

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAMMATIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an update from Mr. Jim Glock on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) being developed for the Pacific Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

In general, the GAP agreed the alternatives developed by the Ad Hoc Groundfish FMP EIS Oversight Committee fully frame the range of issues that need to be considered. The GAP did not try to identify a preferred option within the alternatives.

Several issues were discussed the GAP believes need to be addressed in the PEIS. First, the PEIS should fully identify the management measures that have been put in place over the years and demonstrate how these have led to decreased allowable harvest. This need is especially apparent in the graph used to show declining fisheries. Second, the PEIS should try to identify the point at which further management restrictions elicit no further gains; in other words, when is enough enough? Third, the PEIS needs to identify, and if possible, quantify environmental influences on the status of groundfish stocks, including predator-prey relationships between groundfish species and between groundfish and nongroundfish species. Finally, the PEIS should describe how what we have done in the past influences the present state of the fisheries, both the biological state and the socioeconomic state.

PFMC
10/31/02