

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL COMMENTS ON  
AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the draft documents on American Fisheries Act (AFA) issues that were provided by Council staff. The GAP appreciates staff and Council efforts in this regard.

During the course of GAP discussion, at least two additional options were put forth the GAP believes merit public review. Since these options were developed at the GAP meeting, and therefore, had not been analyzed by Council staff; the GAP was uncomfortable in simply putting them forward and asking the Council send them out for final comment pending final action in September.

Therefore, the GAP - somewhat reluctantly - asks the Council delay action on this agenda item until September, so Council staff (subject to workload requirements) can provide some analysis on the two additional options.

Attached to this statement are the two options as they were put forward by members of the GAP. The GAP as a whole expresses no preference for either of these options or the existing options at this time.

#### GAP AFA OPTION 1

An AFA vessel which had a groundfish permit as of October 1, 1998, and which delivered at least 500 tons of groundfish in any year during the period January 1, 1994 to October 1, 1998, would be allowed unrestricted participation in the Pacific groundfish fishery.

An AFA vessel which does not meet the above criteria may not participate in the Pacific groundfish fishery.

A permit attached to an AFA vessel not qualifying for participation may be sold or leased to another vessel which is qualified to participate in the fishery, subject to the limitations on permit transfers that apply to groundfish permits

The "replacement clause" language in Amendment 6 to the Groundfish fishery management plan, dealing with vessels lost due to sinking or other causes, would apply as appropriate.

#### GAP AFA OPTION 2

A window period of September 1, 1995 to September 16, 1999 would be established. Groundfish landings (by species) made by AFA vessels during this period would be calculated and an average established by vessel by species. This average would be converted to a percentage of all groundfish landings (by species).

AFA vessels would not be permitted to land groundfish in an amount greater than their average for each species. No other restrictions would be imposed on that vessel's permit.

PFMC  
06/14/01