

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON OFF-YEAR SCIENCE IMPROVEMENTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard from Mr. John DeVore about the proposed actions for off-year science improvements. The GAP has general comments on off-year science activities and specific recommendations for potential workshops.

General Comments

- All workshops should strive to accommodate layman participants. Technical discussions should be translated to the applied level to ensure understanding of important technical issues.
- The workshop title should clearly articulate the purpose of the workshop. For example the harvest policy workshop covered many issues much broader than harvest policy.
- The Council should continue to sponsor GAP representation at the workshops. At times this may include both commercial and recreational representatives if appropriate.
- Limit the scope of individual workshops; a series of workshops may be more appropriate.
- Consider increasing peer review from outside of the West Coast.
- Devise a process to consider the research and data needs identified by Stock Assessment Review Panels and track whether these recommendations and research needs are being accomplished, and if not, why not.

Recommended Activities

- B-zero workshop.
- Data modeling workshop – including the sablefish assessment recommendations from Dr. Jack Taggart.
- A workshop that examines what constitutes overfishing should be considered. The workshop would consider revisiting proxy harvest rates last examined in 2000.
- A workshop that examines the stock assessment review process.
- A workshop to construct a comprehensive catch history database for all species for stock assessment purposes.
- A workshop that examines stock assessments through the years – considers the decision points, what has worked and where management has obviously erred.
- Consider whether using SS2 to model all West Coast species is necessarily appropriate.