

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY BODIES, STANDING COMMITTEES, AND OTHER FORUMS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed proposals to change the structure of the GAP, focusing specifically on representation by non-charter recreational fishermen.

A minority of the GAP endorsed a proposal to increase GAP membership by 1, with the new member designated as representing non-charter sport fishermen. Proponents argued that the increased effects of groundfish management on non-charter sport fishermen suggests a need for greater representation by the sector. They noted, in particular, that there are no non-charter sport representatives from California on the GAP in spite of the large amount of time spent on California recreational issues when dealing with annual specifications.

The majority of the GAP opposed the proposal. They pointed out that every user group on the GAP could claim under-representation in some way. Further, the current GAP membership has 3 recreational charter seats and 2 at-large seats; both of the at-large seats could be filled with non-charter fishermen if the Council chose to do so. In addition, the needs of charter representatives and non-charter representatives are often the same, and in any case, charter representatives are cognizant of non-charter recreational needs. Finally, the GAP noted that GAP meetings are open processes, and the public is given essentially the same opportunity to present views and ask questions as are members of the GAP. Thus, the majority of the GAP believes there are ample opportunities for non-charter sport users to be represented, to be heard and to participate.