GROUNDFISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
STOCK ASSESSMENT REVIEW PROCESS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) discussed the Stock Assessment Review (STAR) process with Dr. Richard Methot of the National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Science Center.

The GAP has always supported the STAR process and continues to do so. The GAP intends to continue to be actively involved in STAR Panel reviews and deliberations. The GAP believes that an abbreviated STAR process (known as “STAR-Light”) offers a potentially innovative way to deal with stock assessments where an agreed-upon and accepted stock assessment model is available; sablefish falls in this category. However, the Terms of Reference for the STAR-Light should recognize the appropriate roles of advisory bodies, including the GAP.

In regard to the Terms of Reference for formal STAR Panels, the GAP notes that additional discussions will take place later this year and intends to participate actively. One issue that needs to be resolved is the provision of advice to the Council in STAR Panel reports. Traditionally, such reports deal with scientific and not management advice. The Terms of Reference need to clearly identify how management and scientific advice will be separated.

Finally, the GAP discussed the suggestion raised in March of conducting a workshop on the calculation of maximum sustainable yield and virgin biomass levels. While the workshop may need to be delayed until later this year in order to accommodate more urgent Council business and the development of new national guidelines, the GAP believes a workshop should be conducted as soon as possible given the importance of the virgin biomass calculation to determinations of overfished status. The GAP urges that it be appropriately represented at the workshop.

PFMC
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