

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
FINAL CRITERIA FOR EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS AND CONSIDERATION OF
PROPOSALS FOR THE 2004 SEASON

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) considers the protocol for Council consideration of exempted fishing permits (EFPs) (see Attachment 2 of Exhibit C.5.b) proposed by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to be appropriate. However, there is a need to clarify the time line under the multi-year management cycle.

The SSC discussed the EFP application: “Application for Issuance of an Exempted Fishing Permit for the Sport Harvest of Rockfish from Partyboats in Waters Deeper than 20 Fathoms off the Central Coast to Duplicate the Sampling Program Conducted by the CDFG from 1988-1998.” This EFP proposal is based on the old bag limit regulation, which is different from the currently implemented limit. It is important for the applicant to address the implications of changing regulations on the estimation of an abundance index.

This EFP may provide useful time series of abundance indices for many species because data will be collected by observers. As seen in black rockfish and bocaccio stock assessments, inclusion of spatio-temporal interactions in the statistical modeling of commercial passenger fishing vessel (CPFV) series led to important improvements in the stock assessments of these species. There is no other data source that generates information at this level of spatial resolution. This EFP can also serve as a means to obtain catch per unit effort (CPUE) and biological data from the closed area.

The methodology to be used to analyze the future data and the analyses of the 1988-1998 data are not presented. The proposed sample size, 44 trips per year, is around 20% to 25% of annual sample size during 1988-1998. The implications of the proposed annual sample size could be evaluated by estimating all coefficients of variation (CVs) by species from the earlier data. The SSC suggests the applicant consider whether to use this EFP as a pilot study to establish a reasonable CV level that is attainable under current regulations. The extension of the study to other ports would allow evaluation of port-year-region interactions.

PFMC
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