

REVIEW OF EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR 2013-2014 GROUND FISH FISHERIES

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.

Three EFP applications were submitted for Council consideration at this meeting. The first EFP (Attachment 1), sponsored by Steve and Kathy Fosmark, seeks to test the effectiveness of trolled longline gear to selectively harvest chilipepper rockfish in waters off central California. The second EFP (Attachment 2), sponsored by the San Francisco Fishermen's Cooperative and Mr. Dan Platt, seeks to test the effectiveness of vertical hook-and-line gear to selectively harvest midwater species such as yellowtail rockfish. The third EFP, sponsored by the Central Coast Sustainable Groundfish Association, seeks to survey the distribution and size of overfished species in the Rockfish Conservation Area off the central coast of California using hook-and-line and trap gear.

The Council should review these EFP applications, consider public and advisory body comments, and consider moving the 2013-2014 EFP applications forward for public review. Any recommended modifications to EFP applications will be communicated to the EFP sponsors and the public. The Council is scheduled to decide their final recommendations for 2013-2014 EFPs at the June 2012 meeting in San Mateo, California.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider EFP applications for 2013-2014 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 E.3.a, Attachment 1: Evaluation of an epibenthic trolled longline to selectively catch chilipepper rockfish (*Sebastes goodei*) off California.
2. Agenda Item E.3.a, Attachment 2: Groundfish EFP Proposal: Yellowtail Rockfish Jig Fishing off California.
3. Agenda Item E.3.a, Attachment 3: Supporting a spatial analysis of the distribution and size of rebuilding stocks in the Rockfish Conservation Area through directed surveys.
4. Agenda Item E.3.b, NMS Letter.
5. Agenda Item E.3.c, Public Comments.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Preliminary Recommendations for Public Review

John DeVore