

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON NEW AND CONTINUING
EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT APPROVAL FOR 2019-2020

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard reports from exempted fishing permit (EFP) applicants and Dr. Jim Seger, Pacific Fishery Management Council staff officer, and offers the following comments and suggestions. In general, we agree with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) but include additional support and information.

Groundfish EFP Proposal: Yellowtail Rockfish Jig Fishing off California [within the RCA] – *San Francisco Community Fishing Association/Dan Platt*

The GAP understands this EFP has been ongoing for some time and **fully supports its continuance**. The GAP also supports the request to increase the canary set-aside to 2 metric tons (mt) and the yelloweye set-aside from 0.03 mt to 0.06 mt, since the status of both stocks have greatly improved. The GAP recognizes the observer coverage would be 100 percent. Furthermore, the GAP suggests that since this EFP has been working for several years, regulatory management begin for this gear type, with implementation in 2021-2022, if not sooner. The GAP notes it would be helpful to understand the desired target for data collection. The EFP applicants have not been notified of when the data is robust enough to move this gear type into regulation.

Regarding expansion of the area: The applicants are open to accommodating that request. However, we note that fishermen are unlikely to fish those expanded areas if their target species aren't there. This point also applies to potential regulatory management: Regulations could dictate a large area, but fishermen would not take advantage of the full range if the target species are concentrated in a smaller area.

Groundfish Exempted Fishing Permit Proposal: Commercial Midwater Hook & Line Rockfish Fishing in the RCA off the Oregon Coast - *Scott Cook*

The GAP reviewed updated information provide by the applicant, Scott Cook, and **supports this EFP**. Furthermore, the GAP supports setting the yelloweye rockfish set-aside at 0.12 mt and the canary rockfish set-aside at 10 mt. Allowing a 10 mt set-aside of canary would make the EFP easier to execute since this species and the yellowtail, the target species, frequently intermix. As mentioned above, canary rockfish stocks have improved and are no longer considered overfished and annual catch limits are sufficient to provide for this amount. This gear is similar to what is being used in the recreational sector, which has been experiencing slightly higher amounts of canary. This EFP could also provide opportunities for some fishermen who have been unable to go salmon fishing and/or have had experienced poor tuna seasons recently.

Monterey Bay Fishermen Exempted Fishing Application – Chilipepper Rockfish - *Real Good Fish/Alan Lovewell*

The GAP **supports this EFP** for several reasons: It provides access to under-attained species; it enables the fleet to spread out, avoiding concentrated effort in popular areas; and it takes the fishing pressure off nearshore stocks. Several California fishermen have expressed interest in using this type of gear, as it is inexpensive to get into and could also provide additional opportunity to those affected by closures or limitations in other fishery. Many of those involved in the yellowtail jig fishing EFP are also interested to see whether the data collected from this EFP are similar to the jig fishing data. Some GAP members supported testing of the Flywire camera device as an electronic monitoring option. The GAP also supports a yelloweye set-aside of 0.06 mt for this EFP and, to cover potential vermilion rockfish bycatch, a set-aside of 30 mt of minor shelf rockfish south of 40° 10' N. latitude with a sub-limit of 5 mt of vermilion rockfish.

Chilipepper/Yellowtail Long Leader Exempted Fishing Permit [Recreational within the RCA] - *Tom Mattusch*

The GAP **does not support** this EFP as submitted.

2019 Midwater EFP– *West Coast Seafood Processors Association, Oregon Trawl Commission, Midwater Trawlers Cooperative, Environmental Defense Fund*

The GAP reviewed the proposed EFP application and **supports this EFP in general**. The GAP notes Section 2.1.ii (Page 3) includes the **elimination of the selective flatfish trawl** shoreward of the rockfish conservation area (RCA) north of 42° N. latitude. The GAP **suggests this provision be allowed for vessels south of 42° N. latitude** as well, which would be consistent with the Council's final preferred alternative in the trawl gear package. As mentioned in the EFP application, any provisions listed in Section 2.1 not implemented by the National Marine Fisheries Service as part of the trawl gear package by Jan. 1, 2019, would be incorporated into this EFP for 2019. The GAP supports this approach – including the areas both north and south of 42° N. latitude – to enable data collection in an area that currently has little information to support implementation of the measures in the trawl gear package (i.e., south of 42° and north of 40° 10' N. latitude.). The GAP agrees with the GMT relative to salmon retention for data collection and understands the protocols for retaining salmon shoreside will be worked out before the EFP is finalized in September.

PFMC
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