

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
CANARY ROCKFISH REBUILDING PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Rick Methot presented the draft canary rockfish rebuilding analysis to the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP). The canary analysis applies only to the northern assessment, but the results are applicable coastwide. The draft analysis indicates coastwide catch should be reduced to zero for 10 years in order to initiate the stock rebuilding, and catches would then increase gradually for a total of 54 years. The GAP recognizes catch cannot be reduced to zero without eliminating nearly all commercial and recreational fishing between about 20 fathoms and 150 fathoms. However, it appears from preliminary 2000 catch data that canary catch has already been reduced to a small fraction of the 1999 level. The GAP recommends the analysis be re-run assuming a low level of canary catch, and the Council should begin evaluating whether more restrictive measures would merely reduce landings but not actual catch, or cause the industry to forego revenues from other fisheries that take canary incidentally.

PFMC
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