The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the draft document Research and Data Needs, 2006-2008. In general, the GAP finds the document much improved from previous versions and we compliment the authors on the hard work that went into completing the document.

In regards to specific recommendations, the GAP suggests:

1. More clearly define the 5 criteria listed on page 3 that were used to guide the selection and prioritization of research and data projects. For example, the first criteria says “Projects address long-term fundamental problems of west coast fisheries.” The long-term fundamental problems of west coast fisheries should be defined here.
2. Link the five ranking criteria found on page 3 with the research and data needs that have been identified within the document so there is some cohesion between the projects and their ranking of importance.
3. Cooperative/collaborative research should be identified as an emerging issue for Groundfish. Opportunities as well as disincentives for collaborative research should be discussed. Opportunities would include some of the ongoing rockfish research projects in the state of Oregon. Disincentives would include the reality that much of the cooperative research work that is currently ongoing is not making it into the models or stock assessment process on a timely basis.
4. There should be an emphasis in the document used to drive improvements to the stock assessment process, notably addressing uncertainties to improve models and data.
5. US/Canadian research projects and/or workshops should be added to the document for reference.
6. In all cases where specific ongoing research is occurring, the name of the agency or organization completing the work should be listed.
7. Priority should be given to non-extractive survey development and implementation.

The GAP is comfortable that a final draft of the document that incorporates the seven suggestions above should be distributed in December 2007.