

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON THE
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT CONSULTATION ON EULACHON

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the materials in the briefing book and received a joint overview with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) from Mr. Kevin Duffy of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region (WCR) and offers the following for consideration.

The GMT is supportive of the progress made so far on the Biological Opinion, particularly the use of abundance-based thresholds that increase when the stock is more abundant and decrease when the stock is scarce which allows the management response to be flexible and adaptive. The GMT appreciates the inclusion of input from our previous statements, such as in our [April 2017](#) statement in which we expressed concern that the static threshold level of 1,004 fish was too low and suggested alternatives to set the threshold level. While the recent overages of that threshold were not treated as a hard cap and so would cause no disruption to fisheries, this threshold has caused complications to proposed actions, such as the gear regulation package, and increased analytical burden. This new methodology should prevent similar situations in the future.

PFMC
09/09/18