The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) held several joint meetings with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to discuss inseason adjustments. The GAP has the following comments, based on the inseason recommendation chart presented to the Council by the GMT.

**Limited Entry Midwater Trawl**

Under current regulations, the midwater trawl fishery for widow rockfish is scheduled to re-open October 1st with a 10,000 pound cumulative limit, changing to a 10,000 pound, 2-month limit for November and December. The yellowtail midwater trawl fishery is scheduled to re-open on October 1st with a 15,000 pound cumulative limit, changing to a 20,000 pound, 2-month limit for November and December.

The GAP supports continuing the openings as scheduled, but strongly urges NMFS concentrate observer coverage on midwater vessels in order to monitor interactions between widow and yellowtail. This will provide important data for designing the 2002 fishery.

**California Recreational Fishery**

The GAP supports a change in the nearshore (less than 20 fathoms) recreational bag limit which would allow retention of 2 lingcod over 26” and 2 shelf or slope rockfish other than bocaccio, canary, yelloweye, or cowcod. Any vessel in possession of near shore rockfish may not fish for any other species outside the 20 fathom curve. California has already addressed the issue of fishing on offshore islands and returning to the mainland through a permit process.

**Whiting Reallocation**

NMFS has proposed to re-allocate a portion of the tribal whiting set-aside to the non-tribal fishery. The Council has raised questions about the effect of the reallocation on canary bycatch.

Based on figures supplied by NMFS, it appears the effect on canary bycatch will be minimal. The at-sea whiting fishery has taken fewer canary than projected. Set-asides of canary for research have used less than anticipated. Recreational catches of canary are still being analyzed. In combination, this should provide enough canary to cover any slight increase in canary bycatch. The GAP believes the reallocation should be made as originally planned.

**Sablefish Issue**

The GMT has identified three options regarding sablefish harvest for the remainder of the year. The GAP has no consensus on this issue and presents no opinion. Individual GAP members will provide comments through public testimony. GAP members expressed concern about the lack of prior notice, opportunity for comment, and analysis of the two options that differ from status quo.

**Northern Near Shore Fishery**

The GMT presented two options for the northern near shore rockfish fishery. The GAP expressed a preference for the option allowing continued harvest of northern near shore rockfish (2,000 pounds per month) with an incidental allowance for lingcod and shelf rockfish other than yelloweye.