

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS, HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS, AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2023-2024 FISHERIES – FINAL ACTION

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduled to take action on three items as part of this agenda item: adopt a final preferred alternative for the remaining harvest specifications, adopt final recommendations on 2023-2024 exempted fishing permits (EFP), and adopt the final preferred alternatives for 2023-2024 groundfish fishery management measures,. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 1, the Action Item Checklist, provides a summarized list of items the Council should consider under this agenda item. The principal analytical document in support of 2023-2024 harvest specifications and management measures is Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 2 (*Electronic Only*).

This agenda item is scheduled to be completed in two parts, beginning on Saturday, June 11 with the objective of completing advisory bodies and management entity reports as well as hear public comment. The Council is expected to return to this agenda item on Monday, June 13 for discussion and final action

2023-2024 Harvest Specifications

The Council adopted final preferred 2023 and 2024 harvest specifications for all stocks and complexes except those for the Nearshore Rockfish complexes and its component species at their April 2022 meeting. At that meeting the Council confirmed its intent to manage the quillback rockfish in the Nearshore Rockfish complexes north and south of 40°10' N. lat. and selected alternative methods for calculating the overfishing limit (OFL) contribution of California quillback to the complexes. Under this agenda item, the Council needs to adopt a harvest control rule for California quillback rockfish to inform the harvest specifications for the Nearshore Rockfish complexes, as well as the 2023 and 2024 harvest specifications for the Nearshore Rockfish complexes at this meeting

Additionally, an error in the apportionment of copper rockfish in California was discovered subsequent to the April 2022 Council meeting and Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 3, provides the correction of that error.

Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP)

At its November 2021 meeting, the Council approved for public review five EFPs proposed for the 2023-2024 management period (Agenda Item F.6, Attachments 4-8). The Council also adopted for public review commercial EFP salmon caps: 1) a combined 100 salmon for both of the non-trawl EFPs; and 2) the salmon caps proposed in the year-round midwater trawl EFP (page 4). Table 1 is a summary of the EFPs the Council is considering for approval in the 2023-2024 biennium and indicates if changes to the EFP applications have been made since the November 2021 meeting..

Table 1. 2021-2022 exempted fishing permit applicants.

EFP Applicant	EFP Title/Description	Status: Changes Since November 2022.
San Francisco Community Fishing Association & Dan Platt (Attachment 4)	Yellowtail Rockfish Jig Fishing Off California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add the use of natural bait and • increase set aside requests for canary rockfish and lingcod south (See Table 1)
Real Good Fish (Attachment 5)	Monterey Bay Regional Exempted Fishing Permit Targeting Chilipepper Rockfish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add the use of natural bait • increase set aside requests for canary rockfish and • add a set aside for lingcod south (See Addendum #2 on p. 1)
West Coast Seafood Processors Association; Oregon Trawl Commission; Midwater Trawlers Cooperative; Environmental Defense Fund (Attachment 6)	Year-Round Coastwide Midwater Rockfish EFP: Monitoring and Minimizing Salmon Bycatch When Targeting Rockfish in the Shorebased IFQ Fishery, 2023-2024	None
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (Attachment 7)	Recreational Cowcod Sampling in California	None
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) (Attachment 8)	Enhanced Yelloweye Recreational Fishery Biological Sampling	None

2023-2024 Management Measures

Under this agenda item the Council is also scheduled to adopt management measures for the 2023-2024 groundfish fishery for the, including adjustments to routine management measures. The Council will also consider adopting a suite of new management measures, which include modifications to non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) management and changing the end date of the primary ‘tier’ sablefish fishery from October 31 to December 31.

As this action may necessitate an amendment to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), proposed draft language for the FMP is provided in Attachment 9. Socioeconomic impacts will be described in a supplemental report. Several of the new management measures will require an FMP amendment (Amendment 30) if adopted. Additionally, NMFS has provided a revised proposal regarding gear specifications for Action Item 12e, Non-bottom Contact Hook-and-Line Gear Allowance in the Non-trawl RCA , for the Council to consider in its discussions (Agenda Item F.6.a, NMFS Report 1, June 2022).

At their April 2022 meeting, the Council directed the GMT to analyze the use of block area closures as a tool to mitigate groundfish bycatch (Agenda Item F.4.a, GMT Report 1, June 2022) and develop annual catch targets (ACT) for quillback rockfish and copper rockfish off of

California. The ACT analysis will be provided to the Council in the supplemental briefing book. The GMT is expected to present the results of both of these analyses at this meeting

Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment

In keeping with Council planning discussions at the September 2021 Council meeting, a separate and concise Environmental Assessment was drafted to provide a summary of the impacts from the Council's decisions for this action ([Agenda Item C.8, Attachment 3, September 2021](#)). The preliminary draft EA for this action is provided as Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 10, June 2022. This EA will be finalized after the Council has identified final preferred alternatives.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt final 2023-2024 harvest specifications and default harvest control rules for all groundfish stocks and stock complexes.**
- 2. Adopt final recommendations for 2023-2024 EFPs.**
- 3. Adopt yield set-asides to accommodate EFPs, as needed.**
- 4. Adopt final 2023-2024 season structures and management measures to be implemented in 2023.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 1: Action Item Checklist.
2. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 2: Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery 2023-2024 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Analytical Document. (*Electronic Only*)
3. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 3: A Correction to the Estimated Apportionment of Copper Rockfish in California North and South of 40°10' N lat.
4. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 4: Groundfish EFP Proposal: Yellowtail Rockfish Jig Fishing off California. (*San Francisco Community Fishing Association and Dan Platt*).
5. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 5: Monterey Bay Regional Exempted Fishing Permit Targeting Chilipepper Rockfish (*Real Good Fish*).
6. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 6: Year-Round Coastwide Midwater Rockfish EFP: Monitoring and Minimizing Salmon Bycatch When Targeting Rockfish in the Shorebased IFQ Fishery, 2023-2024. (*West Coast Seafood Processors Association; Oregon Trawl Commission; Midwater Trawlers Cooperative; Environmental Defense Fund*).
7. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 7: California Department of Fish and Wildlife; 2023-2024 Exempted Fishing Permit Application (*CDFW*).
8. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 8: Proposal for an Exempted Fishery Permit, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Enhanced Yelloweye Recreational Fishery Biological Sampling (*WDFW*).
9. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 9: Proposed Language for Amendment 30 to the Pacific Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.
10. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 10, Joint Council Staff and National Marine Fisheries Service Report: Amendment 30 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan, 2023-2024 Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Regulatory Impact Review (RIR)
11. Agenda Item F.6.a, NMFS Report 1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report for 2023-2024 Groundfish Biennial Management Measures.

12. Agenda Item F.6.a, WDFW Report 1: Washington Department Of Fish and Wildlife Report on 2023 and 2024 Groundfish Management Measures.
13. Agenda Item F.6.a, GMT Report 1. Groundfish Management Team Report on Block Area Closures for Groundfish Mitigation.
14. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- F.6 Exempted Fishing Permits, Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures for 2023-2024 Fisheries – Final Action Todd Phillips/Jim Seger/John DeVore
 - a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Exempted Fishing Permit Recommendations and Final Preferred Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for 2023-2024 Fisheries

PFMC
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