

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL COMMENTS ON
2001/2002 GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) discussed a Council staff proposal to establish a subcommittee of the Ad Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan Oversight Committee which would examine the groundfish management process and provide recommendations for potential future changes. The GAP also participated in a joint meeting with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to review the Stock Assessment Review (STAR) process.

The GAP has actively participated on STAR panels and will continue to do so. The GAP has stated on several occasions previously that it supports continuation of the STAR process and reiterates that support at this time.

The GAP, with some reservations, agrees it may be appropriate to examine the groundfish management process, but expresses the following concerns:

1. Any special subcommittee formed should include membership from the GAP.
2. The subcommittee should not report until at least April; the GAP does not meet in March and wants an opportunity to comment on the subcommittee's report.
3. No changes in the groundfish management process should be made without thorough review and discussion.
4. As frustrated as we are with the current management process, the Council should not devote extensive time and resources to "reinventing" itself at the expense of other crucial conservation and management issues.

PFMC
11/01/00