

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON MID-BIENNIUM HARVEST
SPECIFICATIONS ADJUSTMENTS, FINAL ACTION

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of the issue from Mr. John DeVore and offers the following comments.

In general, the GAP is supportive of the “green light” policy. When a new assessment for a constraining species or major target species shows an improvement in stock status, the GAP believes there should be an opportunity to allow for increased harvests as soon as possible, without having to wait for the standard biennial process. This policy would simply create an opportunity for a mid-biennial increase in response to the newest and best science available, and would be analogous to a corresponding “red light” policy that already exists to authorize reductions in harvest levels and other conservation measures mid-biennium in response to new assessments.

The GAP notes that in order to create the most benefit, the increase in harvest needs to be provided as early as possible. The GAP therefore supports the concept of prioritizing stock assessments for the next two biennial cycles, and flagging species that may be appropriate for mid-biennium harvest specifications increases.

The GAP recommends a formulaic and prescriptive approach that would minimize workload and therefore make any potential increase available as early as possible in the year. The most expeditious way to create benefit with this policy would be to maintain *de facto* allocation formulas and only use routine management measures. The GAP notes that allocation formulas and management measures would be revisited the following year on the normal cycle.

PFMC
11/16/17