

APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF AN EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT TO TEST
A SUSTAINABLE HOOK AND LINE FISHERY FOR CHILLIE PEPPER ROCKFISH
INSIDE THE NON TRAWL R.C.A. IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA. (40 / 10 – 34 / 27).

Date of application 5 / 21 / 06

Applicant Name

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John Mellor
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PFMC

Purposes and goals of the proposed experiment;

The goal of the exempted fishery is to develop a method for harvesting the abundant stocks of Chilipepper rockfish in the central California region, (40/10 to 38) and minimize the take of not target species. (canary, cow cod, ~~golden-eye~~ yelloweye

- Design a sustainable hook and line fishery for limited entry and open access vessels
- Restore historic method for a total retention fishery
- Bring back a community based fishery for rockfish

The specific goals of the experiment are;

- evaluate the effectiveness of vertically fished gear using a maximum of one hundred hooks
- measure by catch of non target species

Disposition of fish harvested under EFP

Species caught within normal trip limits may be retained and sold . All fish taken over species caps will be forfeited.

Justification explaining why an EFP is warranted;

Traditional " Fixed Gear" has two tragic flaws. First is the fact that it is a bottom contact fishery. Central California contains three national marine sanctuaries whose guidelines prohibit any disturbance of the benthic habitat. Any EFP for this area should strive to be

a non- bottom contact fishery. The second flaw is the fact that too many hooks are deployed on any given set. If the set lands on a spot with the wrong kind of fish the impact is greater as the number of hooks increases.

The chillipepper rockfish is often found in mid-water. A vertical line will fish a suspended shoal of fish as well as a horizontal line and the vertical line does not need to contact the bottom to be effective

Statement of project significance

The three major ports in this area are Bodega Bay, San Francisco bay and Half moon bay. All three of these ports have had significant historic hook and line landings. The ex vessel values of hook and line caught fish have always been much higher than trawl caught fish of the same species so more boats catching fewer fish will make more money to support these three diminishing fishing communities.

If there is an open access fishery planned for the future in this area a vertical hook and line, hand operated equipment only alternative may be a consideration for the “go slow” approach.

Vessels to be covered by the EFP

FV Palo	FG 27309	GF 0056	Josh Churchman	Bodega bay
FV Hazel A	FG 44951	GF 0125	Ed Paasch	Bodega Bay
FV High Hopes	FG 40156	L07874	John Mellor	San Francisco
FV Rogue	FG 40158		Kurt Hochberg	San Francisco

Species and amounts to be harvested

The target species to be harvested is the Chillipepper rockfish (sebastes goodei)

Proposed vessel allocations... Two month limits

10,000 lbs Chilliepepper
1000 lbs Bocaccio
1000 lbs Minor shelf (widow/ yellowtail)
50 lbs canary
25 lbs cow cod

25 lbs yellow eye

Two periods of two months each... Dec. thru March and August thru November
Limits will be vessel specific and when a cap is reached that vessel will not fish until the beginning of the next two month period.

The Bocaccio rockfish (*Sebastes paucispinis*) is often found with the chillipepper. The Bocaccio is much larger than the chilli and the pounds per fish difference is significant. The incidental take of Bocaccio is the only significant non target interaction anticipated in this EFP proposal.

All fishing will take place outside the 100 fathom line

All vessels will carry an observer and agree to pay any reasonable cost for the observer

All vessels will declare the time and place of landing to allow access to interested biologists

All vessels will have a VMS system

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