

PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS (EFPs) FOR 2008

Exempted fishing permits (EFPs) provide a process for testing innovative fishing gears and strategies to substantiate methods for prosecuting sustainable and risk-averse fishing opportunities. Applications for EFPs proposed for 2008 are provided as Agenda Item E.5.a, Attachments 1 through 4. The first two proposed EFPs are designed to test different commercial hook-and-line gear configurations and strategies to selectively harvest abundant chilipepper rockfish off central California. The third proposed EFP, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and Environmental Defense, seeks to test hook and line and trap gears in central California using limited entry trawl permits purchased by The Nature Conservancy. The fourth EFP, sponsored by the Recreational Fishing Alliance and the Golden Gate Fishermen's Association, seeks to test the use of recreational hook and line gear to catch underutilized chilipepper and slope rockfish on Commercial Party Fishing Vessels in north central California in waters seaward of the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) between Pigeon Point and 40°10' N latitude.

Under this agenda item, the Council will review these EFP applications, consider public and advisory body comments, and consider moving the 2008 EFP applications forward for public review. Any recommended modifications to these EFP applications will be communicated to the EFP sponsors and the public. The Council is scheduled to decide their final recommendations for 2008 EFPs at the November meeting in San Diego, California.

Council Action:

Consider EFP applications for 2008 and provide preliminary recommendations for public review.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.5.a, Attachment 1: Application for Issuance of an Exempted Fishing Permit to Test a Sustainable Hook and Line Fishery for Chilipepper Rockfish Outside the Non Trawl RCA in Central California (40°10' N Lat.-34°27' N Lat.).
2. Agenda Item E.5.a, Attachment 2: Exempted Fishing Permit – Chilipepper Rockfish.
3. Agenda Item E.5.a, Attachment 3: Application for Issuance of an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to Utilize Hook-and-line and Traps in a Harvesting Cooperative Based on the Catch History of Select Trawl Permits off the Central California Coast.
4. Agenda Item E.5.a, Attachment 4: Recreational Fishing Alliance/Golden Gate Fishermen's Association EFP Proposal Regarding the Recreational Catch Composition of Slope Rockfish.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Agency and Tribal Comments
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Adopt Preliminary Recommendations for EFPs

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