

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
MARINE RESERVES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a briefing on the Staff Report on Marine Reserves - Phase I and has the following comments.

The GAP believes establishing marine reserves is one of many tools that should be available to the Council. However, the GAP will withhold comment on establishing reserves in any particular area until Phase II is begun.

The GAP disagrees with presenting various approaches as "options", which lead to the assumption that other variations have been considered and rejected. The GAP agrees potential percentages of protected areas or biomass should be identified (such as the 5%, 20%, 35%, and 50% presented in the report) in order to give the public some idea of the degree of protection that is contemplated. However, the GAP believes these concepts should be presented in the form of descriptive paragraphs and not identified as options.

The GAP notes the Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee and the Ad-Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan Development Committee are operating on parallel tracks, with both committees discussing marine reserves. The GAP recommends action on marine reserves be taken in the context of the Council's strategic plan, and not as a stand-alone management measure.

Finally, the GAP recommends the entire staff report be made available for public review, so the public has the benefit of the full range of discussion.

PFMC
06/27/00