

## EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

Situation: Three exempted fishing permits (EFPs) were approved at the June 2001 Council meeting and progress updates were provided at the September Council meeting. The goal of the first EFP, sponsored by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), is to measure bycatch rates of canary and other rockfish associated with targeted arrowtooth flounder fishing through an at-sea observer program. Preliminary results from the first year of this EFP will be provided by Ms. Michele Robinson and Mr. Brian Culver of WDFW. 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 reported delays in implementing their respective EFP fisheries, but were still hopeful of partial implementation this year. A progress update of these EFPs is expected from the sponsors.

The annual EFP application for the shoreside Pacific whiting fishery (Exhibit C.8, Supplemental Attachment 1) needs to be considered for Council approval. This EFP is required to authorize the full retention, on-board observer, and bycatch control elements inherent in the management of the shoreside Pacific whiting fishery.

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 recommendations for the EFP application for the 2002 shoreside Pacific whiting fishery.
2. Consider newly submitted EFP applications (if any).

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Exempted Fishing Permit Application for the 2002 Shoreside Pacific Whiting Fishery (Exhibit C.8, Supplemental Attachment 1).

### **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. Any additional EFP applications will need to be reviewed for consistency with overall GFSP objectives.

PFMC  
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