

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
STOCK ASSESSMENT PRIORITIES FOR 2002

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) discussed stock assessment priorities with NMFS staff and generally agreed to the list that had been developed.

The GAP notes that NMFS intends to analyze foreign catch figures for red rockfish, a step urged by the GAP last year. This analysis is crucial in determining the virgin biomass of several rockfish species and needs to be concluded.

The GAP reluctantly agreed to the one-year delay in assessment of canary rockfish. Because so many fishery management decisions are driven by the "overfished" status of canary, the GAP was concerned that a delay in the assessment would only exacerbate current problems. However, the GAP notes that moving the assessment to 2003 will allow consideration of the most current shelf survey data and would bring the assessment schedule in line with the 2-year monitoring requirement for rebuilding plans specified in the law.

PFMC  
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