

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
THE UNMANAGED FORAGE FISH PROTECTION INITIATIVE

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a report from Mr. Mike Burner and reviewed information on the unmanaged forage fish initiative.

The GAP has generally supported the ecosystem process and development of a fishery ecosystem plan (FEP) as strictly an advisory plan. GAP members generally agree the Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) has done a commendable job of gathering information on proposed forage fish definitions and processes for identification. Further, we understand the EWG will continue this process.

Some of the GAP discussion included questions about the exact definition of a forage fish species. At what trophic level -- it seems fish at every level could be considered forage fish for those at higher trophic levels -- would forage fish be listed? What exactly are the characteristics? The EWG has a good start on answering some of these questions.

Further, the GAP agrees that identifying management regimes for any potential forage fish species is important. Duplicating management systems already in place by other entities could waste valuable Council resources.

PFMC
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