

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON OMNIBUS WORKLOAD PLANNING PROCESS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of the agenda item from Mr. Todd Phillips and Mr. Jim Seger, a summary of the status of current omnibus items from Ms. Jessi Doerpinghaus, and had a lengthy discussion of the topic.

Generally, the GAP supports a process through which pending actions can be organized and prioritized, and appreciates the functionality of being able to work from a coordinated list that includes cross-sector items. However, the GAP notes that the omnibus list has become overwhelming and it has been difficult to pull items forward for consideration, given other priorities. We see a need to continue to review and prioritize the items on the omnibus list, but not so often that it takes away time from the items actually getting done.

The fishery has changed in some significant ways, such that some of the items on the list are no longer as pressing to the current needs of participants. In walking through the Groundfish Management Team's (GMT) list of omnibus items with Ms. Jessi Doerpinghaus, the GAP agrees with the GMT that there are many items that could be removed or that are being addressed through other processes.

Other items on the list are very important to move forward, and the GAP hopes that there will be more time in the process for omnibus items to be considered with final action taken in June for essential fish habitat, and final action for 5-year review follow-on actions scheduled in November. The GAP discussed several ideas to improve the process, including convening a panel to review efficiencies, creating an "above and below the line" process, and creating an omnibus document (similar to the one the GMT has created) which provides a short description of the proposal, when the proposal was made, and the level of workload.

At the end of the day, the GAP would like to emphasize priorities that will allow the fish to come out of the water and keep people working. There is a workload bottleneck and that's the problem, not the omnibus list.