

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON  
PLANNING FOR BYCATCH AND  $B_0$ /MSY WORKSHOPS

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) did not have an opportunity to meet with the Scientific and Statistical Committee or NMFS representatives to discuss plans for workshops on several scientific issues, including definitions and calculations of maximum sustainable yield and  $B_0$ , or unfished biomass. Nevertheless, the GAP reiterates its previous recommendation that a stock assessment review-type workshop on calculation of unfished biomass be convened as soon as possible. The calculation of unfished biomass during the stock assessment process is a key component in determining whether a stock will be designated overfished. Unfortunately, there are several different ways that unfished biomass has been calculated, especially in regard to stocks that may be influenced more by environmental conditions than by harvesting. Since the determination of unfished biomass is so important, the GAP believes that a proper scientific review of this process is imperative.

PFMC  
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