

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
GROUND FISH STRATEGIC PLAN

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an update on the strategic plan from Ms. Debra Nudelman. After considerable discussion among GAP members and members of the public, the GAP arrived at the following recommendations.

The GAP believes the Council should move ahead with the strategic plan even though there is no consensus on implementation measures. However, this recommendation is made based on the assumption the plan is just that: a plan, which by definition is flexible and can and will be changed to meet drastically changing circumstances in the fisheries.

In regard to implementation, the GAP disagrees strongly with recommendation #2 in the proposed implementation process (page 14 of Exhibit G.2, Attachment 1 - Executive Summary). The GAP believes it is imperative any implementation committee include significant representation of the Council's advisory bodies and affected users. The GAP believes implementation is too serious a task to be left up to those with no direct stake in the welfare of the fishery.

Finally, the GAP observes that trying to decide where to go should require an analysis of where you are. There have been significant changes in law, policy, economics, fishery status, environmental conditions, and management systems in the past few years. The Council should not jump into a new management process without first fully examining the results of these changes.

PFMC
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