

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON AN ECOSYSTEM FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP)

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a presentation from Ms. Yvonne de Reynier about the Ecosystem Plan Development Team (EPDT) report, their progress to date, and future considerations. The GAP also discussed the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) report and recommendations.

In general, the GAP supports the recommendations of the EAS, specifically the recommendation to continue to develop a range of alternative ecosystem plans. Ecosystem-based fishery management is complex. It is because of this complexity that the GAP recommends the Council not limit its flexibility by embarking on, at this point, an approach potentially saddled with proscriptive measures to address issues about which we do not have solid data.

It is easy to suggest we protect the food web. It is much harder to monitor and understand the complexities of that food web and harder yet to manage it. The GAP believes that the Council should have the ability to consider ecosystem components not specifically managed in current FMPs, but the Council should have the flexibility to use what is known and available to manage the fisheries without having to come up with a new ecosystem-based management regime. Therefore, it is important to continue to explore a range of ecosystem approaches. Specifically, the GAP supports the EAS recommendation for an evolutionary process that starts with an overarching or programmatic framework, and the potential for future specific management and regulatory actions that could build or tier off the initial framework.

PFMC
09/13/10