. Don Bodenmiller ODFW Marine Resources Program. ODFW will monitor, through observers, catch rates and progress toward project caps. Data will be recorded at a “drift” level. Drift level recording will make statistical comparison with existing ODFW long leader research easier. All overfished species will be “lengthed and sexed.” Observers will gather species needed for biological analysis. Individual trips will not proceed if observer coverage is unavailable. Observer bookings must be made in advance of anticipated trips. If the bycatch caps are reached the project will be terminated. If the bycatch rate (section H) is being exceeded the project will be suspended until needed changes allowed within this EFP can be determined and implemented. Timely observer communication regarding ongoing catch rates will be a top priority.

Analysis.

Direction of data collection and analysis will be under Mr. Bob Hannah ODFW Marine Resources Program. Bycatch rates resulting from prosecution of this EFP will be compared to similar data from fisheries, fisheries projection models, and ODFW long leader research. This can be done geographically and/or using nonparametric statistical testing. The success criteria would be for the bycatch rates for overfished species to be significantly less than the nearshore fishery.

K. Criteria for vessel selection

Vessels have been chosen based on the individual owner/ captain history of successful participation with prior fishery management monitoring and special projects and no known fishery violations.

L. Time, place and gear.

Time

Fishing will take place between late spring and early fall. This is the normal weather friendly window and also in between the possible all depth recreational seasons.

Location

Fishing will be conducted offshore of Oregon between 42° 00.00' N lat. and 46° 18.00' N lat. Where possible, trips will be evenly distributed between the ports. Some port bias may be necessary due to availability of participating resources.

Depth

The project will be conducted in any area seaward of 40 fathoms.

Gear.

The gear to be used will be designed to locate hooking gear in a midwater location to avoid bottom dwelling species. The proposed gear for this fishery will employ the use of a long leader between sinker and hooks. The purpose will be to elevate the hooking gear above the bottom a sufficient distance to avoid and or minimize contact with species of concern. Leader

lengths of 30, 40 and 60 feet may be tested. A starting point will be a leader of 30 feet. A change of length will only be made if incidental impacts are high or access to target species is low without high incidental impacts. A float will be affixed to the upper end of the leader. The purpose of this float is to prevent hooking gear from descending below the upper level of the leader. The float must have sufficient buoyancy to support all hooking gear and line above equivalent to leader length. Current tests show that a buoyancy of 2.25 ounces would be sufficient. Floats must be constructed of solid material. They can be either wood or closed cell high density foam. No hollow floats allowed. Maximum number of hooks is to conform to current regulation (3). Small plastic worms and flies will be used. Weighted hooks, bait and large lures will be prohibited.

(note): The leader length is for reference purposes only. The determinant shall be the distance between the sinker and the lowest hook. It is this dimension that will be the rule.

M. Signatures

Wayne Butler

John Holloway