

#### GAP STATEMENT ON EFP PROPOSALS FOR 2006

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed exempted fishing permit (EFP) proposals for Bycatch Reduction Devices in the California Spot Prawn fishery, California Whiting EFP, and continuation of current Shoreside Whiting EFP.

The GAP recommends the Council move ahead with the Spot Prawn EFP as written with one correction. The shortbelly rockfish cap is to be revised to 300 pounds instead of 30 pounds. The GAP requests that the EFP adhere to the bycatch caps by species as specified and close if any of those caps are exceeded.

The GAP also recommends the Council continue the Shoreside Whiting EFP for 2006 as written.

The GAP recommends approving the California Shoreside Whiting EFP as written, though there were concerns voiced about the incidence of Klamath and Sacramento salmon stocks, and the need for this EFP to secure properly trained or certified observers. The GAP also notes that after the April 15 end date this fishery would continue under the 2006 Shoreside Whiting EFP.

The GAP has been notified by industry that the funds for monitoring the 2006 Shoreside Whiting EFP may not yet be in place, and asks the Council to look for funding options so this EFP can continue for the next year.

PFMC  
11/02/05