

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received brief overviews from exempted fishing permit (EFP) applicants and recommends that all of the EFPs go forward with the following modifications:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) EFP

- The GAP recommends that 200 mt of sablefish be allocated to this EFP. The allocation for 2009 is 165 mt, and TNC is requesting an increase to 300 mt in 2010 to allow for a longer fishing season. The GAP feels that an increase of that size in the face of a decreasing sablefish TAC is unjustified, and believes that 200 mt should provide ample opportunity for a longer season for all 6 permits.
- The GAP recommends that 2 mt of petrale be allocated to this EFP. TNC has requested 6 mt, but has caught 0 pounds to date. Given the likelihood that petrale harvests will be significantly reduced in 2010 and beyond, and the belief that the EFP is unlikely to harvest even 2 mt using fixed gear, the GAP believes that this level of allocation is adequate to meet EFP needs.
- The GAP recommends leaving the darkblotched limit unchanged (i.e. maintain the limit of 1000 pounds instead of increasing the limit to 1 metric ton). This EFP has caught very little darkblotched over both seasons (32 pounds to date in 2009) so an increase in the limit doesn't make sense.
- The GAP recommends allocating 75 pounds of cowcod for this EFP. The request of 440 pounds seems disproportionate to allocations received by other EFPs. In addition, the GAP believed that catching anywhere near that amount of cowcod would indicate failure of the EFP.
- The GAP recommends allocating 7200 pounds of bocaccio to this EFP. The request for 11,023 pounds seems high as the EFP has caught none to date. The GAP arrived at 7200 pounds by multiplying the trawl trip limit by the number of expected periods to be fished and the maximum number of permits fishing.

Chilipepper Rockfish EFP

The GAP recommends that 3.3 mt of widow rockfish be allocated to this EFP. Widow is nearly rebuilt and will be much less constraining than it has been in the past. More widow rockfish will provide this EFP a greater opportunity to prove out its concept.

Recreational Yellowtail EFP

The GAP recommends decreasing the canary rockfish allocation for this EFP to 1.5 mt. 1.5 mt should allow the EFP to continue and expand to conduct some trips in the South Coast as anticipated in the application.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Yelloweye EFP

No changes were recommended to this EFP.

Recreational Fisherman's Alliance/Golden Gate Fisherman's Association EFP

The GAP supports the proposed change in date for the EFP from April through April. This would provide additional opportunity to test the concept. The GAP also supports the proposed change to allow use of 5 hooks instead of the 2 currently allowed. 5 hooks would provide more opportunity for harvest and more opportunity for the target fish to stop the rig before it even approaches the bottom.

PFMC
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