

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

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) recommends that full assessments be conducted for cowcod and petrale rather than the updates currently planned. For cowcod there is now sufficient information to do assessments for the areas north and south of Point Conception. The new data include length composition and otolith age information. The petrale assessment should be redone because the Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel questioned the validity of the previous assessment and new data is now available. Assessments for longnose skate and blue rockfish are a lower priority and should be delayed to stay within the STAR Panel workload limits outlined in Agenda Item F.3.b, Attachment 2.

The GAP member delegated to participate in a STAR Panel should be included at the start of the stock assessment process, to help review the data used to develop the stock assessment. The industry will have useful knowledge of fishery indices that may have ramifications for data interpretation. The GAP feels that both the GAP and Groundfish Management Team should have full voting rights at the STAR Panel and that these voting rights constitute needed checks and balances. Without this, the GAP feels its participation would be marginalized. GAP participation at this level would help to initiate interaction between the scientific community and the industry and help promote better understanding of the process.

PFMC
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