

APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF AN EXPERIMENTAL FISHING PERMIT

- A. Date of application: 26 March 2001
- B. Applicant's names, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers:  
Jennifer Bloeser - Scientist, Pacific Marine Conservation Council  
P.O. Box 327, Arcata, CA 95518  
(707) 822-4494  
  
Kenyan Hensel - Commercial Fisherman  
871 Elk Valley Road, Crescent City, CA 95531  
(707) 465-6857  
  
Jonathan Ramsey - Marine Biologist, California Department of Fish and Game  
619 Second Street, Eureka, CA 95501  
(707) 441-5757
- C. A statement of the purposes and goals of the experiment for which an EFP is needed, including a general description of the arrangements for disposition of all species harvested under the EFP.

The primary purposes and goals of this experiment include the following;

- 1) quantify the capacity for vertical hook and line gear to selectively fish for yellowtail rockfish while avoiding canary rockfish,
- 2) provide this information to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) for use within the management process for groundfish,
- 3) establish a mechanism, within the NMFS, Council, and management processes, for collaborative research and implementation of the data from that research into the management process.

Species caught within current trip limits will be retained by the vessel, species caught in excess of current trip limits, but permitted within the EFP, will be forfeited to the state to be distributed to a food bank.

- D. Valid justification explaining why issuance of an EFP is warranted:

Current monthly trip limits for canary and yellowtail rockfish are set at 50 lbs./month and 100 lbs./month respectively. The amount of yellowtail rockfish allowed under this monthly limit would not permit adequate data collection on selectivity of the fishing gear for yellowtail rockfish and against canary rockfish. Therefore, the applicants are requesting an EFP to allow for 500-1000 lbs./month of yellowtail rockfish to be taken.

- E. A statement of whether the proposed experimental fishing has broader significance than the applicant's individual goals:

The applicants of this EFP believe that the information collected during this experiment will have broader significance than the applicants individual goals as it can:

- 1) provide some level of insight into the performance and selectivity of the gear utilized during this experiment,
- 2) produce data on the location and behavior of yellowtail and canary rockfish in the area of the experiment and,
- 3) hopefully act as a catalyst for the collection and application of gear selectivity information within the Council process.

However, the applicants of this EFP do recognize the limited nature of the experiment and its potential application. Additional personnel and funding in the future would have the effect of greatly expanding and diversifying the experiment.

F. For each vessel covered by the EFP:

- 1) Vessel name Rosy Dawn;
- 2) Name, address, and telephone number of owner and master - Kenyan Hensel,  
871 Elk Valley Road,  
Crescent City, CA 95531,  
(707) 465-6857;
- 3) U.S. Coast Guard documentation, state license, or registration number -  
CF number 6658KR, and CA Fish and Game boat license number 42528;
- 4) Home port - Crescent City, CA
- 5) Length of vessel - 24 feet
- 6) Net tonnage - the vessel has the capacity to carry one ton of fish;
- 7) Gross tonnage - total vessel tonnage is three tons.

G. A description of the species (target and incidental) to be harvested under the EFP and the amount(s) of such harvest necessary to conduct the experiment:

The species to be harvested under this EFP include blue rockfish, widow rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, canary rockfish, and some nearshore rockfish species. The harvest levels for all species will be within current trip limits with the exception of yellowtail rockfish. Applicants of this EFP are requesting 500-1000 lbs./month of yellowtail rockfish for the purpose of conducting this experiment.

H. For each vessel covered by the EFP, the approximate time(s) and place(s) fishing will take place, and the type, size and amount of gear to be used:

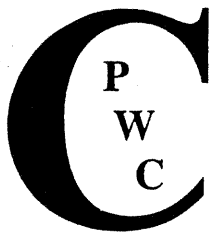
Fishing during this experiment is proposed to take place off of Crescent City, CA, 2.5 miles northwest of Point Saint George lighthouse at a depth of 19-55 fathoms. The gear to be used is vertical hook and line on rod and reel, continuously attached to the vessel. There will be 2 sets of gear with 9-15 hooks each.

I. The signature of the applicants:

Jennifer Bloeser \_\_\_\_\_

Kenyan Hensel \_\_\_\_\_

Jonathan Ramsey \_\_\_\_\_



# Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative

Alaska Ocean Seafoods • American Seafoods • Glacier Fish Co. • Trident Seafoods

*A Partnership to Promote Responsible Fishing*

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001

Dr. William T. Hogarth  
NOAA Fisheries Headquarters  
1315 East-West Highway SSMC3  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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PWCC

Dear Dr. Hogarth:

I am writing on behalf of the Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative (PWCC) regarding implementation of Amendment 13 to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council. PWCC members have been informed by the Northwest Regional Office that the final rule may not be in place for the 2001 whiting season. Implementation of Amendment 13 is an important action for PWCC member companies.

The PWCC was formed to end the race for fish, and rationalize the at-sea whiting fishery. Part of the PWCC's charter is to reduce bycatch and increase utilization of fishery resources. The PWCC has been very successful, and may be the cleanest trawl fishery in the world, with a total bycatch of less than one percent. A majority of the bycatch caught by PWCC vessels is pelagic rockfish, primarily widow and yellowtail rockfish. The PWCC has developed bycatch avoidance plans to minimize bycatch of these species to the smallest amount possible because of their current low stock levels, and their importance to the coastal small boat fleets.

At-sea whiting vessels do have an allocation of rockfish under the Pacific Management Council's trip limit program, however once the trip limit has been reached, excess amounts must be discarded. Under the proposed rule in Amendment 13, if vessels have two NMFS observers onboard at all times, the overages can be retained and utilized for fish meal or donated to a food donation program.

Some of the PWCC companies plan to process rockfish and other food grade bycatch species this year for donation to Northwest Food Strategies for distribution to local food banks. However, with the final rule not implemented, and uncertainty as to whether it will be in place by the start of fishing on May 15<sup>th</sup>, it is difficult to plan vessel operations.

As you may be aware Northwest Food Strategies has been given a grant from the Kraft Corporation to implement a Seafood Industry Hunger Relief Initiative, a large-scale bycatch donation program. PWCC member companies have been participating in a similar program in the Alaskan fishery, which also allows retention of prohibited species for donation. The program has been highly successful, and was even featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show last year.

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We would very much like to further increase our utilization of bycatch in the at-sea Pacific whiting fishery and put it to humanitarian use. The Proposed Rule to implement Amendment 13 to the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan was published in the Federal Register on November 21, 2000 (vol 65, no. 225) with a comments closing date of January 5, 2001. We are not aware of any opposition to implementation of Amendment 13, and we hope that NMFS could expedite the final rule before the start of the 2001 season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Jacobs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jan Jacobs  
President

Cc; Jim Lone, PFMC  
Bill Robinson, NMFS,NWRO