

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
PRELIMINARY EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT PROPOSALS FOR 2004

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is considering applying for exempted fishing permits (EFPs) for the following fisheries for 2004:

Arrowtooth Flounder Trawl EFP With Specific Gear Requirements

In 2003, we are conducting an Arrowtooth Trawl EFP and are requiring participants to modify their gear for purposes of excluding overfished rockfish, while retaining targeted flatfish species. Following the EFP this year, we will work with the participants to define the various modifications that were used and evaluate which methods were most successful at excluding rockfish.

In 2004, we would require that EFP participants adhere to the gear standards and configurations developed by the group while targeting arrowtooth flounder in the rockfish conservation area (RCA).

Spiny Dogfish Longline EFP With Area Restrictions

In 2003, we had one participant in our Dogfish Longline EFP. Based on our preliminary review of the EFP catch data, we believe that he was able to successfully target dogfish while avoiding canary and yelloweye rockfish in certain areas.

In 2004, we would define those areas with coordinates and require that EFP participant restrict their harvest to those areas.

The implementation of these EFP proposals would be consistent with the Council standards and protocols.

We would require 100% observer coverage, retention of all rockfish, and bycatch caps. Our proposed bycatch caps for 2004 would be the same as in 2003, with the exception of yelloweye rockfish in the Dogfish Longline EFP would be reduced from 2.0 mt to 1.0 mt. The following is a list of the proposed bycatch caps (mt) for these EFPs:

	Canary	Yeye	Darkbl	Widow	POP	Lingcod
Arrowtooth EFP	3.0	0.5	3.0	3.0	18.0	NA
Dogfish EFP	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.0

WDFW plans to meet with industry representatives regarding these preliminary EFP proposals. We will have more concrete proposals at the September Council meeting.