

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON  
MARINE RESERVES PHASE II CONSIDERATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) had an extensive discussion on how, where, and why marine reserves should be used, the extent of knowledge regarding marine reserves and their benefits, and the costs reserves may impose on fishermen, processors, and local communities. The GAP agreed the Council needs to examine the number and extent of areas not being actively fished for various reasons in order to determine whether they meet - in whole or in part - any Council goals on establishing marine reserves. Several GAP members emphasized the effect that establishing reserves will have on participants in the fisheries, including seafood processors, and pointed out the cumulative impact of reserve establishment, changes in harvest policy, and reductions in allowable harvest will be devastating to participants in the fisheries. GAP members pointed out the restrictions on harvest of shelf species are already creating de facto marine reserves in continental shelf areas.

A majority of the GAP believes - prior to establishing marine reserves - a capacity reduction and an individual quota program must be put in place in order to reduce economic disruption. The Council should take whatever actions are appropriate to obtain funding for a capacity reduction program.

A minority of the GAP agrees capacity reduction is important, but these programs should be coordinated with establishment of marine reserves in order to avoid delaying the benefits to fisheries and habitat that accrue from having reserves.

PFMC  
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