

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS: UPDATE AND NEW PROPOSALS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) briefly discussed exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications being reviewed by the Council.

The GAP supports the EFPs submitted by California (shelf flatfish using small footrope trawl); Oregon (cut back headrope); and Washington (arrowtooth and midwater trawl pollock).

The EFP for arrowtooth should be expanded to Oregon as soon as possible.

The GAP supports the concepts of EFPs for fixed gear dogfish and midwater yellowtail, but would like to see some additional information before commenting further.

The Gap also believes that the Council needs to prioritize EFPs in some fashion. One suggested way is to determine the economic benefit that would derive from the EFPs, as measured against the "cost" in bycatch used

The GAP is also very concerned about the length of time and the bureaucratic hurdles involved in processing EFP applications at both the state and federal levels. The GAP received testimony from several individuals on approval "horror stories."

PFMC
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