

**RECEIVED**

**9 May 2008**

MAY 14 2008

**PFMC**

**To: Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Atten: John DeVore  
7700 NE Ambassador Place Suite 101  
Portland, Or. 97220-1384**

**EFP Applicant:**

**Gerald Mikell  
95658 House Rock Rd  
Brookings, Or. 97415  
(541) 469-1215  
(541) 661-1242 (cell)  
gmikell@nwtec.com**

**Enclosed is my application for a Yellowtail Rock Fish  
Experimental Fisheries Permit (EFP) . If further information  
is needed please advise.**

**Respectfully**

  
**Gerald Mikell**

## **Request for Experimental Fisheries Permit (EFP) for Yellowtail Rock Fish.**

### **Social and Economic Comments:**

**Fisheries off the shores of the Northwest United States have played a major role in the development of regional commerce, trade, and society in communities bordering the Pacific Ocean. In the current attempt to protect over fished species the city of Brookings, like most other coastal fishing towns, has experienced substantially reduced landing allowances for both commercial and sport fisheries. Many, who have for decades relied on the once rich fisheries for their livelihood, are now faced with a diminishing quality of coastal living. In this application for an Experimental Fisheries Permit (EFP) the small boat ground fishery and the expansion of the live fish market is of particular interest. The near shore fishery under present circumstance lacks a quota necessary to sustain a livelihood. Larger boats are surviving reduced quotas only by working several fisheries, e.g. salmon, crab, blackcod, and near shore fish. When the salmon or crab season is poor larger boats move to near shore ground fishing normally fished by smaller vessels. The near shore industry is thus impacted by more boats fishing for a fixed quota. Size and restricted gear capability precludes most small near shore boats from participating in other fisheries. Couple this with abnormal poor year harvests like we see in 2008, it is apparent that the small boat industry is financially challenged. Any effort to expand small boat access to fish outside the near shore arena, as proposed herein, could provide an avenue of financial relief to the near shore fishery and towards meeting PFMC/GMT goals.**

## **ECONOMICS and EFFICIENCY:**

**With greater pressure mounting on the Nearshore fishery, coupled with problems of bycatch of over fished species, it is imperative that new concepts and fishing techniques be developed for species like Yellowtail. Currently, federal regulations allow only 200 pounds of Yellowtail per month. However, for the near shore fishery, Yellowtail can not be caught because it is normally found mostly within the Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA).**

**The Yellowtail rock fish is considered a prime target for expanding the live fish market. Please note that this fish has a very high survival rate owing to its' natural ability to release large quantities of swim bladder gas when ascending through the water column. In short they are an ideal fish for the live fishery.**

**Adding Yellowtail to the live market will improve the economics and efficiency as fresh fish typically bring about \$.80/lb to \$1.00/lb but Yellowtail sold to the live fish market will bring \$2.00/lb, thus doubling revenue/lb. Developing a Yellowtail live market will reduce pressure on other near shore species by expanding the overall fishing arena. Thereby meeting the PFMCs' goal to explore ways to reduce efforts on depressed stocks. Employing clean fishing techniques, as stated in attachment (1) , will also meet PFMC goals to reduce bycatch levels of over fished species.**

## **PROPOSAL:**

**It is requested that the originator of this proposal be issued a EFP and permitted to gain access to the RCA for the purpose of harvesting Yellowtail (*Sebastes flavidus*) at specific measured depths and determined locations. General information regarding gear, tackle, and technique is provided in attachment (1). The trip limit can be held to 500 lbs per trip with a 10,000 pound annual quota. When available NOAA observers will ride the permitted vessel and document catch information. Otherwise, a logbook will be maintained to record all aspects of each trip, e.g., species caught - weight total, depth fished - water temp, bottom depth and gear type. All bycatch will be relinquished to Oregon ODFW or released for survival. It is anticipated that initial trips could have low levels of Canary bycatch, that is until such time as depth, lure selection, technique strategy, and electronic school identification processes are developed. Initial fishing sets will be conducted with a minimum number of hooks, i.e., 1 to 5 ganged hooks (two poles), to reduce initial bycatch impact. Calibrated Digital Electric Reels (CDER's) will be used to measure depths being fished and to provide accurate measurement for logbook data. A high end plot-charter and fish-finder will be utilized to help identify species school characteristics and mark exact location of schools to be fished.**

**The bycatch of canary should be minimal or near zero. Fish targeted at upper levels will eliminate bycatch of bottom and deeper mid-water dwellers (Yelloweye and Canary). The bycatch of Yelloweye rock fish within the Yellowtail EFP fishery, should be ZERO even during in the initial stages.**

## **ATTACHMENT (1)**

**Strategy:** Locate Yellowtail in upper columns of water, i.e., surface to 15 fathoms. Long range goal will be to locate Yellowtail in water columns 8 fathoms or less.

**Technique:** Troll minimum number of lures or flies with electric reels until Yellowtail school is located, verified, and exact position marked -- then deploy larger number of hooks/per/line up to 25 ( basically Vietnamese gear). Yellowtail breezing on surface may be fished with single lead lures similar to that used on black rock fish.

**Boat:** 26 ft with custom live well (500# capacity)

**GEAR:** (1) Electric Digital Reels  
(2) Light weight rod/reel  
(3) Vietnamese line (25 hooks)  
(4) Assorted lures -- shrimpfly and lead jigs

**Target Area:** Reef located 3.1 nautical miles north of Pt St. George provides ideal structure for this fishery. It is close to mainland harbor, it provides safe condition for small boat operations, and is close to wholesale buyer. This reef also has history of Yellowtail which dwell in upper water columns.