

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
CONSULTATION PROCEDURES FOR FISHERY REGULATION IN
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

At the March 2006 Council meeting, the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the paper titled National Marine Sanctuaries Act Regulatory Process and the flow chart (part of Agenda Item I.1.a, Attachment 4, March 2006) which indicated the regulatory triggers that would lead to a scoping process. Rather than the National Marine Sanctuary Program (Sanctuary) independently taking the actions outlined in boxes 1 and 2, the GAP recommended the Sanctuary coordinate with the Council and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) before generating ideas in a management plan review process or taking fisheries proposals to the public for comment. The GAP recommended that at the earliest stage steps be taken in the process to include Sanctuary/NMFS/Council consultation and involvement in steps parallel to those listed in the process. We want to reiterate these comments to the Council, along with our position that clarification on regulatory authority is needed.

The GAP also reviewed comments from the conference call involving the Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMC) and staff dated January 30, 2006. The GAP felt the following comments are of particular significance:

1. It was noted that the process of establishing National Marine Sanctuary goals and objectives involves little or no RFMC involvement.
2. Participants suggested the RFMCs be brought formally into the decision-making phases of this process and a scientific rationale for the goals and objectives be included.

PFMC
04/05/06