

To: Dr. Donald O. McIsaac
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Subject: RFA/GGFA EFP Proposal
Re: Recreational Catch Composition of Slope Rockfish
Date: May 23, 2007

Applicants:

Recreational Fishing Alliance
Contact: Jim Martin, West Coast Regional Director
P.O. Box 2420, Fort Bragg, CA 95437
(707) 357-3422

Golden Gate Fishermen's Association
Contact: Roger Thomas, President
P.O. Box 40
Sausalito CA 94966
(415) 760-9362

Justification: Since the implementation of the Rockfish Conservation Area as a bycatch reduction measure to protect overfished species such as canary rockfish, over 90% of the EEZ has been closed to recreational rockfishing. This proposal would exempt a specific number of CPFV vessels in north-central California to fish seaward of the RCA for underutilized species such as chilipepper.

Potential impacts: There is some historical data for recreational catches of slope rockfish, but no recent data is available. Impacts on canary rockfish and other shelf species should be zero.

Purpose and goal of the experiment: To use selective recreational fishing gear, hook and line, to access underutilized species of slope rockfish. The

data provided from this series of trips on CPFV vessels would provide management guidance to open a new market for the charter fleet during January through May in north-central California from Pigeon Point to 40°10' N latitude near Cape Mendocino, when inshore rockfishing seasons are closed. Experimenting with different types of terminal tackle results in a more selective fishery. Anglers will retain all legal fish after contributing scales, otoliths, or any other physical evidence needed by data collectors. Any prohibited species landed will be donated to the CDFG for scientific purposes. This EFP would be limited to the CPFV fleet to control effort, and to provide observer coverage, but the data gathered could result in a new fishery for the entire recreational fishing fleet.

Broader Significance: the data collected should prove that a recreational fishery can be conducted on the slope without impacts to overfished species.

Duration of the EFP: Three years (2008-2010). Given the limited number of vessels participating in the project, a long time series will be needed.

Number of vessels: No more than ten. This EFP must be self-funding and we do not know how many individual anglers will be interested in paying a premium for a slope rockfish trip, to cover the expense of the observer program. Angler loads will be limited, perhaps 15-20 people per trip.

Description of Target species: Slope rockfish, zero shelf rockfish.

Harvest Control: Anglers are limited to first ten rockfish landed. For a load of 15 anglers, a vessel would retain a maximum of 150 fish per trip, with observer coverage at-sea and dockside. CPFV logbooks will record species landed.

Vessel-level EFP bycatch caps:

Cowcod: 5 fish

Bocaccio: 5 fish

Widow: 20 fish

Canary: 5 fish

Total EFP bycatch caps:

Cowcod: 10 fish

Bocaccio: 10 fish

Widow: 40 fish

Canary: 10 fish

Proposed Data Collection and Analysis Methodology: This EFP will provide raw data to the existing CRFS data collection and analysis system. 100% retention will guarantee accurate dockside identification and age class data. Type of terminal tackle (weights, lures, hook sizes) would be recorded for comparison purposes and bycatch reduction data. Vessels will record other information such as location, depth and water temperatures. Data collection can be verified by video documentation and collaborative research between fishery managers and industry.

Participation: Vessels with a clean logbook reporting record will be chosen from various ports such as Monterey, Santa Cruz, Half Moon Bay, San Francisco Bay Area and Fort Bragg where the slope is reachable on a day trip. Priority will be given to vessels with historical landings of slope rockfish.

Time, Place and Amount of Gear Used: This EFP would be conducted during fair weather days during the months of January through May, with anglers limited to one rod apiece, two hooks, and 36 ounces of weight.

Signature of Applicant:

James Martin, RFA

Roger Thomas, GGFA