

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL COMMENTS ON  
MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES STATISTICS SURVEY UPDATE

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a briefing on the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) and offers the following comments. The GAP appreciates the efforts of MRFSS staff.

While the MRFSS program has shown some improvements, the GAP believes more efforts can be expended to make MRFSS a useful tool for fisheries management, especially when the need for inseason adjustments in the recreational fisheries become more important. The GAP recommends:

- the MRFSS program improve its public outreach in order to obtain more timely data from recreational participants who are unaware of the need to supply accurate data;
- MRFSS continue efforts to refine its analyses, as MRFSS catch data appears to continually over report recreational catches. This is important as it affects all sectors;
- the MRFSS move towards a coast-wide logbook effort for charter/party boats as logbook data appear to more accurately reflect harvest than do phone surveys; and
- the MRFSS make greater efforts to use coordinated data gathering programs from the 3 coastal states.

PFMC  
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