

PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS (EFPs) FOR 2009

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 2009 are provided as Agenda Item F.3.a, Attachments 1 through 6.

The first proposed EFP is designed to test a trolled longline strategy to selectively harvest abundant chilipepper rockfish off central California. The second proposed EFP, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense, the California Department of Fish and Game, and others, seeks to test hook-and-line and trap gears in central California using limited entry trawl permits purchased by The Nature Conservancy. The third 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 rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and slope rockfish on Commercial Party Fishing Vessels (CPFVs) within and seaward of the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) in waters off California north of Pt. Conception. The fourth EFP, sponsored by the Oregon Chapter of the Recreational Fishing Alliance, seeks to test floated, long leader gear to selectively harvest yellowtail rockfish within the RCA in waters off Oregon. The fifth EFP, sponsored by Gerald Mikell, seeks to harvest yellowtail rockfish in a specific area within the non-trawl RCA north of Pt. St. George, California. The sixth EFP, sponsored by the Recreational Fishing Alliance and the Golden Gate Fishermen's Association, seeks to selectively harvest federally managed flatfish on CPFVs within and seaward of the non-trawl RCA in waters off California north of Pt. Conception.

Under this agenda item, the Council will review these EFP applications, consider public and advisory body comments, and consider moving the 2009 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 2009 EFPs at the November meeting in San Diego, California.

Council Action:

Consider EFP applications for 2009 and provide preliminary recommendations for public review.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.3.a, Attachment 1: Application for an Exempted Fishing Permit sponsored by Steve Fosmark entitled, "Evaluation of an epibenthic trolled longline to selectively catch chilipepper rockfish (*Sebastes goodei*)."
2. Agenda Item F.3.a, Attachment 2: Application for Issuance of an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to Fish Trawl Permits with Longline, Trap, Pot, and Hook-and-line Gear in a Community Based Fishing Association off the Central California Coast.

3. Agenda Item F.3.a, Attachment 3: Application for an Exempted Fishing Permit sponsored by the Recreational Fishing Alliance and the Golden Gate Fishermen's Association Entitled, "Recreational Rockfish Catch Composition in the Rockfish Conservation Area Using Gear-Based Harvest Controls."
4. Agenda Item F.3.a, Attachment 4: Application for an Exempted Fishing Permit sponsored by the Recreational Fishing Alliance Entitled, "Oregon Recreational Yellowtail Rockfish EFP."
5. Agenda Item F.3.a, Attachment 5: Application for an Exempted Fishing Permit sponsored by Gerald Mikell Entitled, "Request for Experimental Fisheries Permit (EFP) for Yellowtail Rockfish."
6. Agenda Item F.3.a, Attachment 6: Application for an Exempted Fishing Permit sponsored by the Recreational Fishing Alliance and the Golden Gate Fishermen's Association Entitled, "Recreational Flatfish Catch Composition in the Area Around and Seaward of the Rockfish Conservation Area."

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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PFMC
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