

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received status reports on a number of groundfish management issues and has the following comments:

Groundfish Work Plan and Council Priorities - While the GAP recognizes certain issues must receive priority attention by the Council due to the requirements of law, the GAP is frustrated other potential management issues which could improve conservation and management will be ignored. While this is due in part to the continuing lack of funds and personnel available for groundfish conservation and management, the GAP is concerned programs proposed by the industry which could reduce over-capitalization and promote research at lower cost will not be addressed in the foreseeable future.

Qualification of Setnet Landings for Sablefish Tier Assignments - The GAP understands an appeals process was made available for those who disagreed with their tier assignments and sees no reason to further consider an appeal that was denied or was not filed in a timely manner.

Harvest Policy Review - The GAP believes proposals to change harvest policy and F proxies should undergo an appropriate outside review by a stock assessment review (STAR) panel. Part of that review should include an examination of ocean conditions and their effects on changes in stock size and recruitment.

Use of Open Access Gear by Limited Entry Vessels - The GAP endorses moving forward with a plan amendment to allow use of open access hook-and-line gear by all limited entry permit holders, and would like to see analyses of potential changes in total effort and bycatch.

PFMC
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