

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON PRELIMINARY EXEMPTED
FISHING PERMIT (EFP) APPROVAL FOR 2019-2020

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received presentations from the San Francisco Community Fishing Association and Dan Platt, Scott Cook and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as from Tom Mattusch. The GAP also received a presentation from the Monterey Bay Fishermen Exempted Fishing Permit group. The GAP offers the following comments and recommendations.

The GAP supports extension of the **San Francisco Community Fishing Association and Dan Platt EFP** to 2019/2020, in case more data is needed after completion of their 2017/2018 EFP. Apparently, it took 1 year to get permits, and they did not receive their permits until June 2017. We support their request for 0.06 metric tons per year of yelloweye rockfish for their EFP.

The GAP also supports the proposal from **Scott Cook and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**. This EFP proposal intends to avoid salmon by trolling at a slow one knot speed, whereas salmon seem to prefer a troll speed of 2.2 knots. They maintain that they will have direct control over depth fished by using marks on wire off of salmon gurdies and will use a 40-foot breakaway line to a 35-pound weight as well as floats on the hook line at intervals, to prevent hooks from approaching the bottom. Vessels in this EFP could have up to two rigs deployed at one time depending on their beam. The GAP queried whether they will they use barbless hooks. This EFP proposal plans to have both observers and electronic monitoring by video. The applicants had considerable experience with this type of fishery in the late 1990's. Their intent is to fish the EFP for 30 days per year.

The GAP requested information as to the amount of catch of all affected species per year. The applicants are requesting a set-aside of 0.13 metric tons of yelloweye rockfish per year. The GAP proposes that they be allotted 0.06 metric tons of yelloweye rockfish per year for their EFP. We also propose that this EFP be allotted 10 tons of widow rockfish per year and 3 tons of canary rockfish per year.

The GAP supports for consideration the **Tom Mattusch EFP Proposal** targeting chillipepper and yellowtail rockfish with a 30-foot long leader to the sinker and an incompressible float next to the hooks, similar to the Holloway gear used in Oregon.

The applicant is proposing to involve 10 commercial passenger carrying vessels, with 20 passengers each using 2 hooks. This would perhaps involve 50 trips total for their fleet over a 2-year period.

This EFP would be fishing in the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) from 65-110 fathoms, targeting clouds of fish suspending off of the bottom in midwater. This is presently a closed area. The applicant hopes to use observers supplied by CERFS, or if these observers are not available, they will need to pay the observer costs from the passenger tickets.

The GAP commented that the applicant also needs to clean up expected impacts per angler per trip and needs to convert yelloweye rockfish numbers to metric tons. The applicant needs to confirm whether the EFP will start with a ten fish per person limit or a somewhat higher limit to encourage participation and accelerate data gathering. The GAP proposes that this EFP be allotted .06 metric tons of yelloweye rockfish per year.

Enforcement requests that a RESEARCH banner be displayed. Notification of Coast Guard and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) would be necessary prior to each voyage, and each voyage would be exclusively for research purposes.

The GAP supports consideration of the **Monterey Bay Fishermen Exempted Fishing Permit proposal**. This proposal would use equipment similar to the Scott Cook proposal. This fleet would use salmon gurdies, wire line and will use a 40 foot breakaway line to a heavy weight as well as floats on the hook line at intervals, to prevent hooks from approaching the bottom.

The GAP enquired as to how many hooks would be used and the applicant indicated that they would commence with a limited amount of hooks to ensure avoidance of yelloweye rockfish, but eventually would attempt to ramp up to 500 to 750 hooks as the EFP progressed.

The applicants plan to have a vessel monitoring system (VMS) on board as well as 100 percent observer coverage at the start of the EFP. They hope to work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) observer program to utilize electronic monitoring as the EFP progressed.

The GAP suggests that a RESEARCH banner be displayed. Notification of Coast Guard and the CDFW would be necessary prior to each voyage, and each voyage would be exclusively for research purposes.

The Monterey EFP plans to have 5-10 boats participating in their EFP. The GAP discussed yelloweye rockfish avoidance planning using a pelagic position recording instrument to allow the EFP fleet to avoid areas of high yelloweye rockfish occurrence.

The GAP suggests that this proposal be allowed 0.06 metric tons of yelloweye rockfish per year as well.

The Monterey EFP proposal plans to work in the 40 to 120 fathom area. The grounds off of Point Sur, south of Monterey, have been discussed as a target area.

In these EFPs, where depths are specified, they should be adjusted to correspond to the depth lines codified in the *Code of Federal Regulations*.

Total impacts on yelloweye rockfish from these EFP proposals, as forwarded by the GAP, would entail impacts of 0.24 metric tons per year.

Ms. Kelly Ames encouraged EFP applicants to get together and confer, as well as consider combining applications. The GAP discussed the similarities and differences among the EFPs that would affect combining applications.

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