

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) considered the documents under this agenda item and offers the following comments and suggestions.

November Agenda:

1. Add to the agenda from candidate items H.11 and H.6:

- The GAP recommends that candidate agenda item H.11 Omnibus Prioritization be added to the November agenda, and supports the addition of a mothership agenda item to the omnibus list. Mothership sector participants expressed a commitment to exploring the possibility of a sector-wide meeting to discuss issues and solutions collaboratively before bringing more details forward.
- The GAP believes that the Council should address proposed Agenda Item H.6 (Amend. 28 Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)/Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) Reg. Deeming, Draft Environmental Impact) at the November meeting. The GAP understands that regulatory deeming of the EFH/RCA action at the November meeting is critical for keeping the implementation timeline on track, and implementation of that action, RCA relief off of Oregon and California in particular, could provide significant benefit to the fleet.

2. The GAP also requests that the Council extend the electronic monitoring (EM) exempted fishing permits (EFPs) at the November meeting. For the fixed gear and whiting sectors, the extension is a safeguard in case the regulations are not in place by the season start date. For the bottom trawl sector, we know that the final rule package will not be complete. An EFP extension provides a tremendous opportunity to try to develop workable and cost-effective solutions to remaining challenges for the bottom trawl sector.

PFMC
09/12/18