

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
PRELIMINARY REPORT ON CONTACT TO VIOLATION RATIO IN GROUND FISH  
RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a preliminary report from representatives of the Enforcement Consultants (EC) on efforts made to document violations in the recreational groundfish fishery.

We appreciate the work being done by state law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance with fishing regulations and believe that the project can help better enumerate total catch in the recreational fisheries. As the project continues, the GAP would like to make two recommendations on ways to improve its utility.

First, we suggest the EC seek assistance in designing a statistically valid sample. The lessons learned from the groundfish observer program may be helpful here.

Second, we suggest any statistical model developed from the sampling program be reviewed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), in the same way the SSC has reviewed bycatch and observer models to make sure we are getting the best scientific information available.

PFMC  
06/15/04