

Selective Flatfish Trawl EFP: *Monitoring and Minimizing Salmon Bycatch When Targeting Rockfish in the Shorebased IFQ Fishery*

EFP Participation Requirements/Rules (DRAFT)

This document refines the action proposed in the [Selective Flatfish Trawl EFP](#), with specific focus on measures to minimize salmon bycatch to the extent practicable. Provisions to monitor the EFP on a real-time basis and minimize salmon bycatch are provided below for further discussion at the November 2016 Council meeting.

1.0 EFP ENROLLMENT PROVISIONS

Enrollment will be limited to bottom trawl vessels that notify NMFS prior to the start of the EFP (January 2017). It is anticipated that NMFS will distribute a notice to the bottom trawl permit holders prior to the end of 2016, with a specified EFP enrollment deadline.

- Vessels will be required to contact NMFS prior to the specified deadline and enroll in the EFP for a minimum of one month. Once enrolled, vessels can contact NMFS and declare in/out of the EFP on a monthly basis (at the beginning of each month with the exception of May – see below). If a vessel declares out of the EFP for the month, it cannot declare back in until the beginning of the next month.
- Vessels can declare out of the EFP mid-month during the month of May. Any vessels that use midwater trawl gear after May 15 must declare out of the EFP by May 15 and will be out of the EFP for any months they use midwater trawl gear.

2.0 EFP RULES/REQUIREMENTS

The provisions described in the following subsections will apply to all participating vessels when declared in to the EFP. **NMFS has authority to revoke the EFP permit for any vessel that does not adhere to the EFP rules.**

2.1 RETENTION REQUIREMENT FOR SALMON BYCATCH

- Participants in the EFP will be required to **retain and land all salmon bycatch on all EFP trips**, consistent with current requirements for the shoreside whiting fishery.

- Shoreside processors will work with food banks to donate salmon bycatch suitable for human consumption, consistent with allowances under current regulations.
- **Vessels carrying observers must continue to sort their catch in order to separate salmon bycatch by each haul** so observers can continue to sample salmon bycatch on a haul-by-haul basis.
- **Vessels using EM must sort their catch in order to separate and retain salmon bycatch separately for each haul** to provide a mechanism to continue to collect haul-specific genetic information (by linking the samples from shoreside monitors to tow locations reported in vessel logbooks). Vessels should retain salmon bycatch in separate, numbered totes that can be viewed on the camera.

2.2 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND REAL-TIME BYCATCH MONITORING

- Current monitoring and reporting requirements for bottom trawl vessels in the shoreside IFQ fishery will apply on all EFP trips, including **100% at-sea observer coverage** (or electronic monitoring (EM) if participating in one of the EM EFPs), as well as **100% shoreside monitoring**.
- EFP participants will be required to **provide all salmon bycatch information as quickly as possible and without any restrictions on confidentiality**, in accordance with the measures to monitor/minimize salmon bycatch described below.

Real-Time Bycatch Monitoring: Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) will provide monitoring of salmon bycatch on EFP trips as close to real-time as possible (daily or near daily), through (1) data provided by dealers/processors on fish tickets and (2) reports provided by shoreside monitors. In general, this information can be made available 24-72 hours after the landing event. Specifically, PSMFC will produce an EFP bycatch monitoring report that summarizes the following information from the fish tickets/shoreside reports:

- Number of landing events (since last report)
- Number of Chinook salmon landed
- Cumulative number of landing events/cumulative number of Chinook salmon landed
- Information about high bycatch tows/trips (see Section 2.3 below)

The bycatch monitoring report provided by PSMFC will be used by EFP participants to operate the fishery as far below the proposed salmon bycatch cap as practicable.

EFP participants will be required to cooperate with PSMFC and provide any information necessary to minimize bycatch as quickly as possible.

2.3 ADDITIONAL RULES TO MINIMIZE SALMON BYCATCH

This EFP proposes a **Chinook salmon bycatch cap of 4,500 fish** (50% of the 9,000-Chinook threshold for the bottom trawl fishery). When 4,500 Chinook salmon are taken on EFP trips, NMFS would close the EFP for the remainder of the fishing year. If this occurs, EFP vessels could fish under the remainder of the 9,000 Chinook bycatch threshold for bottom trawl vessels under current SFFT and mesh restrictions. The EFP would also shut down if the 9,000 Chinook bycatch threshold is reached for the bottom trawl fishery, even if the vessels fishing under the EFP have not caught 4,500 fish.

The intent of this EFP is not to allow the fishery to operate freely up to the 4,500-Chinook cap, but rather, to keep bycatch as low as possibly while re-developing the pelagic rockfish fishery. To this end, additional rules are proposed for EFP participants to ensure that bycatch avoidance and minimization is a priority. The rules provided below are for further consideration and discussion at the November 2016 Council meeting.

Rules for Fleet Accountability and Bycatch Minimization

The following rules will apply for all trips taken in the EFP:

- **A vessel that experiences a high bycatch tow (10 Chinook/tow)** is required to report the tow as quickly as possible to both PSMFC and the Oregon Trawl Commission (OTC) (date/time/location of tow set and haul back, depth of tow, and number of Chinook salmon).
- PSMFC will provide information about high bycatch events (tows and trips – see more about *high bycatch trips* below) as part of the real-time bycatch monitoring reports (number of events and date/time/location and depth for high bycatch tows/trips– without identifying specific vessels). OTC and WCSPA will also distribute this information to EFP participants so other participating vessels can immediately avoid the area where the bycatch event occurred.
- A vessel that experiences a high bycatch tow is also required to move its fishing operation before setting out gear again during the same fishing trip. The vessel captain must seek alternative fishing grounds where it is reasonable to expect the vessel to encounter less Chinook salmon bycatch.
- **High bycatch trips** are defined as trips with total Chinook salmon bycatch greater than **(25 Chinook/trip)**. There will be a **three-strike rule for high bycatch trips by EFP vessels** – A vessel that lands three high bycatch trips during one month will be required to declare out of the EFP for the remainder of that month and for the following month. A vessel that must declare out of the EFP due to high bycatch trips for a second time during the EFP will have its permit for this EFP permanently revoked.
- These **rules may be modified as the EFP progresses** and more information about bycatch becomes available. OTC, WCSPA, and EDF will work with PSMFC and the EFP participants throughout the season to communicate updated bycatch information to the fleet and develop to additional/different move-along, stand down, and avoidance rules, as necessary, to ensure that bycatch minimization remains a priority.

Rules for Area-Based Avoidance (Area Closures)

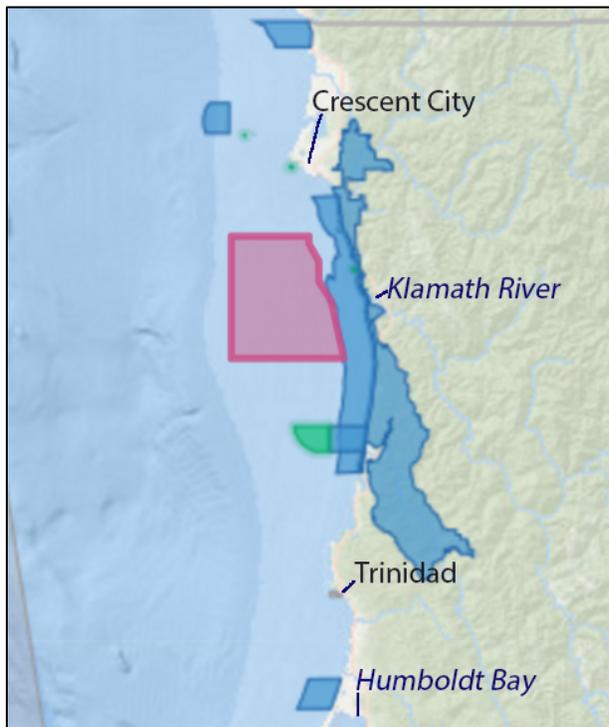
The following rules for area closures are intended to further avoid/minimize salmon bycatch:

- (1) **Klamath River Salmon Conservation Zone.** The ocean area surrounding the Klamath River mouth bounded on the north by 41°38.80' N. lat. (approximately 6 nm north of the Klamath River mouth), on the west by 124°23' W. long. (approximately 12 nm from shore), and on the south by 41°26.80' N. lat. (approximately 6 nm south of the Klamath River mouth). See Figure 1.

<http://www.mpatlas.org/mpa/sites/8590/>

Rule. The Klamath River Salmon Conservation Zone will be closed to EFP trips for the duration of the EFP.

Figure 1 Klamath River Salmon Conservation Zone



(2) **Columbia River Salmon Conservation Zone.** The ocean area surrounding the Columbia River mouth bounded by a line extending for 6 nm due west from North Head along 46°18' N. lat. to 124°13.30' W. long., then southerly along a line of 167 True to 46°11.10' N. lat. and 124°11' W. long. (Columbia River Buoy), then northeast along Red Buoy Line to the tip of the south jetty. See Figure 2.

<http://www.mpatlas.org/mpa/sites/8589/>

Rule. Close the Columbia River Salmon Conservation Zone to EFP trips if 1,000 Chinook salmon are taken.

Figure 2 Columbia River Salmon Conservation Zone

