

PRELIMINARY UPDATE ON WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
ARROWTOOTH FLOUNDER AND YELLOWTAIL ROCKFISH EXEMPTED FISHERIES (EFPs)

- Arrowtooth Flounder EFP Scheduled for May 1 - August 31, 2002
- Yellowtail Rockfish EFP Scheduled for May 1- June 30, 2002
 - Plan to hire eight at-sea observers (six for the arrowtooth vessels, and two for the midwater yellowtail vessels) and one observer coordinator who is stationed in Bellingham
 - WDFW is coordinating with the NMFS observer program to integrate federal observer coverage during the EFP periods
 - Observers will have extensive 10-day training session which will include:
 - U.S. Coast Guard safety training—including survival suit immersion test and vessel safety
 - Department training on:
 - Fish Identification
 - Random Sampling Theory
 - Data Collection Methods
 - Current Groundfish Management Issues
 - Safety
- Observers are collecting data on a per tow basis for:
 - Volume of canary rockfish (trigger species)
 - Volume of widow rockfish in midwater tows (trigger species)
 - Estimates of total rockfish catch
 - Species composition of mixed rockfish categories
- As a reminder, the Department is requiring participating vessels to retain all of their rockfish under the EFP. As a result, shoreside port samplers are collecting data on a per trip basis for:
 - Volume and species composition of total rockfish catch, including unmarketable catch
- Because the EFP is being granted to the Department, we are also requiring vessels and processors to secure individual contracts with the Department in order to participate
- The Department has agreements with vessels and NMFS that we will not release any data resulting from the EFPs until they are completed and reviewed by all parties involved