

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
SABLEFISH PERMIT STACKING PROGRAM

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard a presentation from Ms. Ariel Jacobs, NMFS, and Mr. Jim Seger, PFMC, regarding a review of the sablefish permit stacking program.

The Council briefing book materials regarding the history and development of the program were very well done and helpful, particularly for GAP members who were not participants in the process.

The GAP recommends that NMFS prioritize and proceed forward now, in an expedited manner, with two previously approved management issues pertaining to fixed gear sablefish tier program

- 1) Allow trawl permit and fixed gear permits on the same vessel at the same time as approved by the Council in April 2012 (take action under G.9).
- 2) Address ownership and control issue of permits as previously recommended by GAP and addressed by the Council.

With regard to any other actions pertaining to sablefish tier permit program, the message is: "If it's not broken, don't fix it." Fixed gear representatives noted that with the exceptions above, the industry has been satisfied with the program and has not proposed other changes to the program.

If the Council is going to proceed forward with a program review as set forth in Agenda Item G.2., the GAP recommends:

1. Industry representation on committee should be expanded to include at least 6-8 tier permit holders to include representation from different tier levels, states and gear types.
2. That the focus of the review be primarily on whether the program has met its objectives and goals as defined by national standards.