

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

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) continues to express its concern about several aspects of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS). Both commercial and recreational fishermen, whose fisheries are affected by management actions based on MRFSS data, have complaints about the accuracy of that data and its use for inseason adjustments, especially since use of the data can lead - and has led - to fisheries closures. Since recreational data is used for some stock assessments, GAP members question the reliability of those assessments (yelloweye rockfish is frequently cited as one example). The GAP believes the California Department of Fish and Game needs to continue to encourage the use of recreational logbooks and follow up with extensive sampling. Further, sampling times need to be based on the realities of the recreational fishery. Sampling when a fishery is closed makes little sense.

PFMC
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