

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT ONGOING RULEMAKING

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard a report from Mr. Frank Lockhart about ongoing rulemaking. The GAP offers the following comments and recommendations.

The GAP endorses the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) interpretations related to midwater trawl fisheries. We believe it will help clarify the rules regarding targeted midwater trawling for widow and yellowtail and that is helpful for sound management of our fisheries.

Specifically, the GAP agrees with NMFS' approach to the whiting season start date. Final council action was taken on this issue more than two years ago. The GAP urges NMFS to move forward expeditiously.

The GAP endorses the Scientific and Statistical Committee's position on fixing mis-specified overfishing limits. Specifically, the GAP supports using the values calculated as medians of the posterior distribution, as given in Agenda Item J.4.a, Attachment 2, Table 1.

The GAP urges NMFS to be open and transparent on the salmon biological opinion.

PFMC
11/18/14