

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS INCLUDING ENGLISH SOLE AND REDBANDED ROCKFISH RETENTION
REGULATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) discussed with the Groundfish Management Team proposed changes in classification of rockfish in management categories and means to avoid discarding incidentally caught flatfish. The GAP makes the following recommendations:

- Classify redbanded rockfish as a slope rockfish species.
- Classify flag rockfish as a slope rockfish species.
- Modify regulations to allow English sole to be taken with large footrope gear during the time that petrale sole can be taken with that gear (November and December 2000).
- Modify regulations to provide an incidental limit for flatfish included in the "all other flatfish" category of 400 pounds per trip when large footrope gear is used, effective May 1 through October 31, 2000.

The GAP believes these minor modifications will reduce discarding.