

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
INITIAL ACTIONS FOR SETTING 2015-16 GROUND FISH FISHERIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a presentation from Mr. John DeVore and Ms. Kelly Ames on groundfish harvest specifications and management measures for the 2015-16 management cycle.

Overfishing Limits and Acceptable Biological Catches

The only comment the GAP has on proposed overfishing limits (OFLs) and acceptable biological catches (ABCs) is that we would suggest the Council select a P\* range of .25 to .45 for ABCs for all species for analysis. This would provide the greatest flexibility for all users to consider reasonable ABC and ACL alternatives at future meetings.

Management Measures

The GAP worked from the table in Attachment 1 of the GMT statement when we discussed management measures. We appreciate the whole slate of potential measures and offer comments on three in particular:

*4) Bag limit, season structures, depth restrictions:* The GAP appreciates the inclusion of this for all three states, as the GAP requests a season extension of January and February for the southern California sport fishery.

*9) Year-round retention of lingcod by fixed-gear fisheries:* This would allow fishermen to keep only incidental catch for some fishermen and likely would not create a target fishery, especially if the number of pounds of lingcod allowed to be kept remained at limited levels.

*10) Allow crab pots to be fished by groundfish vessels:* The GAP understands this measure relates to derelict gear recovery in Oregon and suggests the term “fished” be changed to “retrieved” to avoid confusion. This way it is clear that if, for example, a trawl vessel hauls up a derelict crab pot in the net, the trawler can bring that crab pot to shore and not be required to leave it in the ocean. We also understand that subsequent discussions with enforcement consultants may make this issue inconsequential.