

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
PRELIMINARY EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT APPROVAL FOR 2023-2024

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of this agenda item from Dr. Jim Seger, reviewed the associated documents, and discussed the preliminary 2023-2024 exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications.

In general, the GAP recommends that all EFPs move forward except for Scott Cook's Oregon Midwater Hook & Line Rockfish EFP. Our rationale is described below.

The GAP notes that in this cycle, all the EFPs are renewals. The GAP further notes that many of these EFPs have already provided valuable scientific data and information on new fishing methods with relatively low set-asides. The GAP believes that enabling these EFPs to continue will provide additional important insights, especially on methods for clean catch of healthy midwater rockfish populations, which will be increasingly critical in light of likely future impacts to nearshore rockfish fisheries given the status of copper and quillback rockfish.

The GAP does not recommend forwarding the Scott Cook EFP because there has been very limited effort in the past, and we understand that the applicant is not interested in continuing the EFP.

Finally, the GAP notes that regulations may move forward for some of the gear types being tested in these EFPs and the GAP fully supports timely regulatory approval. While it's possible that regulations will be in place during the EFP term, the GAP believes it is important to forward these EFPs in case regulations cannot be completed in time.

PFMC
11/17/2021