

Collaborative Fisheries Research Opportunity

Support 2013 Rockfish Conservation Area Study

Overview:

The Central California Seafood Marketing Association (CCSMA), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), and other partners applied for and received approval for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) for the 2013 and 2014 groundfish seasons from the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) at their June 2012 meeting in San Mateo, California. The EFP will be used in a collaborative fisheries research project focused on gaining a better understanding of the distribution, abundance, and size of overfished rockfishes inside of the trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCA) between Pt. Conception and Pt. Reyes, in order to help inform bycatch avoidance plans, and enable fishermen to target healthy populations while avoiding depleted ones. Maps of the predicted occurrence of overfished species have been generated using data from the National Marine Fisheries Service. This study will groundtruth those predictive maps of overfished species distribution through visual surveys using a drop camera and fishing surveys using vertical hook and line and/or hydraulic snapper reel gear types. The study will focus on nine sites in the Central Coast that are characterized as “hotspots, warmspots, or coldspots” based on the predicted occurrence of overfished species. In addition to providing data on the distribution and abundance of overfished species, the study will test whether healthy stocks such as chilipepper, lingcod, and yellowtail rockfish can be fished cleanly in predicted “cold and warm-spots” with little to no bycatch of constraining species. Biological samples of overfished species collected during fishing will provide new information on growth and maturity of these species in the RCA.

The EFP research partners seek fishermen to be actively engaged in the directed fishing survey of the nine study sites in the trawl Rockfish Conservation Area. The Nature Conservancy, as a partner and the holder of the trawl permits and groundfish quota that will be used in the research conducted under the EFP, will oversee matters related to issuance and management of the EFP, including serving as the permittee on behalf of the partnership. Two to four fishermen will be needed to deploy and retrieve vertical hook and line and/or hydraulic snapper reel gear in designated study sites between Pioneer Canyon and Point Sal in September and October of 2013. Visual surveys using a drop camera system will also be conducted at these sites but from different vessels. Selected fishermen will be compensated and all quota needs, research, and observer costs will be covered by project partners.

Seeking Qualified Fishermen:

The project partners are seeking qualified fishermen who have experience using vertical hook and line and/or hydraulic snapper reel gear types and who also have targeted rockfish. It would be preferable, although not required, that fishermen selected have experience targeting rockfish with these gear types in central California and within the depths of the trawl RCA (100-150 fathoms) before it was put in place. Preference will be given to candidates based on the attached application; candidates will be chosen by a selection committee organized by CCSMA.

The directed fishing effort surveys will be conducted during September-October of 2013, and fishing vessels must be able to accommodate both an observer and up to two researchers in addition to captain and crew. In addition fishermen must meet some basic requirements including: owning their own vessel, having vessel and crew insurance up to \$1,000,000, having a vessel that is up to standards with Coast Guard requirements, and have the ability to haul and deploy vertical hook and line or hydraulic snapper reel gears.

Thank you for your interest and if you have any questions about the study please contact Steve Rienecke at (805) 771-9234 or via e-mail at srienecke@tnc.org. The final deadline to submit your application is **Friday, May 24, 2013**. The Committee will make their final decisions in early June and selected candidates will be notified shortly afterwards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Rienecke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Steve Rienecke
Fisheries Biologist, The Nature Conservancy
Phone: (805) 771-9234
e-mail: srienecke@tnc.org

Fisherman Application

April 15, 2013

Rockfish Conservation Area Study

2013 Exempted Fishing Permit

Project partners: Central California Seafood Marketing Association (CCSMA), Fort Bragg Groundfish Association (FBGA), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML), and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Name	_____	Phone	_____
Address	_____	Cell	_____
	_____	e-mail	_____

Current Employment

1. What is the main fishery you participate in, and what other fisheries are you currently involved in?

Eligibility

2. Do you meet the following eligibility requirements described below?

a. Do you presently own your vessel?

b. If yes, please describe your vessel.

Vessel style	_____
Vessel length	_____
Engine type	_____
Horsepower	_____
Fuel capacity	_____
Deck gear	_____
Hold capacity	_____
Other	_____

- c. Does your vessel have the capability to deploy and haul vertical hook and line and/or hydraulic snapper reel gear types?
- Which ones, vertical hook and line, hydraulic snapper reel, or both?
 - Does your vessel have the capability of retrieving more than one line at a time?
How many lines at one time?
- d. What level of vessel and crew insurance do you have, and does this insurance cover passengers/researchers?
- e. Does your vessel meet all Coast Guard safety requirements and have a current Coast Guard Safety Sticker?
- f. When was your hull last inspected by a marine surveyor?
- g. Does your vessel have enough space to carry an observer and up to two researchers for day trips, in addition to captain and crew?
3. Have you ever been in violation of fishing regulations in which you were fined more than \$1,000 for a criminal penalty or \$5,000 for a civil penalty, or violations including falsification of fish receiving tickets? Are you currently or have you been on probation for any crime or other related incident within the last year?
- a. If yes, please explain. _____
- _____
- _____

Fishing Experience

4. Total years in fishing industry (actively fishing). _____
5. Total years fishing within the Central Coast waters. _____
6. Do you have any experience fishing trawl RCA depths (100-150 fathoms) for rockfish prior to the closure and establishment of the RCA in 2002?

7. If yes, please describe your experience.

8. Describe your experience with vertical hook and line and/or hydraulic snapper reel gear types:

Gear types used _____

Length of time used _____

Species targeted _____

9. Primary landing port over the past ten years. _____

10. If you participate in this research project during the months of September and October of 2013, would this interfere with other fishing opportunities for you? _____

11. If yes, then would you be willing to block out time to focus fishing efforts solely to this research EFP during these 2 months and not participate in any other federal groundfish (open access, limited entry, IFQ, nearshore, other) or other fishery while fishing under the EFP (salmon, highly migratory species, coastal pelagics, crab, CPFV, other)? _____

12. If yes, then how much time would you be able to give to the collaborative research vs. that of your other fishing opportunities?

_____ a few days

_____ 1-2 weeks

_____ 2-4 weeks

_____ Other/specify

Please indicate the following time blocks you would be available for the study by marking an X in the appropriate block/s of the table below.

Month	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
September 2013	_____ 1-7	_____ 8-14	_____ 15-21	_____ 22-28
October 2013	_____ 29-5	_____ 6-12	_____ 13-19	_____ 20-26

Self Rating

13. If you are selected to participate in this collaborative research project, to what extent would you be willing to engage in close and ongoing interaction and decision-making with project partners? _____ Very Willing
 _____ Willing
 _____ Not Willing
14. Given that the project has about \$60,000 for 30+ days at sea, what daily rate would you charge for vessel use for each sea day? Expenses included in the daily rate are captain and crew wages, fuel expenses, bait, and food as necessary. _____
15. The project sites are between Pt. Sal in the south and Pioneer Canyon in the north, and vessels would depart from the closest nearby port. Which ports are you willing to stage from? _____

16. The EFP requires 100% observer coverage on all trips. Observer coverage is being funded by the project partners. Two observers will be shared by up to 4 fishermen. Scheduling and coordination of observers is a collaborative effort between fishermen and project partners. To what extent are you willing to share an observer with other vessels involved in the EFP research? _____ Very Willing
 _____ Willing
 _____ Not Willing
17. To what extent is your vessel capable of handling an observer and up to two researchers on board in addition to your crew and catch? _____ Very Capable
 _____ Capable
 _____ Not Capable

18. To what extent are you familiar with the construction and deployment of vertical hook and line and/or hydraulic snapper reel gear types? _____ Very Familiar
_____ Familiar
_____ Not Familiar

19. Is your vessel currently or easily equipped to fish with:

Vertical hook and line gear	Yes	No
Hydraulic snapper reel gear	Yes	No

20. Do you currently own or have access to the following fishing equipment:

Vertical hook and line gear	Yes	No
Hydraulic snapper reel gear	Yes	No

Written Responses

In a paragraph, please answer the following question.

21. In what ways does the EFP research project objectives match or conflict with your own objectives?

References

Please list three people who would recommend you for selection as a collaborative research fisherman.

Name of Person Recommending You	In what capacity do you know this person?	Contact information / Phone number

Sign _____ Date _____

Please return the completed application to:

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Morro Bay, CA 93442
Phone: (805) 771-9234
e-mail: srienecke@tnc.org