

GROUNDFISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR 2005

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the proposed exempted fishing permits (EFPs) being submitted for Council approval. The GAP believes the Oregon EFP on whiting and the California EFP on the use of selective flatfish trawls should move forward. The Oregon EFP is needed as an interim step to provide an additional year of testing on full retention monitoring mechanisms. The California EFP will extend southward the work already done in Oregon and California and will help refine gear that can be used to minimize bycatch.

The GAP recognizes that Washington's decision not to seek an additional year's EFP on selective arrowtooth trawls will provide a savings in canary impacts that can be allocated to other fisheries. However, the GAP is concerned the valuable data on bycatch reduction not be lost. It may be reasonable for Washington to continue the arrowtooth EFP one additional year in order to compare the bycatch reduction capability of this gear with that of the selective flatfish trawl that will now be used shoreward of the Rockfish Conservation Area.

PFMC
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