

## GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL COMMENTS ON STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met with Council staff to review the minutes and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan Implementation Oversight Committee (SPOC).

### Trawl Permit Stacking

1. The GAP agreed with the SPOC that we should move forward on analyzing and addressing trawl permit stacking.
2. The GAP agreed with the proposed composition of a permit stacking committee, with two additions: the GAP recommended Mr. Tom Ancona, GAP California Trawl Representative, for the California seat on the committee; and the GAP recommended adding an additional seat for a whiting trawler. The GAP notes that no whiting trawlers are currently proposed for membership, and stacking options could have substantial effects on the unique whiting fishery.
3. The GAP found both the list of issues to be addressed and the time frame acceptable, though some GAP members questioned whether work could be completed in the short amount of time involved, given the other issues (such as annual management measures) that need to be addressed by the Council between now and the end of the year. A minority of the GAP suggested that consultation with a fixed gear representative might be helpful, particularly in response with the issue of transferability of permits among gear groups.

### Limitations on Open Access

The GAP has consistently expressed concern about the amount of time and effort that will be required to establish limitations on the open access fisheries. At the same time, the GAP recognizes the fishery is growing with few restraints and notes both of the open access representatives on the GAP support limitations.

The GAP, therefore, urges the states to continue their efforts on limiting capacity in the open access fisheries, with the Council providing oversight and resources as such resources are available.

### Marine Reserves

As noted in our comments under agenda item E.1 earlier this week, the GAP believes the Council needs to take a lead coordinating role in marine reserve issues affecting fisheries under the Council's jurisdiction. While the GAP defers to other advisory subpanels for comments on their fisheries, the GAP notes marine reserves can have a significant impact on a number of fisheries under the Council's jurisdiction. For example, the proposed Channel Islands marine reserve could seriously affect the coastal pelagic fishery.

In order to best coordinate Council marine reserve efforts, the GAP again strongly recommends a separate committee be formed which would include representation from the GAP, the GMT, the SSC, and other advisory bodies as the Council deems appropriate. This will allow scientific, management, and industry expertise to be brought to bear on marine reserves issues in a focused manner without the cost of involving the full complement of the advisory entities. This approach was used effectively in establishing a marine reserves development team, and we should build on that success.

Finally, the GAP notes the Council budget needs to reflect the great degree in which marine reserves establishment will affect the Pacific groundfish fishery. Although the Council's Budget Committee is comprised of Council members, we request a member of the GAP be allowed to participate as an ad hoc member or as a member of the public in order that the significant budget requirements for groundfish management be recognized.

PFMC

06/12/01