

GROUNDFISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON REVIEW OF EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR 2013-2014 GROUND FISH FISHERIES – PART 1

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a report from Mr. John DeVore on exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications for the 2013-2014 groundfish fisheries. The GAP recommends all three applications be forwarded for consideration subject to the following comments and conditions.

Evaluation of an epibenthic trolled longline to selectively catch chilipepper rockfish off California and Yellowtail rockfish jig fishing off California

The GAP’s comments on these two EFPs pertain almost entirely to the associated bycatch caps requested by the two applicants. As initially presented, the applications did not include bycatch caps. The GAP struggled with discussing the relative merits of the EFPs without understanding what the impacts on other fisheries might be. To help solve that problem, the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) quickly prepared some draft bycatch caps based on previous submissions of the Fosmark EFP and bycatch rates from similar EFPs (e.g. Oregon Recreational Yellowtail). Working from that draft GMT document, the GAP prepared the table below, which strikes an appropriate balance between allowing the EFPs a reasonable chance to test the fishing methods at issue without fear of being shut down early, and ensuring that EFP set asides do not unduly impact established fisheries.

To accommodate intended targets for these two EFPs, the GAP recommends 200 tons of chilipepper for the Fosmark EFP, and 30 tons of yellowtail for the SFCFA EFP.

Table of recommended EFP set-asides for overfished species for 2013, and again 2014*

	Species	Fosmark	SFCFA	CCSGA	EFP Total
Overfished Species	Bocaccio	1.330	0.300	covered with IFQ quota lbs.	1.630
	Canary	0.027	0.400		0.427
	Cowcod	0.015	0.015		0.030
	Darkbl	0.100	0.100		0.200
	POP	-	-		0.000
	Widow**	9.000	3.000		12.000
	Yelloweye	0.010	0.010		0.020
	Petrals	-	-		0.000

***Cumulative limits will apply to all other species**

**** Based on the assumption that widow is rebuilt**

Supporting a spatial analysis of the distribution and size of rebuilding stocks in the Rockfish Conservation Area through directed fishing surveys

The GAP wholeheartedly supports this EFP because better spatial information on hot and cold spots within the Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) and better biological data on the contribution of fish stocks within the RCA to overall stocks could increase the potential for fishermen to meet target quotas and reduce interactions with rebuilding species. The GAP offers the three following recommendations.

- The applicants should demonstrate, through a holding account, that they actually have the fish necessary to conduct the EFP prior to fishing.
- The GAP recommends either a notification system, or a marking system, or both, for vessels fishing in the EFP so that enforcement and other fishermen are aware that EFP fishing, rather than an illegal RCA incursion, is occurring.
- The GAP recommends that this EFP application be considered for approval for fishing in 2012. The GAP supports the new two-year process developed by the council for EFP applications that require bycatch set asides, however, that process could needlessly delay EFPs that provide their own fish. If the council does consider authorizing EFP fishing in 2012, the GAP requests that the EFP last through 2014.

In summary, the GAP recommends forwarding all three EFPs for further consideration subject to the comments and conditions described in this report.

PFMC
11/02/11