

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON  
FINAL APPROVAL OF EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR 2004

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed three exempted fishing permits (EFPs) that were made available to it and briefly discussed two others that have been received by the Groundfish Management Team, but not provided to the GAP.

Since the GAP has reviewed all of these EFPs in preliminary form and any suggested changes have been made, the GAP believes they should be approved. However, given the potential effects of buyback on participation in EFP fisheries next year, the GAP wishes to make clear that the potential “release” of bycatch species must be considered at all of next year’s Council meetings.

PFMC  
11/06/03