GROUNDFISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to discuss possible inseason adjustments, including carryover for the 2016 season. The GMT discussion was led by Ms. Jessi Doerpinghaus. The GAP offers the following recommendations and comments on proposed inseason adjustments to ongoing groundfish fisheries.

Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery North of 36° N. Latitude

Current trip limit (1,275 weekly/3,375 bimonthly)

The current trip limit allows for 2 weeks of 1,275 lb. but only leaves a balance of 825 lb. for the third trip. To better improve efficiency industry has requested crafting 3 equal trip limits totaling the bimonthly limit of 3,375 lb. The GAP therefore supports the GMT-recommended alternative (1 landing per week of up to 1,125 lb., not to exceed 3,375 lb. per 2 months). The model suggests a sufficient buffer with projected attainment between 80 percent to 90 percent, depending on which price assumption is used.

Surplus Carryover in the Limited Entry Trawl Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Fishery

The GMT provided a detailed report on the IFQ fishery performance in 2015 along with projections for the 2016 fishing season. The GMT is recommending the full issuance of carryover quota for all eligible species for 2016. The GAP supports the GMT recommendation and requests distribution of that quota as soon as is possible.

PFMC 03/13/16