

## **EXPERIMENTAL FISHING PERMIT APPLICATION**

1. Date of Application

August 30, 2005

2. Applicant

Del Mar Seafoods, Inc.  
331 Ford Street  
Watsonville, Ca. 95076

3. Purposes and Goals of the Proposed Experiment

The goal of this experimental fishing permit is to more closely align the start of the Pacific whiting season, south of the 40° 30' N latitude line, with the presence of the Pacific whiting during their yearly migratory pattern.

The purpose is to be permitted to catch the Pacific whiting at the time they are available in our area while maintaining due diligence to minimize the amount of bycatch and interaction with species of concern.

4. Justification

The justification for this EFP is many-fold:

- a) To have a fishery that matches effort and availability.
- b) To have the fishery more closely match the migratory patterns of the Pacific whiting.
- c) To be able to reduce the duration and frequency of tows because of the abundance of the target (whiting) species – More efficient.
- d) Will reduce bycatch by reducing the duration and frequency of tows. – Less time in the water.
- e) Allows the fishermen to fish for another species (Pacific whiting) which will reduce the effort on other species more traditionally fished in this area.
- f) Will facilitate the fishermen to fish for a migratory species (Pacific whiting) which will reduce the effort on a more local, non migratory species.
- g) This early opening will be heavily observed and monitored to facilitate real time biological data for bycatch and any interaction with species of concern.

5. Statement of Project Significance

The main significance of this project is to match the season opening with the availability of the fish in the area south of the 40°30' N latitude line. It will allow the fishermen to prosecute the fishery in a more logical and viable manner.

There is renewed interest in this fishery for the last couple of years, south of the 40°30' N latitude line, which has been absent during the previous several years. This lack of interest in the previous years has made the opening date of the previous several years unimportant. This renewed interest has made the opening date for the Pacific whiting season, south of the 40°30' N latitude line now extremely significant.

This will be the start of a data base for Pacific whiting bycatch in the area south of the 40°30'N latitude line during a one month earlier starting date.

This experiment will also provide scientific data to better understand the Pacific whiting's migration pattern south of the 40°30' N latitude line.

6. Vessels to be covered under this EFP

Name(s) of vessel(s) to be provided at a later date. There will be no more than three vessels covered under this EFP

7. Species and Amounts to be Harvested

The target species to be harvested is the Pacific whiting (*Merluccius productus*). The amount to be caught will be no more than 1% of the 2006 U.S. West Coast shoreside Pacific whiting allocation.

For species other than the Pacific whiting: All rules, regulations, bycatch caps and other concerns set forth will apply. There will be 100% plant observer coverage (paid for by the plant). All bycatch data will be fully documented. Any scientific data requested to help with stock assessments, age, sex determination, etc. will be supplied. All data will be transmitted in a timely manner electronically. Any prohibited species will be documented and turned over to the State of California.

Species of concern and bycatch caps:

- a) Chinook salmon.....50 fish cap (estimated max. 1,000 mt-applied the .05% standard)
- b) Coho salmon.....10 fish cap
- c) Sablefish.....800 pound cap.
- d) Widow Rockfish.....800 pound cap.
- e) Canary Rockfish.....150 pound cap.
- f) Yelloweye Rockfish.....50 pound cap.
- g) Darkblotched Rockfish.....300 pound cap.
- h) Bocaccio Rockfish.....600 pound cap.
- i) Lingcod .....1 mt cap.

- j) Cowcod.....2 fish cap.
- k) Pacific whiting.....cap of 1% of the 2006 coastwide shoreside Pacific whiting allocation.

These caps represent forty years of personal experience trawl fishing and other personal observations in this geographic area.

#### 8. Conduct of Fishing Experiment

This will be a one month experimental fishing permit from March 15, 2006, to April 15, 2006. Fishing will occur in the EEZ south of the 40°30' N latitude line and more specifically in the Monterey area. The processing plant will maintain 100% observer coverage. Also, the fishing vessels covered under this EFP will have 100% at-sea observer coverage. We will require any and all vessels covered under this EFP to maintain full retention at all times. All assessments and research funds required will be paid by Del Mar Seafoods, Inc.