GROUNDFISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard a presentation from Ms. Jennifer Gilden about the Legislative Committee’s actions, the status of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) reauthorization and other legislative issues.

The GAP agrees with the Legislative Committee’s selection of issues for prioritization as referenced in Agenda Item I.2.a, Supplemental Revised Attachment 2. These are summarized as:

- #1/15: Revise the rebuilding time requirements and addressing social and economic issues by changing “possible” to “practicable”;
- #2: Stocks later determined to have never been overfished should not be held to rebuilding provisions;
- #5: Include a carryover exception to ACLs;
- #6: Explore more flexibility for data-poor stocks;
- #16: Streamlining the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and MSA section 204(i); and
- #17: Provide flexibility in requirements for observers.

The GAP also requests the Council add one more item to the list:

- #3, Include a viable mixed-stock exception. Though there is a vague reference to this in the National Standard 1 guidelines, the statute is not explicit in allowing an exception. The GAP suggests that if it is referenced and available to use, a clear allowance should be included in the MSA.

PFMC
11/03/13