

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the documents under this agenda item and considered the issues.

The GAP considered the numbered items in the “candidate agenda items” box of the September 2017 proposed agenda ([Agenda Item C.8, Attachment 2](#)) and suggests the following:

F.9, EM preliminary Halibut Discard Mortality Rates and 3<sup>rd</sup> Part Rev: The GAP supports leaving this on the September agenda.

F.10, Scoping of National Standard 1 Guidelines Carryover Provisions: The GAP realizes this is also part of the 2019-20 biennial harvest specifications process but notes that if, for any reason, it is pulled out of the specifications process or can be done sooner, it should remain on subsequent meeting agendas. The GAP has identified this as a priority issue.

F.11, Salmon/Seabird Bycatch Biological Opinion/Incidental Take Statement: We understand the salmon biological opinion (BiOp) will not be ready for the September meeting but that the new seabird BiOp has new requirements that will affect smaller vessels. Further, the GAP understands these requirements may be folded into the biennial harvest specifications process. The GAP suggests scheduling this on the September agenda.

F. 12, Mid-Biennium Harvest Specifications Adjustments: The GAP understands this will be analyzed in the biennial specifications package but, like the carryover provisions, if it is taken out of the specifications package or can be completed sooner, the GAP feels it should be retained on subsequent meeting agendas as a priority issue.

F.13, Coastwide Non-whiting Midwater Trawl exempted fishing permit (EFP) Final Action & Gear Modification EFP Review/Renewal: This is a high priority for the GAP and it should be on the September agenda. It is critical for the EFP be in place to accommodate a Jan. 1, 2018, start date.

F.14, Lingcod/Sablefish individual fishing quota (IFQ) Discard Survival Credits: This is another issue that was folded into the specifications process but the GAP supports keeping it on the agenda if it can be done sooner or if it is taken out of the biennial specifications package.

The GAP also supports inclusion of the sablefish ecosystem indicators (F.2, currently scheduled for Sept. 16, but shaded) on the agenda. Sablefish is an important stock and we should be aware of any information relative to this stock.

The GAP acknowledges that The essential fish habitat (EFH) / Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) Project Team will recommend moving the RCA/EFH item to November. However, since it has been postponed so many times, the GAP recommends leaving on the agenda for September.