

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
RECREATIONAL FISHERY INFORMATION NETWORK
DATA AND SAMPLING REQUIREMENTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission's "RecFin Status Report." The GAP supports a consistent reporting of recreational fish by numbers of fish caught, rather than by weight. With the observer data then being used to convert the numbers to metric tons, this will be the most accurate computation.

The GAP notes that discard mortality rates are low for many species in shallow water, which are the most often targeted species in the recreational fishery. For example, in southern California, scorpionfish have less than a 10% discard mortality rate, and cabezon has a 0% mortality rate. Discard mortality rates play a key role in stock assessments.

The GAP supports better accounting for socio-economic data for the recreational fishery, which will be increasingly important for future management decisions.

The GAP endorses all three proposals of the RecFin Technical Committee for data and sampling requirements.

PFMC
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