

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP) FOR CALIFORNIA MID-WATER COMMERCIAL
JIG GEAR FOR 2017-2018

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. Under the EFP agenda item at its November 2015 meeting, the Council approved an expansion of the number of participants in the electronic monitoring (EM) EFP, recommended that NMFS consider extending the EM EFPs past the 2015-2016 management cycle, moved forward a Nature Conservancy sponsored EFP for final consideration at the June 2016 Council meeting, and received a progress report on a 2015-2016 EFP on testing commercial jig fishing gear targeting yellowtail rockfish. Later in the meeting, when it took up future agenda planning, the Council scheduled this agenda item to consider extending the jig-gear EFP for another two years.

The jig fishing EFP (Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1) is sponsored by the San Francisco Community Fishing Association and Mr. Dan Platt. The set asides requested for the EFP are specified in Table 1 on page 11 of the EFP. If the Council moves the EFP forward, after final preferred annual catch limits are adopted at the April Council meeting, the sector allocations will be recalculated to take these new set asides into account and the updated allocations will be provided for the June 2016 Council meeting.

The Council should review the jig fishing EFP application and consider moving it forward for public review. Any recommended modifications to EFP applications will be communicated to the EFP sponsor and the public. The Council is scheduled to make its final recommendations for 2017-2018 EFPs at the June 2016 meeting in Tacoma, Washington, except that extension of the EM EFPs will be addressed under Agenda Item G.7 at this meeting.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider the jig fishing EFP application for 2017-2018 and provide preliminary recommendations for public review.**
- 2. If the EFP is moved forward, adopt the necessary yield set-asides.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1: Application for Exempted Fishing Permit for Yellowtail Rockfish Jig Fishing for the 2017-2018 Fishing Season.

Agenda Order:

G.2 Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) for California Mid-Water Commercial
Jig Gear for 2017-2018

Jim Seger

- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt Preliminary EFP for Public Review