

## TRAWL GEAR MODIFICATION EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP) FINAL ACTION

At its March 2016 meeting, the Council approved a trawl gear regulation package designed to increase flexibility for the trawl fishery based on the individual accountability and 100 percent at-sea monitoring established by the Amendment 20 catch share program. This package is a trailing action that helps complete implementation of the regulatory modifications that were envisioned as part of the catch share program. Among the provisions included in that package were measures to replace the selective flatfish trawl requirement in the area north of 40° 10' N. Latitude with a small-footrope requirement and eliminate the minimum mesh size requirement.

On the basis of calendars indicating that the gear regulations would be implemented by 2017, over the summer harvesters and processors began working together to plan a winter/early-spring fishery for pelagic rockfish (widow, yellowtail, and chilipepper) that was dependent on these regulations. The shoreside nonwhiting trawl fishery has been struggling economically under the catch share program; the opportunity to redevelop this fishery and related markets (largely absent since 2000 due to stock rebuilding constraints) was expected to bring economic relief and preserve infrastructure.

At its September 2016 meeting, the Council heard from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that implementation of the gear package had been substantially delayed. In response, it was agreed that an out-of-cycle EFP would be considered to allow an attempt to redevelop the pelagic rockfish fishery early in 2017. That proposed EFP is provided here as Agenda Item F.5, Attachment 1.

The Council should review this EFP application, consider public and advisory body comments, and take final action. No additional allocations or set-asides are being requested to support this EFP.

### **Council Action:**

#### **1. Adopt Final EFP Recommendations to NMFS for Modification of Trawl Gear Regulations.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item F.5, Attachment 1: Selective Flatfish Trawl EFP: Monitoring and Minimizing Salmon Bycatch When Targeting Rockfish in the Shorebased IFQ Fishery.

### **Agenda Order:**

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| F.5 | Trawl Gear Modification Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Final Action  | Jim Seger |
| a.  | Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities   |           |
| b.  | Public Comment  |           |
| c.  | <b>Council Action:</b> Adopt Final EFP Recommendations to NMFS for Modification of Trawl Gear Regulations |           |