

**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT
 ON EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is providing this report to update the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) on the 2019 Trawl Gear exempted fishing permit (EFP) and the San Francisco Community Fishing Association (SFCFA, i.e., Emley-Platt) EFP.

2019 Trawl Gear EFP

The 2019 Trawl Gear EFP began on January 1 of this year. NMFS held an open enrollment period from November 28 through December 14, 2018. NMFS held a second open enrollment period from February 26, 2019 through March 15, 2019. A total of 49 vessels registered for the 2019 Trawl Gear EFP and 44 of 49 permits have been issued. The remaining five vessels do not meet EFP eligibility requirements at this time.

As of March 25, 11 vessels have participated in the Trawl Gear EFP during the 2019 fishing year. These vessels have caught 29 Chinook salmon, no eulachon, sturgeon, or Coho salmon, and approximately 5.8 million pounds of groundfish, totaling approximately \$2.1 million in revenue. Of the 29 Chinook salmon caught so far in 2019, 22 were caught north of 42° North latitude and seven were caught south of 42° North latitude (See Table 1).

Table 1. Summary of trawl gear EFP and non-EFP, non-whiting midwater trawl catches for the 2019 fishing year (as of March 25, 2019).

Region	Group	# of Vessels	Trips	Chinook (#)	Eulachon (#)	Sturgeon (#)	Groundfish Weight (lbs)	Groundfish Revenue (\$)
N of 42	Bottom Trawl Vessels	2	16	5	0	0	1,093,078	\$656,608
	Midwater Trawl Vessels	7	54	17	0	0	4,210,686	\$1,229,901
S of 42	Bottom Trawl Vessels	1	7	0	0	0	236,030	\$170,061
	Midwater Trawl Vessels	1	7	7	0	0	241,790	\$86,854

SFCFA (Emley-Platt) EFP - Lingcod EFP Catch Limit for south of 40°10' North latitude

On March 18, the EFP applicant notified NMFS of an issue with the EFP catch limits for the SFCFA EFP. Specifically, the applicant noted that there was no allocation for lingcod south of 40°10' North latitude (N. lat.) which is inconsistent compared to prior years. At the time the application was submitted, the [2019-2020 SFCFA EFP application](#) requested 1.5 metric tons (mt)

of lingcod for both north and south of 40°10' N. lat. The current terms and conditions state an EFP catch limit of 1.5 mt only for north of 40°10' N. lat.

During final action on the EFP applications at the June 2018 Council meeting, the Council recommended that NMFS use the amounts in [Supplemental GMT Report 3](#) for EFP catch limits, which did not include an allocation for lingcod south of 40°10' N. lat. Therefore, there was no off-the-top deduction for EFP catch from the 2019 annual catch limit (ACL) for lingcod south of 40°10' N. lat (1,039 mt). A total of 11.3 mt was deducted from this ACL, including 8.1 mt for incidental catch in the open access fishery and 3.2 mt for research catch. After talking to staff at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS was informed that research took an average of 0.8 mt of lingcod south of 42° N. lat. annually from 2009 to 2013, and an average of 2.0 mt of lingcod south of 40°10' N. lat. annually from 2014 to 2017. Therefore, research is unlikely to take the entire 3.2 mt allocated amount from the 2019 ACL.

NMFS proposes to allocate a portion of the 3.2 mt research off-the-top ACL deduction to accommodate an EFP catch limit for lingcod south of 40°10' N. lat. This would result in revised off-the-top ACL deductions for research catch and EFP catch. This proposed change can be effectuated through the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan's procedures for inseason actions with review from the Groundfish Management Team and approval from the Council.