

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
BYCATCH PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a briefing from Council staff on the current status of the Bycatch Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.

The GAP is concerned that the Council not create confusion and inefficiency in dealing with measures to address bycatch. The Council potentially will have before it the proposals of the Ad Hoc Groundfish Trawl Individual Quota (IQ) Committee, which will affect bycatch; inter-sector allocation decisions associated with any IQ plan; biennial management specifications; and any separate proposals that grow out of the Programmatic EIS. Unless a clear road map is developed, the Council could find itself simultaneously working on several separate - and possibly even contradictory - bycatch proposals. The GAP urges the Council to develop that road map before moving forward on a plan amendment reflecting the preferred alternatives of the Programmatic EIS.

PFMC
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