

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT
ON EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR 2007 FISHERIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the three applications for exempted fishing permits (EFPs) as proposed for 2007 found in Agenda Item C.6.a. All of the EFPs would allow access to the abundant chilipepper rockfish stock in waters off central California using various hook and line gear configurations.

The GAP reviewed Steve Berkeley's EFP application (Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 1) and unanimously approved this project with the one exception being a recommended change in the canary rockfish annual cap from 360 lbs to 100 lbs.

Josh Churchman's EFP proposal (Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 2) was approved by the GAP after Mr. Churchman agreed to modify his overfished species' caps to be consistent with those caps found in the Berkeley EFP application.

Robert Kraencke's EFP proposal (Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 3) was also approved after Mr. Kraencke agreed to modify his proposal to include the same overfished species' caps specified in the Berkeley EFP application. The GAP also asked Mr. Kraencke to change the depths proposed for fishing under the EFP to specify depths greater than 80 fathoms and Mr. Kraencke agreed.

The GAP therefore recommends approving all three EFPs with the modifications agreed to by Mr. Churchman and Mr. Kraencke as addressed above. The GAP recognizes the constraints to EFP activities and the directed fishery imposed by low canary rockfish OYs and therefore strongly recommends each of these EFPs specify an annual cap of 100 lbs of canary rockfish.

The GAP also believes a structure for standardized data reporting should be established for these approved EFPs. While a report of EFP activities is required under Council Operating Procedure 19, a standardized reporting format and required elements are not specified.