

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
STOCK ASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN COMMENTS

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) received a briefing from Dr. Patrick Lynch, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Silver Spring, on the Stock Assessment Improvement Plan Concepts on our June 1 webinar, and reviewed [Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1](#) and offers the following thoughts.

It is the GMT's understanding that this plan is intended to be used as guidance, and not intended to be prescriptive. Hopefully, this plan will still allow for some flexibility and independence for individual Councils in setting stock assessment priorities. Each regional Council has different species with vastly varying life history characteristics, as well as diverse fisheries that impact those species.

The GMT sees that there could be benefits to this plan in that it could help direct or prioritize resources (money, staff positions, staff time, etc.) toward stock assessments. This could potentially influence the number of assessments that could be conducted each cycle. The GMT also sees benefit in the data collection and processing items, in providing additional or better quality data to inform stock assessments.

Finally, the GMT agrees with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel's recommendation to incorporate transboundary stock characteristics to species, such as Pacific ocean perch, that are important to West Coast fisheries. The main biomass of some of these stocks extend into Canada, Alaska, and/or Mexican waters. Information on the stocks from those other areas may assist stock assessment authors in characterizing the overall stock, not just the part off of the three West Coast states.

PFMC
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