

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FINAL ACTION ON TRAWL CATCH
SHARE PROGRAM GEAR USE REGULATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) received a presentation from Mr Jim Seger about the proposed gear use changes for fishing in multiple management areas.

Multiple areas alternatives

Relative to [Agenda Item G.9.a NMFS report](#), the GAP supports Multiple Areas Alternative G3, the GAP alternative, but modify it to include *only* trawl gear and *only* between the U.S. Canada border and 36° North latitude. The goal of this suggestion is so trawl fishermen could tow across the 40° 10' North latitude line, the same thing they did prior to implementation of catch shares program. Due to concerns about sablefish and other species, the GAP is not interested in pursuing alternatives that would allow fishing across the 36° North latitude or the 34° 27' N. latitude lines.

The GAP also supports Alternative G3, no sorting requirement necessary, and Option 3, attribute the catch to the port of landing, for the catch accounting portion of this issue. The GAP notes enforcement issues would decrease under this alternative. Additionally, the GAP understands crediting catch to the port of landing was routine prior to the catch shares program. The data could be confirmed with observer data, if necessary. The landed amounts would be low enough as to have a negligible impact on stock assessments.

Housekeeping language/Mesh size

The GAP concurs with the proposed housekeeping language regarding the 16" mesh size for the net immediately behind the headrope.

PFMC
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