

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT
(EFP) FOR CALIFORNIA MID-WATER COMMERCIAL JIG GEAR FOR 2017-2018

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard a report by Mr. Dan Platt, Ms. Barbara Emley, and other fishermen involved in the California Mid-water Commercial Jig Gear exempted fishing permit (EFP) and urges the Council to move the EFP forward for public review.

The GAP discussed the issue of reduced observer coverage – down to approximately 20 percent – and agrees with the applicants that this should be sufficient to obtain statistically viable sample sizes. At the same time, this would reduce costs to those involved in the EFP and more accurately reflect the conditions of a commercial fishery in the future. The GAP also suggests the applicants explore the potential use of electronic monitoring to supplement the at-sea monitoring plan.

The applicants also request a set-aside of 0.03 mt of yelloweye. While the GAP understands the scarcity of yelloweye availability, we note that a set-aside for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) research has not been fully utilized in the past few years, as noted in the Table 2 of Agenda Item I.9, Groundfish Management Team (GMT) statement from November 2015 (http://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/I9a_Sup_GMT_Rpt3_Nov2015BB.pdf). The GAP suggests discussion with ODFW on refinement of the agency's research set-aside request may yield sufficient yelloweye to allow the EFP to continue in 2017-18. Furthermore, there is still time to account for this set-aside change in the 2017-18 biennial harvest specifications process.

PFMC
03/12/16