

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON  
PLAN AMENDMENT FOR STOCK REBUILDING

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) discussed with Council staff *Draft Amendment 12 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan*. The GAP agrees a framework process for rebuilding plans is the most practical option and supports Alternative 2.

However, the GAP is concerned that adequate monitoring of the rebuilding process not be ignored. The GAP notes that NMFS recently convened a meeting to develop such a monitoring process, at which all of the Council advisory bodies were represented, and a draft monitoring process was established. The GAP understands that objections from the Scientific and Statistical Committee have now delayed further work on putting a monitoring process in place. Failure to adequately monitor rebuilding progress violates the law, jeopardizes stocks that are not rebuilding as expected, and penalizes harvesters and processors who accept drastically reduced harvests over the term of a rebuilding program. Monitoring of rebuilding is essential.

PFMC  
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