

INTERIM REPORT:
EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT
TESTING COMMERCIAL JIG FISHING GEAR TARGETING YELLOWTAIL ROCKFISH
FOR 2015/2016 GROUND FISH FISHERIES

Summary Total EFP activity August 2013 through October 31, 2015

During all trips in this 3-year period the gear worked very well at catching target species while avoiding Canary and Yellow-eye. The fishermen who have been participating has changed since the beginning and we have had a total of three fishermen taking part. It's important to note that no matter who is fishing and rigging lines, the gear works the way it's supposed to.

Starting in 2014, even though we have permits for four fishermen, only Ray Nottengel on the Annika has participated. Here is his report:

Hello,

My name is Captain Raymond Nottengel, I have been fishing central and northern California coast over 40 years and much of the time as a charter boat captain.

I have been participating in the testing of commercial jig gear long leader fishing, targeting the yellow tail rockfish. My participation in this fishery has been since 2014 to now, in the RCA at Cordell Bank. The gear seems to work well as we target hovering fish schools of yellow tail. After catching two Golden-eye Rockfish in one day, I switched to using Depth Hunter fishing line to put the gear on the fish schools. This way of fishing seems to minimize bottom contact, where the Golden-Eye dwell. I haven't caught any Goldeneye since. I also believe that no use of bait helps to avoid by-catch.

I have seen a lot of fishing grounds closed over the years, and I would hope this new way of harvesting yellow tail rockfish will be looked at closely.

I also believe that using this jig gear opens up opportunities to be able to commercially harvest yellow tail rock fish and other midwater rockfish and that a fisherman could make a profit if somehow the observers cost could be discounted or removed. -Please note, that the stock of yellow tail appears to be plentiful on Cordell Bank, as this is the place where I did all the gear testing.

As of 10-7-2015 I have fished the area a total of 11 trips, here is the average catch per trip:

*4-15-14 668 lbs
6-27-14 873 lbs
7-11-14 768 lbs
8-28-14 785 lbs
9-14-14 746 lbs
9-21-14 1101 lbs
10-8-14 763 lbs*

11-15-14 943 lbs
4-21-15 427 lbs
6-9-15 756 lbs
10-7-15 751 lbs

Keep in mind we are using only 2 fishing rods, and making day trips only. From the harbor to the fishing grounds and back is approximately 10 hours. Average catch being 773 lbs per trip at 1.60 per lb equals \$1236.80. My cost out of pocket is diesel fuel 160.00, ice 25.00 and gear 20.00, if I didn't have to pay an observer the profit would be 1036.80 cents. If a fisherman did 32 trips per season, his total revenue would be 33,776.00, not bad for 32 days of work. I hope this report will help in a favorable decision for the opening of this new fishery. Thank you for your consideration.

Captain Ray Nottnagel

The fact that we have had to have 100% observer coverage has made it impractical for our fishermen to approach this fishing as they usually would, i.e. 4 day trips, one day to hunt around the area for best spots and then a couple of days "on the fish". It has also made it hard to get more fishermen to participate so we can see different areas. We have two other fishermen approved to go but they haven't. Of course we're just trying to see if the gear works but economic data would also be useful and that's what we can't get.

Please look at the attached tables for catch data.

Year	2013	2014	2015 (Through 10-7)
Trips	5	9	3
Yellowtail rockfish	0.845	2.8596	0.80278
Bocaccio	0.09575	0.30242	0.14608
Canary Rockfish	0.02094	0.01706	0.00444
Yelloweye Rockfish	0.0072	0.00585	0
Widow Rockfish	0.4359	0.41798	0.01387
Chilipepper S of 40.10°	0	0.00147	0
Lingcod S of 42°	0	0.0398	na
Lingcod S of 40.10°	na	na	0.01084
Redstripe rockfish	0.0018	0	0
Rosy rockfish	0	0.00111	0
Speckled rockfish	0	0.01477	0.0007
Vermilion rockfish	0.0335	0.0017	0
Other Fish	0.03265	0.01141	0
TOTAL (mt)	1.47274	3.48082	0.97871

2013-2015 Yellowtail EFP Catch Breakdown

Species	Number of Fish	Percentage of Catch
Yellowtail Rockfish	3948	74.72%
Widow Rockfish	786	14.88%
Bocaccio	237	4.49%
Blue Rockfish	111	2.10%
Olive Rockfish	51	0.97%
Other Rockfish	62	1.17%
Speckled Rockfish	32	0.61%
Canary Rockfish	30	0.57%
Lingcod	19	0.36%
Chilipepper	4	0.08%
Yelloweye Rockfish	3	0.06%
Chinook Salmon	1	0.02%
Total Catch	5284	100.00%

Total Catch 2013-2015

