

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
ECONOMIC DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM REPORT ON FISHERY STATUS AND  
OVERVIEW ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a presentation from Dr. Todd Lee and Ms. Erin Steiner regarding the current draft Economic Data Collection report for 2012.

The GAP has long recognized the importance of compiling economic data on the groundfish fisheries. Such data is not only useful in reviewing management actions, such as the trawl rationalization program, but also can serve to bolster the analysis of management decisions by demonstrating the potential economic effects of various alternatives. We encourage the Northwest Fisheries Science Center to continue their data collection and economic model development work, including development of the FISHEyE on-line data access tool. There were concerns expressed about the cost of developing FISHEyE and whether it is being paid for through cost recovery.

During the course of the presentation, several questions were raised by GAP members regarding how data are calculated and displayed and some of the input provided by industry members. One of the concerns expressed by GAP members is that there are significant costs of doing business that are not reflected in the report. Dr. Lee and his team explained that they are constantly reviewing their calculations and data outputs and encouraged industry members to meet with them to improve the output.

The GAP also received a presentation from Ms. Suzanne Russell on the social study she is conducting for NMFS on the social aspects of the trawl rationalization program. The study is designed to provide data for appropriate NEPA analysis and can be helpful in conducting the five-year review of the trawl program.

The study notes a particular problem with the “greying” of the fleet, subsequent loss of knowledge, and the potential long-term impact on the fishery. Ms. Russell also provided data on changes in perception of the trawl rationalization program and changes in relationships among participants in the fishery.

The GAP believes that this is a valuable research effort and supports its continuation.