

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL
MARINE SANCTUARY (OCNMS) "CONDITION REPORT"

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary) condition report. The focus was on the section relating to habitat. That section carried all of the sanctuary issues related to fishery management.

It was noted that the various conditions related to Pacific Fishery Management Council authority were rated either unknown, not changing or improving. It is viewed by the GAP as a comprehensive report and indicative that the Sanctuary is achieving its resource and protection improvement goals.

In several references to fishing impacts within the sanctuary it was noted that the sanctuary response was listed as to consult with partners and fishery managers as a first step. This is an apparent attempt to stay within the authorities of the two statutes involved (Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act and National Marine Sanctuary Act). We find this collaborative philosophy an encouraging one and hope that it remains into the future. The GAP is receptive to working with the Sanctuary on future fishery management planning.

PFMC
04/10/08