

**Morro Bay/Port San Luis Exempted Fishing Permit
EFP Harvest Planning Information
September 10, 2008**

EFP Primary Goal – The primary goal of this EFP is to test and develop ways community based fishing associations can be established to operate in a collaborative fashion to improve the performance, management, and monitoring of the local groundfish fishery under the upcoming trawl ITQ. In an ITQ fishery, such associations could focus on the following objectives:

- preserving traditional local access
- pooling and sharing resources (like capital or quota share)
- establishing collaborative monitoring and reporting programs
- developing new markets for groundfish products
- sharing catch and spatial information so to avoid the catch of depleted species

The association created under this EFP has identified the need to develop a harvest plan to guide fishing consistent with the goals, terms and conditions of the EFP. The EFP harvest plan will evolve, and has evolved, as the project moves forward and will be managed adaptively as circumstances require.

Harvest Challenge

The primary challenge for association members fishing under the EFP is to promote the catch, using fixed gear, of a diverse suite of species traditionally landed using trawl gear. It is not feasible to catch all trawl caught species using fixed gear –flatfish are least likely to be caught using fixed gear. However, if a community is to use gear-switching as part of a strategy to adapt to the conditions of an ITQ fishery, it will be important to develop harvest strategies that will utilize many of the diverse species typically caught using trawl gear.

Management of sablefish catch is the most important part of the harvest plan because sablefish are caught in fairly high numbers when fishing for the EFP target species and the sablefish hard cap will likely be met first..

Harvest Plan Iteration #1 [Trips 1-6]

In the first iteration of the harvest plan, the association decided to pace fishing by limiting sablefish harvest to 10mt per month. Six fishing trips were conducted under this guideline. Following a review of the fishery data by the association, it was evident that the harvest plan created an incentive to maximize the catch of sablefish, rather than to diversify effort towards the harvest of other species. As a result, the association changed their harvest plan to address this incentive.

Harvest Plan Iteration #2 [Trips 7-14]

In the second iteration, the association adjusted the harvest plan to allocate a portion of the sablefish aggregate catch limit to each participant, to limit to 3,000 the number of horizontal hooks that could be set per trip, and to require one vertical hook for every two horizontal hooks set for the remainder of the EFP. [Do you want to describe why vertical/horizontal ration is important? Even a footnote would be good.] The general pace of fishing has slowed since the harvest plan was adjusted and greater effort is being made to target non-sablefish species.

The attached diagrams depict the change in catch composition that has been observed on trips before and after the harvest plan adjustment. The association anticipates that the harvest plan will be modified continuously as more information is collected, and that strategies to target non-sablefish species will evolve over time.

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Trip Species Composition

