

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
GROUND FISH STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a report from Council staff regarding the meeting of the Council's Ad Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan Implementation Oversight Committee (SPOC) and offers the following comments on that Committee's report.

Open Access Restrictions: The GAP agrees with the SPOC recommendation to delay work on this issue until after the Council's October meeting. However, the issue should remain on the Council's workload list.

Trawl Permit Stacking: The GAP agrees this should be a high priority for Council workload, as it is unclear whether buyback legislation will be enacted and funded in this Congress. While the GAP recognizes there may not be time to convene a meeting of the permit stacking committee before the Council's October meeting, work should begin soon thereafter.

Marine Reserves: The GAP offered extensive comments on marine reserves and Council response under agenda item D.1 and will not repeat them here.

Allocation: The GAP unanimously repeats its request that the Council engage in a formal allocation process rather than the ad hoc approach that has been taken to date. Continued restrictions on species that are harvested by all gear types and both commercial and recreational fisheries make it imperative a formal allocation take place.

Multi-year Management: The GAP believes the Council should explore this approach to management as a means of providing some continuity for the fisheries. However, a multi-year approach must include a mechanism to adopt recent scientific information, especially in cases where there are significant questions of stock assessment results.

PFMC
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