

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON CONTINUING MIDWATER
TRAWL AND GEAR EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFPs) AND SALMON BYCATCH
PROVISIONS IN NEW EFPs

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of the issue from Dr. Jim Seger, and Ms. Karen Palmigiano provided additional background from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) report. The GAP offers the following comments and recommendations.

The GAP strongly supports continuing the midwater and trawl gear EFP for 2019, and utilizing the 2019 EFP as the preliminary EFP for 2020. To date, the midwater trawl portion of the EFP has been a success in providing opportunity to increase attainment with minimal bycatch and providing salmon catch data. The recent salmon Biological Opinion recommends an EFP be conducted for three years to collect data necessary to support additional fishing opportunities. 2020 would serve as the third EFP year for the midwater trawl component.

It is the GAP's understanding that given the anticipation of timely implementation of the trawl gear rule, the need for any bottom trawl components of the gear rule may likely be limited to an exemption to the selective flatfish trawl (SFFT) gear requirement between 40°10' N. latitude and 42° N. latitude; the GAP supports this SFFT exemption to be included in the EFP if not included in final gear rule.

The GAP notes the importance of continuity of rockfish markets as being a key component to its success. Therefore, the GAP emphasizes that a January 1st EFP start date is critical for harvesters and processors.

Preliminary information from the GMT indicates they are recommending a 1,000 chinook limit for the midwater portion of the EFP and a 40 chinook limit for the bottom trawl portion of the EFP. The GAP agrees that these numbers should be sufficient.

For the three new 2019-2020 EFPs, the GAP supports the chinook bycatch limits proposed by EFP authors from Table 2 in NMFS Report 1 (excerpt below) under this agenda item.

EFP Project and Applicant	No. of Chinook
Yellowtail Rockfish Jig Fishing for the 2019-2020 Fishing Seasons- San Francisco Community Fishing Association (<i>Barbara Emley and Daniel Platt</i>)	10
Commercial Midwater Hook-and-Line Rockfish Fishing in the RCA off the Oregon Coast- <i>Scott Cook</i>	100
Monterey Bay Regional Exempted Fishing Permit – Chilipepper Rockfish- <i>Alan Lovell, Real Good Fish</i>	60