

FINAL EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP) APPROVAL FOR 2017-2018

At its November 2015 meeting, the Council considered four exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications and received an interim report on the exempted fishing permit for testing commercial jig fishing gear targeting yellowtail rockfish. At that time, the Council approved one EFP for public review—that sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to test pot gear for selective harvest of lingcod off of Washington and Oregon. Subsequently, at its March 2016 meeting, the Council approved for public review the renewal of the commercial jig fishing EFP sponsored by the San Francisco Community Fishing Association (SFCFA) and Mr. Dan Platt. For both of these EFPs, the Council received revised EFP applications for consideration at this meeting (Agenda Item G.3, Attachments 1 and 2, respectively).

The following are the set asides requested:

1. TNC Pot Gear EFP – None (“The EFP applicants and participants will cover all quota needs, research, and observer costs and fishing participants, therefore [they] are not requesting any additional set-asides for this EFP.”)
2. SFCFA/Platt Commercial Jig EFP – Amounts have been requested similar to previous EFP cycles, but with an increase in the chilipepper set aside from 10 mt to 30 mt, to cover an extension of the southern boundary of the EFP (see Table 1 on page 11 of the application, Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 2).

At its March meeting, to accommodate the SFCFA/Platt EFP the Council adopted set-asides as specified for 2015-16 (with the exception of the 30 mt chilpepper set aside) and reduced the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife research set aside for yelloweye by the amount needed for this EFP (0.03 mt).

The following additions to the applications were requested by the Council.

1. TNC Pot Gear EFP: limit activity to those waters westward of a line approximating the 75 fathom depth contour.
2. SFCFA/Platt Commercial Jig EFP:
 - a. include monitoring options of
 - i. 30 percent observer coverage,
 - ii. 100 percent observer coverage; and
 - iii. 30 percent observer coverage augmented by electronic monitoring (specific monitoring option to be specified at the time of final Council action);
 - b. extend the southern boundary for the EFP to Point Conception; and
 - c. add up to three additional vessels to the EFP.

Under this agenda item, the Council is to consider final approval of these EFP applications. Those that the Council recommends will be forwarded to NMFS for implementation in the next biennial management cycle.

The Council has received letters of support for the jig fishing EFP from the Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries (Agenda Item G.3.a, NMS Letter) and from the general public (Agenda Item G.3.b, Public Comment).

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt final recommendations for 2017-2018 EFPs.**
- 2. Adopt yield set-asides to accommodate those EFPs.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 1: Collaborative Fishing to Test Pot Gear for Selective Harvest of Lingcod off of Washington and Oregon.
2. Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 2: Application for Exempted Fishing Permit for Yellowtail Rockfish Jig Fishing for the 2017-2018 Season.
3. Agenda Item G.3.a, NMS Letter: May 26, 2016 Letter from Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary and Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to Dorothy M. Lowman.
4. Agenda Item G.3.b, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- G.3 Final Action on Exempted Fishing Permit Approval for 2017-2018 Jim Seger
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Recommendations for 2017-2018 Exempted Fishing Permits

PFMC
05/31/16