

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) had previously suggested in its comments under agenda item C.6 that the Council, when communicating with Congress regarding amendments to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), support changes in the law that will allow control by the Council and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service over scientific research catches involving overfished species.

The GAP notes that the Council's Legislative Committee is recommending that Council staff be authorized to provide certain information to Congress on various issues involving re-authorization of the MSA. The GAP requests that the issue of obtaining permit authority, or at the very least establishing a reporting requirement on research catch of overfished species, be added to the list of information to be provided. At a time when we are managing to the tenth of a ton of certain species, we cannot afford to have random researchers running free in the exclusive economic zone with no attention paid to the effect of their activities on overfished species.

PFMC
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