

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT ON  
THE MIDWATER RECREATIONAL SPORT FISHERY

After successful execution of exempted fishing permits (EFPs) in Oregon to test midwater sportfishing gear for targeting yellowtail rockfish, the Council asked NMFS to prepare an analysis of a preliminary range of alternatives for authorizing this gear-type in California and Oregon under the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. NMFS conducted preliminary scoping and determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) would be appropriate. NMFS assembled a team, including staff from California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and defined the proposed action. The Council may use the draft EA being prepared to establish a preliminary preferred alternative at the September 2015 Council meeting, and a final preferred alternative at the November 2015 Council meeting.

PFMC  
06/11/15