

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

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.

Two EFP applications were submitted for Council consideration at this meeting. Both of these EFPs were approved for 2013-2014 and are proposed again for the next management cycle. The first EFP, 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. A progress report on 2013 efforts under this EFP is provided in Attachment 1. The EFP application for 2015-2016 is provided in Attachment 2. The second EFP, 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. A progress report on 2013 efforts under this EFP is provided in Attachment 3. The EFP application for 2015-2016 is provided in Attachment 4. Finally, a progress report on the third EFP approved for 2013-2014, "Supporting a Spatial Analysis of the Distribution and Size of Rebuilding Stocks in the Rockfish Conservation Areas Through Directed Fishing Surveys", is provided in Attachment 5. The sponsors of this EFP are not requesting consideration for a new EFP in 2015-2016.

The Council should review these EFP applications, consider public and advisory body comments, and consider moving the 2015-2016 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 2015-2016 EFPs at the June 2014 meeting in Garden Grove, California.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider EFP applications for 2015-2016 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 H.2.a, Attachment 1: 2013 Progress Report on Evaluation of an epibenthic trolled longline to selectively catch chilipepper rockfish (*Sebastes goodei*) off California.
2. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 2: Application for a 2015-16 EFP: Evaluation of an epibenthic trolled longline to selectively catch chilipepper rockfish (*Sebastes goodei*) off California.
3. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 3: Interim Report: Exempted Fishing Permit Testing Commercial Jig Fishing Gear Targeting Yellowtail Rockfish for 2013-2014 Groundfish Fisheries.
4. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 4: Groundfish EFP Proposal: Yellowtail Rockfish Jig Fishing off California.

5. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 5: Interim Progress Report on Supporting a Spatial Analysis of the Distribution and Size of Rebuilding Stocks in the Rockfish Conservation Areas Through Directed Fishing Surveys.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview John DeVore
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider Preliminary Approval of 2015-2016 EFPs for Public Review

PFMC
10/10/13