

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FLEXIBILITY IN ANNUAL CATCH LIMIT MANAGEMENT RESPONSE, SCOPING

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) was briefed by Mr. John DeVore about this topic, advance background documents, and actions for Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) consideration. The GAP also was fortunate to be able to review a draft of the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reports for this agenda item. The GAP agrees with the information provided by the GMT and supports adoption of the GMT recommendations.

As highlighted in previous reports, the GAP is keenly interested in pursuing management changes that promote flexibility in managing fisheries to maximize harvest while achieving conservation objectives. The GAP agrees with the GMT that there is potential benefit in having options to keep fisheries open when there is no biological concern to the stock or stock complex. The GAP also agrees that the provisions outlined in the GMT report have the potential to provide significant economic benefit to the fishing sectors and communities while still achieving our overall conservation mandates. For these reasons, the GAP recommends the Council adopt the recommendations detailed at the end of the GMT report.

PFMC
09/14/17