

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to discuss initial inseason issues and has the following comments and recommendations.

Canary

The updated scorecard shows 4.1 mt of canary in residual projected through the end of the year. The GAP had a lengthy discussion about opportunities that the residual canary could provide. The GAP unanimously agreed that reopening the whiting fishery was the priority action the Council should take. All three sectors of the whiting fishery have fish left in the water including more than 60 percent of the shoreside allocation. The shoreside whiting fleet has testified that they will continue the daily monitoring of the bycatch in the fishery and work together to avoid these hotspots. The catcher/processor sector is already managing its fleet in this fashion.

For the non-whiting limited entry trawl fleet, the GAP would also like to see a change to the seaward Rockfish Conservation Area boundary to 75 fathoms. If both these actions can be accommodated by the 4.1 mt the GAP is supportive of taking this action. The GAP is not supportive of reopening the closed areas off of Oregon and Washington.

The GMT report indicates that both requests (reopening the whiting fishery and changing the fathom line) can be accommodated.

The GAP is generally supportive of the remaining GMT proposed inseason adjustments.

PFMC
09/10/08