

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL COMMENTS ON STOCK ASSESSMENT
PLANNING FOR THE 2009-2010 FISHING SEASON

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard presentations from Dr. Elizabeth Clarke and Dr. Jim Hastie regarding the Groundfish Stock Assessment Review Workshop, the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference, and the proposed stock assessment schedule for 2007 and beyond, and has the following comments.

In regards to the Terms of Reference, the GAP accepts and approves the proposed changes to amend and improve the Terms of Reference for the Groundfish Stock Assessment and Review Process for 2007-2008.

In regards to the stock assessment schedule, the GAP supports the proposed list of full and updated assessments with the exception of sablefish, which we believe should be assessed fully in 2007. The GAP believes that a higher priority should be placed on a full sablefish assessment than on the chilipepper assessment. While the GAP believes that the information that can be gleaned from a full assessment on chilipepper rockfish is important for the long-term, it is not necessary for short-term fishery management objectives. Additionally, blue, blackgill, vermilion and splitnose rockfish, as well as sanddabs, should be removed from the current list.

Lastly, the GAP advises the National Marine Fisheries Service to give some consideration to the number of assessments per Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel beyond just the number of species. For example, the petrale assessment is actually two geographic assessments (not a single assessment) and both assessments will have to be reviewed during the STAR Panel process.

PFMC
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