

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON BIENNIAL HARVEST
SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR
2017-2018 GROUND FISH FISHERIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard a report by Mr. John DeVore and Ms. Kelly Ames, Pacific Fishery Management Council; Ms. Jessie Doerpinghaus, Groundfish Management Team; and Mr. Patrick Mirick, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW); regarding status updates to the biennial harvest specifications and management measures for the next management cycle. While the GAP understands no action will be taken at this meeting, we offer the following comments for consideration.

The GAP appreciates the progress by both Council and NMFS staff for getting the work done and being on schedule for a January 1 implementation date.

Canary rockfish Annual Catch Limit (ACL)

The GAP recommends adoption of the No Action alternative ($ACL=ABC/P* 0.45$) as the preferred option going into the April harvest specification process. The most recent stock assessment shows canary rockfish is rebuilt and, for all the reasons outlined in the various advisory body reports and as previously reported to the GAP and Council, should allow for the No Action alternative. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Council have accepted the assessment, it is considered the best science available, has built-in precaution to account for uncertainty and is supported by the National Standard guidelines. An increased ACL provides greater opportunity for all sectors. The GAP intends to provide a fuller rationale for the No Action ACL in April.

The GAP also suggests that if the Council maintains the status quo allocation, it consider allowing options for inseason transfers of canary to accommodate flexibility in commercial fixed gear and recreational fisheries.

The GAP reviewed the ODFW report under this agenda item and appreciates the desire to develop alternative approaches to rockfish allocations. GAP members suggest more discussion continue in April regarding this work, as there were concerns about some of the underlying assumptions.

Public comment requests for Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) line changes

The GAP briefly discussed the RCA line changes included in this agenda item and request they remain included in the suite of management measures to be discussed in April:

1. [Sportfishing Association of California](#): RCA line change from 60 to 75 fathoms, which is already defined, for the recreational sector, from Point Conception to the Mexican border, including coastal islands and seamounts; and
2. [Point Conception Groundfishermen's Association](#): RCA line change from 60 to 75 fathoms, which is already defined, from Point Conception to the Mexican border for the commercial sector.