

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR
2013-2014 FISHERIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received information from three applicants on exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications for the 2013-2014 groundfish fisheries. The GAP recommends all three applications be forwarded for approval subject to the following comments.

The GAP recommends a total canary rockfish EFP set-aside of 1.5 metric tons. The distribution between the two EFP's requiring canary allocation be set at 0.5 metric tons for the longline and 1.0 metric tons for the yellowtail EFPs, respectively. This is agreeable to both applicants. These EFPs are:

- 1. Evaluation of an epibenthic trolled longline to selectively catch chilipepper rockfish off California .**
- 2. Yellowtail rockfish jig fishing off California.**

The GAP supports language contained in the Groundfish Management Team statement regarding this EFP.

The GAP believes that the EFPs listed above provide good flexibility in their plans.

The GAP supports the Central Coast Sustainable Groundfish Association EFP as originally presented. This EFP should provide valuable information through the use of hook-and-line gear. This will be information not available from normal trawl survey methods which are normally unable to sample high relief areas.

A discussion took place regarding EFPs where no set-aside of fish is required. Since the EFP process requires significant workload and lead time crafting Terms and Conditions and permits, perhaps another process vehicle could be employed. Since the spex process is not required for set-asides of impacts, perhaps a research type assignment could be used. This could reduce staff and applicant time to implement.