

FINAL EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP) APPROVAL FOR 2015-2016

At the November 2013 Council meeting the Council considered three exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications and preliminarily adopted one EFP for public review, sponsored by the San Francisco Community Fishing Association. The Council recommended the same set-asides for this EFP for 2015-2016 as for the one approved for 2013-2014, with the exception of 1.0 metric tons (mt) of canary rockfish and 0.03 mt of yelloweye rockfish.

At the November 2013 meeting, the Council also scheduled consideration of special, out-of-cycle EFP proposals for electronic monitoring (EM EFPs) with maximized retention requirements, with preliminary approval at the April 2014 Council meeting and final approval at the June 2014 Council meeting. After the meeting, a letter regarding this special EFP process was provided to the fishing industry participants, including the Council Operating Procedures that describe the EFP application process.

At the April 2014 Council meeting, the Council preliminarily approved four out of five EM EFP applications for further consideration and final approval at the June 2014 Council meeting (i.e., the Leipzig, CA Risk Pool, Mann/Paine, and Eder et al. EFPs). At the meeting, the Council provided guidance to each applicant on further development of the EM EFPs and asked that applicants consider resubmitting revised applications for Council consideration at the June meeting. The following additions to the applications were requested by the Council: 1) Leipzig EFP application: limit the number of vessels and require up to 100 percent observer coverage; 2) CA Risk Pool application: limit the number of vessels and require up to 100 percent observer coverage on bottom trawl vessels; 3) Eder et al. application: limit the number of vessels. The Council also requested that the EFPs address how the halibut viability assessments could be conducted without the presence of a human observer, with the intention that halibut retention not be permitted. In addition, the Council recommended that EFP applications include a feature that requires applicants to provide the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the States a list of vessels and processors that will be participating in the EFP a minimum of 30 days before they commence their EFP.

The NMFS West Coast Region volunteered to work with EM EFP applicants on an ad hoc basis to improve EFP applications, and since the April Council meeting has conducted conference calls with each applicant to provide guidance.

The Council received five revised EFP applications (Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachments 1 through 5). A summary of the EM EFP applications, including responses to the Council's requests is provided in Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 6.

Under this agenda item, the Council is to consider final approval of all EFP applications provided by the fishing industry. Those EFPs recommended at this Council meeting are forwarded to NMFS for implementation in the next biennial management cycle.

Council Action:

- 1. Recommendations for final approval of EFPs.**
- 2. Provide other guidance as necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 1: Leipzig Fishermen's Marketing Association EFP Application.
2. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 2: California Risk Pool EFP Application.
3. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 3: Mann/Paine Whiting EFP Application.
4. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 4: Eder et al. Fixed Gear EFP Application.
5. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 5: San Francisco Community Fishing Association EFP Application: Yellowtail Rockfish Jig Fishing off California.
6. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 6: Table 1. Summary of EM EFP applications.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Brett Wiedoff and John DeVore
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Recommendations for EFPs, Including Electronic Monitoring EFPs

PFMC
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