

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
PART 1 OF MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2009-2010 FISHERIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard guidance from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) staff on management measures for 2009-2010 and the associated analysis. For the first part of this agenda item the GAP worked from Agenda Item H.5.a Attachment 1, Management Measures recommended for analysis by the Groundfish Management Team in November.

1. **Consider managing recreational fisheries by numbers of fish instead of weight.** The GAP supports analyzing this measure, but believes it should receive a **low priority**. While this alternative management measure may be useful in some cases, the numbers would still need to be converted to metric tons in order to fit in to our management process.
2. **Finer scale spatial management.** The GAP believes there is a real need to explore “groundfish fishing areas” within the cowcod conservation area and rockfish conservation areas. We believe that there are areas within the conservation areas that people can fish without impacting overfished species. Allowing access to these areas would contribute economically to coastal communities. Groundfish fishing areas should be a **high priority**.
3. **Redefine Flatfish trawl.** The GAP recommends dropping this issue from the analysis. Attrition has taken care of many of the nets which were not designed to specifications.
4. **Provide guidance,** particularly on skates, on scientific sorting. The GAP agrees that these activities inform stock assessments but believes this should be a **low priority** for the analysis.
5. **Limited Entry Trawl** – The GAP recommends dropping a, b and c from the analysis.
6. **Limited Entry Fixed Gear** – consider allowing limited entry (LE) fishermen with a longline endorsement the opportunity to harvest their landings limits using pot/trap gear. The GAP agrees with including this in the analysis but gives it a **low priority**.
7. **Rockfish Conservation Area latitude and longitude adjustment.** The GAP believes this should be included in the analysis and is a **high priority**.
8. **Mandatory logbooks for the recreational fleet.** The GAP is recommending that this is dropped from the analysis.
9. **Federal electronic logbooks & fish tickets.** This is to take the existing state logbook program and turn it into an electronic transmittal system rather than a paper system. The electronic system will greatly improve how quickly the information can be developed and distributed. It also improves the accuracy of the data because it does not need to be entered manually which sometimes results in input errors.

10. **Non-retention regulations for bronzespotted rockfish.** The GAP agrees this issue should remain in the analysis and is a low priority.
11. **Whiting Issues.**
- a. **Sector specific bycatch caps.** The GAP believes this should be Included in the analysis and is a high priority. The GAP does not believe that waiting for intersector allocation to solve this problem is appropriate. The analysis should include no overall bycatch cap for the fleet when sector specific caps are in place.
 - b. **Scheduled releases of bycatch.** The GAP believes this should be included in the analysis and is a **low priority**.
 - c. **Closing the non-treaty whiting fishery on projection of a bycatch cap.** The GAP believes this should be dropped from the analysis because this issue has already been dealt with by NMFS.
 - d. **Re-defining at-sea processing.** The GAP believes this should be included in the analysis and it is a **high priority**.
12. **Create a limited entry fixed gear Federal logbook.** The GAP believes this should be included in the analysis and this is a **high priority**. A sablefish logbook will inform the stock assessment with information that is not currently available, for example, catch per unit of effort data.
13. The GAP believes that the issue regarding changing the **length variance** in LE permit length endorsements should be explored but is a **low priority**.
14. The GAP believes that **retention of lingcod in the salmon troll fishery** should be analyzed and is a **high priority**.
15. **Include a definition of vertical hook and line gear** (commercial and recreational) for distance from deepest hook to the weight (lead, sinker) provided that the hook is above said weight and is not large enough to be a weight. This may provide opportunity to target species while avoiding overfished species that tend to be demersal and this should be a **high priority**.