

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP) APPLICATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed three exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications and provides the following comments.

In regard to the EFP for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the GAP supports granting the permit with two stipulations:

- * The EFP should be modified so a vessel carrying an observer under the EFP gets "credit" for having carried a NMFS observer during that period. This will prevent placing vessels in a situation where they will be required to carry an observer longer than similar vessels.
- * In carrying out the EFP, WDFW should maximize coordination with the NMFS observer program, including the coordination of observer coverage and sharing of data. This will ensure that we do not lose data generated by the EFP fishery.

In regard to the EFP for Mr. Kenyon Hensel and the Pacific Marine Conservation Council (PMCC), the GAP supports granting the permit and notes favorably that one of the ancillary goals, as expressed by Mr. Hensel, will be to determine the logistics of providing observer coverage on small vessels.

In regard to the EFP for the California Department of Fish and Game, the GAP supports granting the permit with several stipulations:

- * Vessels fishing under the EFP should be granted "credit" for having carried a NMFS observer during the EFP fishing period, as noted above in the discussion of the WDFW permit.
- * The permit should make clear that it applies to the area south of the Mendocino line to the Mexican border (i.e., the area where a trip limit for chilipepper rockfish is in effect).
- * The permit should make clear that vessels in the EFP fishery will have to carry an observer whenever using a small footrope.
- * The permit should make clear the requirements for full retention of rockfish.
- * The permit process should potentially allow for participation by more than 2 boats in a California statistical area in the event that insufficient numbers of permit applications are received.
- * As noted above, CDFG should maximize coordination with the NMFS observer program.

PFMC
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