

GROUND FISH ADVISORY PANEL REPORT ON
MID-WATER RECREATIONAL FISHERY

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the Mid-Water Recreational Fishery proposal outlined in “Agenda Item F.3.c, Holloway Proposal, June 2013.” Ms. Gretchen Hanshaw of the GMT was present to express the views of the GMT and answer technical questions.

The GAP unanimously supports moving the Mid-water recreational fishery into regulation with the following comments:

- While this proposal should be put into regulation in Oregon as soon as possible, the option should be available to California and Washington if so desired. Future inclusion of California and Washington would be subject to further discussion contingent upon successful implementation in Oregon.
- The proposal has been on the table for several years now and should be put into regulation as soon as possible, preferably through a regulatory amendment.
- The fishery needs to be adequately monitored in order to ensure compliance with new and existing regulations and to avoid exceeding harvest guidelines on overfished species, particularly Yelloweye and Canary rockfish. The GAP notes that existing state and Federal enforcement efforts in the recreational fishery do a good job of ensuring regulatory compliance.
- Barotrauma recompression devices should be required to be carried on vessels engaged in the fishery for use in the event of encounters with rockfish species that are required to be released. That gear should be readily available to be deployed.