

Oregon Recreational Yellowtail Rockfish EFP
 2009 & 2011 Combined Final Report
 October 19, 2011

The 2009 and 2011 Oregon yellowtail rockfish EFP activities have been completed. Total trips for both years were thirty four. The results are in excess of expectations. The purpose of this EFP is to avoid or minimize bycatch of prohibited species while targeting abundant offshore midwater stocks. The total impact on yelloweye rockfish was two fish (4 kg rounded) from a total of over 5.163 metric tons of rockfish landed. The other, canary rockfish are being impacted at rates well below that using common bottom gear. The overall EFP impact rate for canary rockfish is at 33% of yellowtail rockfish by weight. It is approximately 20% of all rockfish landed. The impact rate for canary to yellowtail was 113% by weight during the period 1993-1999 (ODFW) using traditional bottom gear when all depth access was open full season.

Following is the catch accounting for both years:

	weight in kg				by
	Yellowtail	Widow	Canary	Yelloweye	number
All Trips Total 2009	1657	266	129	0	31
All Trips Total 2011	1421	800	886	4	115
Totals	3078	1066	1015	4	146

Total all fish except 'other' (kg) 5163

The level of participating angler expertise encompasses the full range. Novice and expert anglers participated in this EFP. Angler selection was on a first come first served basis. No expertise selection took place. While the charter operators are considered to be experts, no area selection took place to avoid known concentrations of canary or yelloweye rockfish. Higher canary impacts were encountered while intentionally fishing an area of high relief (pinnacles) near Depoe Bay, Oregon while yelloweye encounters remained virtually unchanged. The only area selection used was based on known concentrations of yellowtail rockfish without regard to any other species. Some trips took place within a federally recognized Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area.

A survey of angler intent was conducted and is summarized in Attachment 1. A majority indicated that they would participate in this fishery if it were put into regulation in both the charter and private sportboat level. Although 15 fish bag limit was preferred, a lower number would be acceptable down to a level of seven fish or greater.

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Attachment 1

**The number of responses to each answer is indicated in brackets.
A total of 299 anglers responded to the questionnaire.**

Oregon Yellowtail EFP Angler Questionnaire

The National Marine Fisheries Service, the issuing agency of the permits for this experiment is asking for participant feedback. Your help is greatly appreciated and will be a factor in determining whether this fishery will become available to all recreational anglers. Please answer all questions that apply to your experience today. Please check all that apply.

1. For what of any of the following reasons did you choose to participate in this trip today?

[207] 15 rockfish bag limit

[155] A chance to participate in an experiment

[97] A desire to fish further offshore

2. Is there a bag limit size that would cause you not to participate?

[192] Six fish or less

[56] Seven to ten fish

[65] Eleven to fourteen fish

3. If this fishery were adopted as a recreational fishery open to all, with an acceptable bag limit, how likely would you be to participate in the future?

[217] Very likely

[51] Somewhat likely

[26] Occasionally, no more than other trips

[8] Not likely

4. If you fish aboard your own or another's private sport boat how likely would you be to participate if this were available to all?

[178] Very likely

[59] Somewhat likely

[35] Occasionally, no more than other trips

[29] Not likely