

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
STOCK ASSESSMENT PLANNING FOR 2011-2012 MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) discussed the list of ten proposed stock assessments slated for 2009. The GAP is supportive of the proposed list with two exceptions:

1. Yelloweye rockfish should be added to the list for a full assessment in 2009.
2. Bank rockfish should be absorbed into the full assessment for the “Minor Slope Complex.”

Yelloweye Rockfish

The GAP believes that it is critical to fully assess yelloweye rockfish in 2009 for several reasons:

- There is a mandate to assess rebuilding progress on overfished species every two years – yelloweye was last fully assessed in 2006 and hence is due for an assessment.
- There will be additional data to inform the assessment in 2009 including both expansions of existing data (IPHC) and new data – WDFW rockfish sampling project.
- There was some indication that a new year class was recruiting into the fishery based on recreational catch data.
- The current status of the yelloweye fishery has the potential to affect every commercial and recreational fishery on the coast. Assessing the rebuilding progress of this stock is very important to the general management of groundfish both for annual management and inseason management processes.

Bank Rockfish

The GAP believes that Bank rockfish should be absorbed into the “Minor Slope Rockfish” assessment because it is one of the species of that particular complex and because this logical inclusion allows an additional full stock assessment be added to the list (yelloweye).

PFMC
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