

INTERIM REPORT:
 EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT
 TESTING COMMERCIAL JIG FISHING GEAR TARGETING YELLOWTAIL ROCKFISH
 FOR 2013/2014 GROUND FISH FISHERIES

Summary 2013 EFP activity through October 31, 2013 (No further 2013 trips planned): We didn't receive our permits until the late spring (June). Most of the EFP fisherman are salmon fisherman and chose to continue fishing for salmon before starting the EFP. The salmon season was in full swing at that point and the price was good. Dan Platt on the Captain Cook switched to EFP fishing in August and made his first EFP trip August 21st. This was the very first trip and a bit of a learning experience. There was one Canary caught. Dan made a second EFP trip August 29th. This trip was successful in the sense that more yellowtail were caught with minimal bycatch (1 Canary and 6 Boccaccio).

During all trips the gear worked very well at catching target species while avoiding canary. However, the last EFP trip had two yelloweye rockfish which together weighed 16 lbs. At that point it looked like if we took a chance with even one more trip it might tip us over the edge which is 22 lbs. Our group got together and we decided not to take that chance and we are forgoing any more fishing until after January 1, 2014. We are looking forward to a full year in 2014 and many more EFP trips.

For the five trips completed in 2013 the following fish were caught:

Species or Species Complex	Set-aside (mt)	Caught to Date (mt)	Set-aside Remaining (mt)	% Caught
Minor Shelf S of 40.10° (Yellowtail in parens)	30	0.8803 (0.8450)	29.1197	2.9%
BOCACCIO	3	0.09575	2.90425	3.2%
CANARY ROCKFISH	1	0.02094	0.97906	2.1%
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	0.01	0.0072	0.0028	72.0%
Widow Rockfish	9	0.4359	8.5641	4.8%
Other Fish	1	0.03265	0.96735	3.3%

This catch represents 1863 lbs of yellowtail and 961 lbs of widow while only catching 211 lbs of bocaccio, 46 lbs of canary, and 16 lbs (2 fish) of yelloweye..

Requested changes for 2015-16 EFP.

1. Allow up to 4 lines per boat with 25 hooks each instead of the current 2 lines with up to 50 hooks each.
2. Change the outside depth from 100fms to 150fms.