

GROUNDFISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON SPECIFICATIONS AND  
MANAGEMENT MEASURES PROCESS FOR 2019-2020 FISHERIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) was briefed by Mr. John DeVore and Ms. Kelly Ames about 2019-2020 harvest specifications process and management measures. The GAP offers the following comments and recommendations.

At the outset, the GAP notes that it is of primary importance to ensure the 2019 and 2020 harvest specifications (spex) are in place on January 1, 2019. Failure to implement spex on time creates real hardship for fishery participants. For example, many individual fishing quota groundfish vessels fish for petrale sole early in the year and then switch fisheries, and cannot operate solely on initial allocations.

The primary decision points at this meeting appear to be whether to include as possible new management measures: 1) the “greenlight” policy (mid-biennium annual catch limit upward modifications); 2) new carryover provisions; 3) inclusion of lingcod and sablefish survival credits; and 4) removal of the 36° north line for the trawl fishery as referenced in the Supplemental GAP Report of April 2017 (F.4.b) in the 2019/2020 spex process. The GAP supports inclusion of these four items in the 2019-20 spex process.

GAP members reviewed Agenda Item F.7, Attachment 1, the proposed schedule for developing the 2019-2020 specifications and management measures and found it acceptable.

PFMC  
06/10/17