

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES
SERVICE (NMFS) OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT (OLE) STRATEGIC REVIEW

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a report from Mr. Mike Killary, Deputy Special Agent in Charge for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Division, regarding the strategic review.

The GAP thanks Mr. Killary for his presentation, and is encouraged to see that NMFS is filling some of the vacant enforcement positions and adding several new agents and officers.

The GAP generally concurs with the list of priorities and has suggested no specific prioritization. However, several GAP members noted the lack of an on-the-water enforcement presence in California (and confirmed by NMFS), particularly regarding recreational vessels (or vessels in other unmonitored fisheries) fishing inside the Rockfish Conservation Area. This creates an inequity for fishermen and charter vessels who are in compliance. The GAP is concerned this additional impact on overfished species could cause a reduction in allowed catches of constraining species for our fleets in the future.

PFMC
06/10/17