

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
GROUND FISH STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a presentation from Ecotrust on their Groundfish Fleet Reduction Information and Analysis Project.

While the project generated interest and several questions, GAP members are alarmed at the fact that Ecotrust - as a private organization - is receiving confidential data from PacFIN. The fishing industry provides data to PacFIN for use in management with the understanding that such data is confidential and will be used only in aggregate form that prevents identification of individual operations. If data is able to be released in raw or unaggregated form to a private organization, many of those present believe they will not provide such data in the future. The GAP strongly recommends no unaggregated or confidential data be released by PacFIN to any private organization, and the Council should instruct PacFIN not to release confidential data to private organizations unless the Council approves the release. The GAP also requests a copy of PacFIN's protocol on release of data to private organizations.

The GAP also discussed a Council proposal to establish a scoping committee to examine multi-year management. The GAP supports the proposal and the list of members proposed in Exhibit C.5 - Situation Summary.

PFMC
10/31/01