

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to discuss recommendations for minor inseason adjustments.

In general, the GAP supports the changes being recommended by the GMT, along with the recommendation to maintain the limited entry fixed gear sablefish tier limits at the level originally proposed. The GAP does note that, given the recent observer data, maintaining these limits will result in an increase in the estimated incidental take of canary rockfish of about .2 mt. Some GAP members suggest that the fixed gear fleet examine its fishing practices in light of this new data to try to reduce canary impacts as other fisheries sectors have tried to do.

In regard to changes in way-point coordinates for the Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundaries, the GAP urges state and federal regulatory and enforcement personnel to coordinate with the industry to ensure the changes are correctly published. Informal working groups of this sort have been used successfully in the past, when changes in RCA boundaries have been made.

In regard to changes in regulatory language affecting the use of trawl gear north of 40E10', the GAP has no objection to the language being suggested by the GMT and the Enforcement Consultants (EC). However, efforts to develop appropriate language showed there are different approaches taken to establishing trip limits and associated regulations by the GMT, the EC, and the GAP. There is a need for better coordination to mesh the desires of each group for regulations that work for them. We suggest that representatives of the EC, the GMT, and the GAP meet during one of the next two Council meetings to resolve issues and prepare for the 2007 - 2008 biennial specifications.

PFMC
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