

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
REVIEW OF WEST COAST MARINE RESERVES EFFORTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a presentation from Council staff on the various efforts being conducted relative to marine reserves and marine protected areas on the West Coast.

Because this topic is only a Council discussion item and overlaps with agenda item C.9 (Strategic Plan Implementation), the GAP will reserve most of its recommendations for that agenda item. However, one issue should be noted in particular: there is apparently very little coordination among all of the efforts and authorities when it comes to considering marine reserves. The laundry list of agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and international organizations presented in the staff paper is ample evidence of this problem. These efforts must be both focused and coordinated if a logical marine reserves program is to be established.

The GAP believes the Council is the most logical body to provide the coordination, given that most reserve proposals involve Council-managed fisheries and many include federal waters outside the jurisdiction of individual states. As noted earlier, the GAP will provide a specific recommendation on this point under agenda item C.9.

The GAP also notes that this lack of coordination is recognized by NOAA, and NOAA intends to conduct a meeting in late July to start resolving the problem. It is imperative the Council and appropriate Council advisory bodies be invited to this meeting. Even if no funds are available for advisory body travel, the invitation should be extended to them, and appropriate members can find their own funding.

Finally, in all discussions of marine reserves, accurate and sufficient economic information must be made available to detail the costs and benefits of establishing marine reserves.

PFMC  
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