

**GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM COMMENTS ON
PROPOSED EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS UPDATE AND NEW PROPOSALS**

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed seven requests for exempted fishing permits (EFPs) during 2003. These requests varied from nearly complete draft applications for new permits to conceptual proposals for extensions of existing 2002 permits, and some new permits for 2003. Three guiding principles were established early on in the review of these proposals. First, if all of these EFPs were approved there would likely not be enough remaining OY (after establishing expected catches for 2003 fisheries and bycatch) of overfished species to accommodate implementation of all of these permits. Second, the permits should be prioritized with approval given first to those permits that are most likely to result in a positive long-term change in gear or management rules. Finally, all permits should be reviewed for the possibility of conducting a successful project under a somewhat lower cap for overfished species.

Details of these applications are given in supplemental C.5 reports from WDFW, ODFW, and CDFG. A summary of the maximum anticipated bycatch (imposed as a cap on the permit) is provided in the attached table. These catches were assembled from the applications and/or discussion of the permits by state GMT members. No additional set asides for anticipated bycatch of overfished species were identified. The GMT supports implementing EFPs that meet the above objectives and can be accommodated under the harvest levels for overfished species.

The GMT is forwarding the following list for Council consideration:

- Oregon Selective Flatfish Trawl
- Washington Dogfish Longline Permit
- Washington Pollock Midwater Trawl
- Washington Arrowtooth Flounder Bottom Trawl
- Washington Yellowtail Midwater Trawl
- California Nearshore Flatfish Trawl
- California Hook-and-Line

As noted in the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel statement, Oregon industry expressed interest in participating under similar arrowtooth flounder bottom trawl, and midwater yellowtail permits; however, expected bycatch for an Oregon permit was not calculated.

Anticipated EFP bycatch caps						
EFP	bocaccio	canary	cowcod	darkblotched	widow	yelloweye
CA: NS FF trawl	1.6	1.5	1.5	NA	NA	1.5
CA: NS H&L	NA	1	NA	NA	NA	?
OR: selective FF trawl	NA	4	NA	3.1	1	1.7
WA: AT trawl	NA	1	NA	3	NA	0
WA: MW YT trawl	NA	1	NA	0	12	0
WA: dogfish LL	NA	1	NA	0	0	1
WA: pollock	NA	0	NA	0	1	0
Total	1.6	9.5	1.5	6.1	14	>4.2