

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FMP AMENDMENT 20 – TRAWL RATIONALIZATION – FINAL ACTION FOR
ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the Council's preferred option and the amendment from the April 2009 meeting. The GAP discussed the pros and cons of the pass-through in addition to many related issues. That discussion is summarized below.

Some members expressed support for a formulaic approach that would begin concurrently with the implementation of the rest of the individual fishing quota program. They expressed the belief that immediate use of the Adaptive Management Program (AMP) may help prevent problems, while that same amount of AMP quota may be insufficient to remedy problems once they occur. There was concern that some communities, processors, or other infrastructure may not make it until year three. It was pointed out that trawl landings maintain infrastructure in ports for other fisheries, and that if the trawler leaves or leases quota out of that port, then the implications may be broader than anticipated.

In opposition to the idea of establishing a formula in year one, many members of the GAP pointed out that it is problematic to assume what the problems will be in the absence of concrete data. They advocated waiting at least two years in order to generate that information. Some members highlighted the difficulty of addressing unforeseen circumstances with a formula. It was noted that there will be winners and losers under this program and that quota shifting out of ports will be based on valid considerations such as bycatch rates and areas, distance to fishing grounds, and fish prices. Attempting to restrict that movement may impede some of the expected benefits of the program. Several members also noted that impacts from trawlers leaving a port could occur today without any remediation.

- A motion was made to implement the AMP program in year 1. That motion FAILED 3-6.
- After additional discussion, a separate motion was put forward supporting a two-year pass-through. That motion PASSED unanimously (9-0).

The GAP expressed general support for the remainder of Frank Lockhart's motion including the goals outlined, as well as the potential use of a formula in years 3-5.