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Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
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Melissa A. Miller-Henson
Executive Director
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
(916) 653-4899
fgc@fgc.ca.gov

www.fgc.ca.gov

California Fish and Game Commission
Notice of Receipt of Recommendation and Consideration of an Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) Application for East Pacific Red Octopus Bycatch Retention in the Commercial Coonstripe Shrimp Fishery (Commission Tracking ID #2026-01)

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 1022 of the California Fish and Game Code and Section 91, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) has received the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) recommendation regarding the EFP application to collect information on East Pacific red octopus (*Octopus rubescens*) abundance and quantify its bycatch within coonstripe shrimp gear in the Coonstripe Shrimp Southern Management Zone (defined in Section 180.15 of Title 14, CCR, as the Sonoma/Mendocino counties border south to the U.S/Mexico border) (EFP ID Tracking #2026-01). Consistent with subsections 91(e)(2) and (91)(f), Title 14, CCR, the Commission has scheduled the EFP application for consideration at its December 15-16, 2026 meeting in Sacramento.

EFP Project Description

The EFP application requests a Tier 1 EFP with a permit fee reduction, for retaining East Pacific red octopus bycatch while targeting coonstripe shrimp using pop-up gear in the Coonstripe Shrimp Southern Management Zone. The stated purpose of the proposed project is to collect information on East Pacific red octopus abundance and quantify bycatch in coonstripe shrimp gear in the southern management zone to inform potential development of a fishery for East Pacific red octopus. The applicant also provides a secondary objective of reducing conflicts with East Pacific red octopus, which reportedly enter coonstripe shrimp traps and consume the catch, and potentially then repeat this behavior after being released.

The Commission's EFP program page includes a description of the project under "Notice of EFP Application" as well as the application itself (see https://fgc.ca.gov/EFP#549172-coonstripe-shrimp-fishery-bycatch-2026-01).

Department Recommendation

Pursuant to subsection 91(d)(2), Title 14, CCR, the Department completed its technical review of the accepted EFP application and transmitted its recommendation to the Commission on November 12, 2026. The Department recommends to deny the EFP application at this time

based on reasons detailed within its transmittal memo to the Commission; visit the EFP program page at https://fgc.ca.gov/EFP#549172-coonstripe-shrimp-fishery-bycatch-2026-01 to view the Department recommendation.

Opportunity for Public Comment

The application, Department recommendation, and other information in the record before the Commission are posted on the Commission's website at https://fgc.ca.gov/EFP.

Written comments on the EFP application and/or the Department recommendation must be *received by* **noon on December 10, 2026.**

Written comments may be emailed to fgc@fgc.ca.gov or mailed to California Fish and Game Commission, Attn: EFP Program, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, California, 94244-2090.

After the December 10 deadline, written and oral comments will be accepted at the Commission's **December 15-16, 2026** meeting in Sacramento.

Please visit http://www.fgc.ca.gov/ for additional information.

November 13, 2026

California Fish and Game Commission

Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director