

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON INITIAL  
CONSIDERATION OF LIMITED REFINEMENTS TO THE 2005/2006  
FISHERY MANAGEMENT SPECIFICATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to discuss limited refinements to 2005/2006 groundfish management specifications.

The GAP agrees with the Groundfish Management Team recommendations on revising the fixed gear sablefish tier limits to properly account for research catch and on revising the limited entry fixed gear trip limits on thornyheads, which were inadvertently set higher than intended.

The GAP had a lengthy discussion on a Washington proposal to increase the amount of lingcod attributed to the Washington and Oregon recreational fisheries. The proposal results from the use of more recent data applied to projections for recreational catch. The GAP agrees that the most recent data should be used, and the bycatch projection table (formerly known as the "scorecard") should be corrected. However, taking this action should not preclude future inseason increases for the commercial fishery if they are warranted. The GAP notes there is a large residual amount of lingcod shown to be available at the start of the 2005 season and believes that the commercial sector should have an equal opportunity for access to harvestable fish.

PFMC  
09/14/04