

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
STATUS OF FISHERIES AND INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to discuss necessary harvest adjustments for the remainder of the 2002 season.

The GAP concurs with the GMT recommendation that the limited entry small footrope trawl fishery north of 40° 10' N latitude be allowed a 500 pound per month incidental catch of widow rockfish and a 300 pound per month incidental catch of nearshore rockfish for the months of November and December. These incidental limits were in place earlier in the year, will not risk attainment of optimum yield, and will provide a means of avoiding discards in the multi-species fishery.

As a general note, although not directly applicable to inseason adjustments, the GAP suggests that in the future the Council and the GMT consider a generic incidental catch allowance for all gear types in order to avoid discards.

PFMC
10/29/02