

INTERIM REPORT: EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT
TESTING COMMERCIAL JIG FISHING GEAR TARGETING YELLOWTAIL ROCKFISH
FOR 2017-2018 GROUND FISH FISHERIES

Once again, we got off to a slow start in 2017. While the PFMC voted to approve the application in June of 2016 the permits weren't issued for another year (June 2017). While the final resolution of the observer requirements worked out very well for this project, we lost 6 months of opportunity to provide more data while it was figured out.

There have been 10 trips so far-- five targeting Chilipeppers and five targeting Yellowtail. The first trip targeting Chilipeppers there were two Cowcod and one Yelloweye when the gear had 30 feet of breakaway. After changing to 50 feet there were no further contacts with these species. One of the trips targeting Yellowtail had two Yelloweye even though the gear was set at 50 feet. It seemed the yelloweye were getting shallower for some reason. By the way, if you look at the attached table, you'll see that the Yelloweye equals 3 tenths of 1% of our total harvest so far.

Out of the seven boats approved for this permit only two have provided any data so far. Of the others, one was geared up for salmon when the permits came through, one based in Fort Bragg changed his mind but we have a replacement. The three boats based in Port San Luis have had a variety of issues, but they expect to be ready soon. We hope we can gather enough data in this two year period to satisfy council's requirements.

In our application for 2019-2020 we have asked that the Council change the 30 ft breakaway to 50. Our fishermen agree that they will be able to harvest enough with that change and that it will be a better set-up for avoiding bycatch.

Our fishermen have also requested that they be able to sell any Canary they catch.

Please see the attached table for specific data for this period.

Catch Category	Allocation (mt)	Allocation Remaining (mt)	Caught to Date (mt)	% Total Catch
Bocaccio	10	9.81371	0.18629	2.53%
Canary Rockfish	1	0.99712	0.00288	0.04%
Cowcod	0.015	0.01158	0.00342	0.05%
Widow Rockfish	9	8.65741	0.34259	4.77%
Yelloweye Rockfish	0.03	0.0188	0.0112	0.16%
Lingcod S of 40.10°	1	0.93434	0.06566	0.96%
Chilipepper S of 40.10°	30	27.92028	2.07972	30.75%
Minor Shelf S of 40.10° (includes Yellowtail rockfish)	30	29.00363	0.99637	21.27%
TOTAL	102.145	98.45687	3.68813	