

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) AMENDMENT 22  
OPEN ACCESS FISHERY LIMITATION

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) considered Agenda Item E.3.b.

LB Boydston gave an overview of the open access situation and the GAP offers the following comments.

A majority of the GAP supports the Council rescinding the action taken on open access at the March 2009 meeting and feel that an effort cap should be established. This reflects previous GAP statements of support for an effort limit for open access.

A minority of the GAP supports reaffirming the March 2009 open access decision, and believes business decisions have been made by the fleet based on the Council action.

The question of any gain for management from the March 2009 Council decision was discussed. It was noted that the present open access regulations require a vessel monitoring system and declarations when you intend to change your fishing strategy to target groundfish. The time and cost of establishing a separate registry should be considered if the Council retains this preferred alternative.

PFMC  
06/12/09