

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON FEASIBILITY OF USING
REAL-TIME ELECTRONIC LOGBOOK DATA IN GROUND FISH FISHERY
MANAGEMENT

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received two presentations on electronic logbooks that are being developed. The GAP appreciates Mr. Patrick Simpson and Mr. Larry Cotter and their associates taking the time to present reports on their activities.

The GAP agrees that information being accurately gathered and made available in a timely manner is crucial to improving the management of groundfish fisheries. The GAP notes that it has on previous occasions supported development and use of an electronic "card swipe" system similar to that used in certain Alaskan fisheries as a means of providing accurate, up-to-date information on landings. Electronic logbook programs could, in certain circumstances, complement a card swipe system.

Nevertheless, the GAP has concerns about logbooks - electronic or paper - being used as a proxy for real-time management. Unfortunately, logbooks and observer reports continue to be merely estimates of catch and discard. While we believe that information needs to be provided to NMFS and the states on a real-time basis, we question whether directing time, money and effort towards an electronic logbook system - as opposed to other systems - is the best use of our scarce resources at this time.

PFMC
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