

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard a report by Ms. Jennifer Gilden and offers the following comments on the Executive Actions.

IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud

The GAP notes that the time period for public comment to the Presidential Task Force on Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) Fishing and Seafood Fraud has expired and it is highly unlikely to be extended. We therefore don't believe that the Council should spend a great deal of time on the issue. However, if the Council does choose to send comments, we recommend that those comments be limited to the issue of IUU fishing and the need to control it.

Seafood fraud is an extremely complex topic with many different facets; it goes far beyond the conservation and management tasks that the Council must address. It can include everything from short weights in packages to substituting tilapia for rockfish, to requiring complete traceability of each fish from point of harvest to point of final retail sale. It involves and affects fishermen, processors, distributors, and retailers. Given the lack of time and analysis available to consider this complex issue, we think the Council would be better served concentrating on IUU fishing, if it intends to comment at all.

Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument

While the GAP has no comments specific to the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, most GAP members agree that Congress and stakeholders should have more input on sweeping designations of marine monuments (please see the GAP report under Agenda Item I.1, Legislative Matters).

PFMC
09/14/14