

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
COASTAL MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING UPDATE

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a presentation from Dr. John Stein of the National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Science Center on the regional planning process being initiated under the National Ocean Policy. The GAP appreciates Dr. Stein providing the information and discussing the process with the GAP.

The GAP is aware the Council has representation on the West Coast regional planning body and we urge the Council representatives to take an active role. At the moment there is no avenue by which the fishing community can have a seat at the table during the regional planning process and the Council will have to serve as our voice. There are numerous entities with greater fiscal and political resources than the fishing community who will be actively involved in ocean planning and we need to be assured that the fishing community is not left out.

The GAP also requests Dr. Stein, as Federal co-lead on the regional planning body, provide regular updates to the GAP.

Furthermore, we suggest the Council invite representatives from the other agencies that are members of the regional planning body (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, etc.) to attend Council meetings and apprise the Council and advisory bodies of updates and changes.

We understand the West Coast regional planning body is still being formed, in part due to budgetary problems, and urge the Federal agencies involved not to act too quickly but to do it right.

PFMC  
06/23/13