

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
REVIEW OF FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met via webinar on March 3, 2015, to consider recommendations to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) on future Fishery Ecosystem Plan initiatives. We reviewed the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) report (Agenda Item E.2.b, (EAS Report) and the Supplemental Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) Report (Agenda Item E.2.b, Supplemental EWG Report) preliminary report with a summary from Ms. Yvonne DeReynier.

Bearing in mind the Council will be making decisions on the fishery ecosystem plan initiatives at this meeting, the GAP suggests the following:

1. The GAP supports the recommendations contained in the supplemental EWG report, notably the GAP recommends a discussion process in and between the Council, its advisory bodies, and the public, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that the ecosystem indicators are interesting and useful to the Council process and its participants (as described by the EWG). The GAP believes this should be the highest priority.
2. The GAP recognizes that initiatives 1 through 9 are interesting aspirational topics, however, the GAP is concerned that these will detract from other fishery management plan workload with direct relevance to primary fisheries. Given discussions at recent Council meetings regarding Fishery Management Plans (FMP) for directed fisheries, changes to those FMPs may make some of these initiatives moot. The GAP also is concerned that, given workload issues, some of these initiatives may require too much Council and National Marine Fisheries Service staff time.