

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Situation: Three exempted fishing permits (EFPs) were approved at the June 2001 Council meeting with the understanding that progress updates would be provided at this September Council meeting. The goal of the first EFP, sponsored by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, is to measure bycatch rates of canary and other rockfish associated with targeted arrowtooth flounder fishing through an at-sea observer program. The second EFP, sponsored by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), seeks to test the ability of trawls to selectively harvest chillipepper rockfish while minimizing the incidental catch of bocaccio rockfish in California waters. The primary purpose of the third EFP, sponsored by CDFG, Pacific Marine Conservation Council, and Mr. Kenyon Hensel, is to quantify the capacity for vertical hook-and-line gear to selectively catch yellowtail rockfish while minimizing the incidental catch of canary rockfish. Sponsors of these approved EFPs will report on their progress in implementing their respective EFP fisheries.

Additional EFP applications may be considered at this time if any are submitted for Council consideration.

Council Task:

1. Consider recommendations on existing EFPs.
2. Consider newly submitted EFP applications (if any).

Reference Materials: None.

Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP) Consistency Analysis

The GFSP supports bycatch reduction efforts and development of selective fishing techniques. The three approved EFPs are designed to gather information on methods to selectively harvest abundant species and determine bycatch rates of canary rockfish, bocaccio rockfish, and other groundfish species of concern.

PFMC
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