

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
INITIAL CONSIDERATION OF STATUS OF FISHERIES AND INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to discuss potential inseason adjustments for the groundfish fishery. The GAP and the GMT also jointly heard a presentation from the Coos Bay Trawlers Association regarding their concerns on closure of petrale grounds in November and December.

Based on data provided by the GMT regarding the projected year-end catch of canary rockfish, the GAP examined potential fishery modifications that would keep total canary catch - both recreational and commercial - below the canary optimum yield. The GAP was unable to identify any changes - including complete closures of most fisheries - that would provide the necessary changes. The trawl fishery has already been moved deeper than canary habitat. The recreational fishery in California is closed, and no new data has been provided on recreational catch of canary to date. The nearshore fisheries are being conducted shallower than known canary presence. The GMT was unable to quantify any savings that would result from closure of recreational fisheries in Oregon and Washington, or closure of the daily trip limit fishery for sablefish.

At this time, the GAP recommends that no inseason action be taken by the Council.

PFMC
11/02/04