

## GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard from Ms. Melissa Hooper regarding cost recovery and the midwater trawl whiting electronic monitoring (EM) discard issue. The GAP has the following comments.

### Cost Recovery

The GAP would like to acknowledge the work that National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has done since the November 2017 Pacific Council meeting to begin to address GAP and industry concerns regarding the transparency of the cost recovery program. The GAP looks forward to continuing our robust discussion based on a more detailed cost recovery report from NMFS at the April 2018 Council meeting.

### Electronic Monitoring Whiting Discards

The GAP recognizes that discards in the shoreside whiting fleet increased in 2017 and that communication failures were partly to blame for the increase. The GAP encourages NMFS to work with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and the whiting fleet to incorporate the recommendations from Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 4. These include:

- More comprehensive and frequent feedback between video reviewers and boat owners and captains after each EM trip;
- Incorporating exempted fishing permit (EFP) sponsors into the feedback loop with boat owners and captains (similar to the way Archipelago includes the EFP sponsors whenever technical issues arise); and
- Hold a mandatory pre-season meeting for whiting EM participants.

Further, the GAP recommends that NMFS work closely with the fleet to better define allowable discards so that expectations are clear to video reviewers and the fleet. Operational discards should be allowed as long as they are done in a way that upholds personal accountability and does not undermine accurate catch accounting for the program.

PFMC  
03/10/18