

**GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
PRELIMINARY EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT APPROVAL FOR 2021-2022**

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of the agenda item from Dr. Jim Seger, Council staff, and had a joint discussion with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) on the preliminary 2021-2022 exempted fishing permits (EFP).

While the GAP recommends that all of the applications move forward for further consideration, the GAP is also cognizant of the Council workload associated with reviewing and approving these EFP applications, and the National Marine Fisheries Service workload in readying these EFPs for implementation. Therefore the GAP assigned a priority level to each EFP, which is summarized in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Summary of GAP Recommendations**

Cells shaded gray indicate EFP applications that are renewals of prior EFPs.

| <b>EFP Attachment #</b> | <b>Sponsor</b>                         | <b>Short Description</b>                                                | <b>GAP Priority Level to Move Forward</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 2                       | WCSPA, OTC, MTC, EDF                   | Year-Round Coastwide Midwater Rockfish EFP in the Shoreside IFQ Fishery | 1                                         |
| 3                       | CDFW                                   | Recreational Cowcod Sampling in California                              | 2                                         |
| 4                       | CCA CAL and Okuma Fishing Tackle Corp. | Recreational Cowcod Retention Test in California                        | 3                                         |
| 5                       | SFCFA and Dan Platt                    | Midwater Jig Fishing in California                                      | 1                                         |
| 6                       | Captain David Kosta                    | Midwater Jig Fishing in Oregon                                          | 3                                         |
| 7                       | Scott Cook                             | Midwater Hook & Line Rockfish Fishing in Oregon                         | 1                                         |
| 8                       | WDFW                                   | Recreational Yelloweye Sampling in Washington                           | 2                                         |
| NA – public comment     | Real Good Fish                         | Monterey Bay Regional Chilipepper Rockfish EFP                          | 1                                         |

The GAP recommends first prioritizing the four EFPs that are up for renewal (shaded gray in Table 1 above):

- the year-round coastwide midwater rockfish EFP in the shoreside individual fishing quota (IFQ) fishery ([Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 2](#));
- the Emley/Platt midwater jig fishing EFP in California ([Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 5](#));
- the Cook midwater hook and line rockfish EFP in Oregon ([Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 7](#)); and
- the Real Good Fish chilipepper rockfish EFP in California ([Agenda Item H.5, Public Comment](#)).

The GAP believes these EFPs are providing research and results that benefit the Council process, and should continue on into the 2021-2022 period.

The GAP recommends the new state EFP proposals be prioritized second:

- the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) recreational cowcod sampling EFP proposal ([Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 3](#)); and
- the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) recreational yelloweye sampling EFP proposal ([Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 8](#)).

These EFPs could provide helpful new information with minimal research set-asides.

Last, the GAP recommends the two other new EFP applications be assigned third priority status moving forward:

- the Coastal Conservation Association California (CCA CAL) and Okuma Fishing Tackle Corp application ([Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 4](#)); and
- the Kosta midwater jig fishing in Oregon application ([Agenda Item H.5, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 6](#)).

The GAP has concerns about the amount of research set-asides requested under the Kosta application.

Prior to further Council consideration of these EFPs, the GAP recommends applicants ensure submission of complete applications per the Council Operating Procedures, and provide a clear summary of the benefit to the science and/or management process that would be added by the proposal.

PFMC

11/17/19