

PRELIMINARY EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP) APPROVAL FOR 2019-2020

Groundfish EFPs authorize vessels to engage in an activity that is otherwise prohibited, by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act or other fishery regulations, for the purpose of collecting limited experimental data. EFPs may promote increased utilization of underutilized species, realize the expansion potential of the groundfish fishery, and increase the harvest efficiency of the fishery. EFPs are also commonly used to explore ways to reduce effort on overfished species, encourage innovation and efficiency in the fisheries, provide access to target species while directly measuring the bycatch associated with those fishing strategies, and to evaluate current and proposed management measures.

The Council process for considering and recommending EFP proposals is a biennial one that is synchronized with the decision-making process for considering new biennial groundfish harvest specifications and management measures. The EFP process for 2019-2020 begins at the November 2017 Council meeting when alternatives for the biennial harvest specifications and management measures are decided for detailed analysis (see Agenda Item F.9). As part of this action, the Council is scheduled to decide preliminary yield set-asides for overfished and non-overfished species (Agenda Item F.9), including the amounts necessary to conduct proposed EFPs (Agenda Item F.8). Any EFP proposals recommended for further consideration in November will be given final consideration at the June 2018 Council meeting, when final harvest specifications and management measures are decided. The Council may also task the Scientific and Statistical Committee or other advisors to do a more thorough review of refined EFP proposals prior to the June 2018 Council meeting. Those EFPs recommended by the Council at the June 2018 Council meeting are forwarded to the National Marine Fisheries Service for implementation on January 1, 2019. Council Operating Procedure 19 further describes the process and required components of EFP applications (Attachment 1, **Electronic Only**).

Three EFP applications were submitted for Council consideration at this meeting, as listed in the following table.

Sponsor	Short Description	Set-Aside Requested
San Francisco Community Fishing Association & Dan Platt (Attachment 2)	Commercial: Renewal of the 2017-2018 EFP, with modifications, for yellowtail rockfish jig fishing in the Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) off California	See page 12, Table 1 with an increase to 0.06 metric tons for yelloweye
Scott Cook & Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Attachment 4)	Commercial: Midwater hook & line rockfish fishing in the RCA off Oregon	See Appendix B, page 18
Tom Mattusch (Attachment 5)	Recreational: Longleader fishing for chilipepper and yellowtail rockfish off California	See Page 2

A progress report on the San Francisco Community Fishing Association & Dan Platt EFP approved for 2017-2018 is provided in Attachment 3. Attachment 6 includes a letter from The Nature Conservancy requesting the National Marine Fisheries Service issue their 2017-2018 EFP so testing can begin in 2018.

The Council should review these EFP applications, including the recommended yield set-asides, and consider moving the 2019-2020 EFP applications forward for public review. Any Council-recommended modifications to EFP applications will be communicated to the EFP sponsors and the public. If appropriate, the Council may also task the Scientific and Statistical Committee to do a more thorough review of EFP proposals, prior to the June 2018 Council meeting. The Council is scheduled to decide their final recommendations for 2019-2020 EFPs at the June 2018 meeting in Spokane, Washington.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider EFP applications for 2019-2020 and provide preliminary recommendations for public review.**
- 2. Adopt yield set-asides to accommodate those EFPs recommended for public review.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.8, Attachment 1: Council Operating Procedure 19, Protocol for Consideration of Exempted Fishing Permits for Groundfish Fisheries (**Electronic Only**).
2. Agenda Item F.8, Attachment 2: Application for Exempted Fishing Permit for Yellowtail Rockfish Jig Fishing for the 2019-2020 Fishing Season (*San Francisco Community Fishing Association and Dan Platt*).
3. Agenda Item F.8, Attachment 3: Interim Report: Exempted Fishing Permit Testing Commercial Jig Fishing Gear Targeting Yellowtail Rockfish for 2017-2018 Groundfish Fisheries (*San Francisco Community Fishing Association and Dan Platt*).
4. Agenda Item F.8, Attachment 4: Groundfish Exempted Fishing Permit Proposal: Commercial Midwater Hook and Line Rockfish Fishing in the RCA off the Oregon Coast (*Scott Cook and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife*).
5. Agenda Item F.8, Attachment 5: Chilipepper/Yellowtail Long Leader Exempted Fishing Permit (*Tom Mattusch*).
6. Agenda Item F.8, Attachment 6: The Nature Conservancy Letter Regarding the Issuance of the 2017-2018 Exempted Fishing Permit.

Agenda Order:

- F.8 Preliminary Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Approval for 2019-2020 Kelly Ames
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Preliminary EFPs for Public Review

PFMC
10/24/17