

GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENTS
AND COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURES

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed [Agenda Item F.6.a, NMFS Report 1, September 2018](#) and offer the following thoughts.

The strength of the GMT is dependent on having representation from individuals with a wide variety of groundfish expertise. In recent years, input from the GMT has greatly benefited from having representation from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest (NWFSC) and Southwest (SWFSC) Fishery Science Centers with a broad range of disciplines including, socio-economics, data, and observer program in addition to long standing representation from a stock assessment scientist. The stock assessor provides valuable and necessary input to the GMT.

In addition to providing the GMT with stock assessment guidance, we believe that stock assessors also benefit from engagement on the GMT which can deepen the understanding between stock assessment science and application to management. These valuable working relationships have extended well beyond a stock assessors time on the GMT.

The GMT was also made aware of some budget constraints the NWFSC will be facing, especially in regards to travel funds. The GMT is sympathetic to budget and staffing situations at the NWFSC and understand how difficult it can be for a stock assessor to engage on the GMT during the stock assessment period. The GMT can be flexible to try to work around and within those limitations. Ideas include having the stock assessors participate in GMT meetings during the biennial harvest specifications process, but not during the heavy stock assessment time period, or having that person participate in limited days of GMT meetings via strategic scheduling. We can be flexible in how our needs are met.

As with all unfilled seats, the GMT encourages the Council to find a way to fill the vacancies on the GMT.

PFMC
09/11/18