

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
TRAWL INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS

The Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) reviewed the progress made by the Ad Hoc Groundfish Trawl Individual Quota (TIQ) Committee and the material presented by the Council staff at the joint Council briefing on Monday.

Because the TIQ Committee did not have sufficient time at their last meeting to provide a list of proposed alternatives, the GAP believes it is inappropriate, at this point, to review and comment on an incomplete package. The GAP defers comments until a future meeting when a complete report from the TIQ Committee is available. After consulting with TIQ Committee members who attended the GAP meeting, the GAP believes a more complete report will be available in the spring.

On a separate issue, the GAP was asked to comment on a proposal that a separate Council subcommittee be appointed to interact with the TIQ Committee and review its work. The GAP believes this proposal is premature, especially since the TIQ Committee has not finished its work. We should not be considering adding additional layers of Council review to a difficult process unless there is some clear indication the process has failed.

PFMC
11/03/04