

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON REBUILDING REVISION RULES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) was briefed by Mr. John DeVore on proposed rebuilding revision rules.

In general, the GAP agrees with the range of alternatives listed in [Agenda Item D.10, Attachment 2, range of alternatives](#). We agree with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) that one alternative does not fit all taxa and understand that some of the alternatives would work better with medium- and long-lived rockfish species but not with flatfish or roundfish, vice-versa or any other combination. We also note that the courts have decreed $P_{TARGET} = 50\%$ as the minimum probability that should be used.

To that end, the GAP recommends retaining the status quo rebuilding process for short-lived roundfish and flatfish. Otherwise, we could be four or five years into a 10-year rebuilding cycle before it was determined whether a rebuilding plan was too lenient or too harsh, thereby resulting in drastic changes to annual catch limits (ACLs) – the very situation the revision rules are trying to avoid.

For stocks not subject to 10-year rebuilding plans – the medium- and long-lived rockfish – the GAP suggests revising the plan when $P_{TARGET} < 50\%$ (status quo) after two subsequent iterations of the rebuilding plan.

As an alternative, we suggest bracketing potential revisions: when the existing $P_{TARGET} < 45\%$ or when $P_{TARGET} < 55\%$. For longer-lived fish, this would provide more time to adjust to different rebuilding rates.

PFMC
06/16/15