

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

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

Referencing the [Proposed REVISED September Agenda](#), the GAP recommends:

1. Remove H.8, Science Improvement and Methodology Report, in the shaded box, from the agenda. This item is not needed since there are no new methodology review or workshop reports to inform the Council.
2. Remove H.11, Gear Switching & Sablefish Area Management Update, in the shaded box, from the agenda. The Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Attainment Committee (SaMTAAC) will not meet until October so no report will be available. Instead, schedule it for the November meeting.
3. Move H.9, MWT EFP for 2020 – Final Recommendations, from the shaded box to the agenda. This should be moved to the agenda so it can be ready for Jan. 1, 2020 implementation.
4. Retain the commercial halibut directed fishery issue on September. The GAP understands that, based on earlier Council decisions, this will not be a workshop discussion but will be the first of a two-meeting process (September-November) to discuss regulations relative to the 2020 non-tribal directed commercial fishery.
5. Add consideration of shortbelly rockfish ACL and cowcod ACT increases on September and November agendas. The GAP addressed these issues in our I.7, Inseason Management, statement at this meeting.

Referencing the [Year-at-a-Glance](#) (YAG), the GAP is concerned that four prioritized items from the Workload and Management Measures (former Omnibus) item are not scheduled in future agendas. The four items – (A1) Non-Trawl RCA Modifications; (A2) Trawl/Non-trawl Amendment 21 Allocations; (A3) Mothership Sector Utilization; and (A4) Moving the Emley/Platt EFP into Regulations – are not shown on any meeting on the YAG. The GAP supports scheduling these items as quickly as possible since the Council identified them as priorities.

After further discussion with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT), the GAP suggests scheduling (A1) Non-Trawl RCA Modifications on the March 2020 agenda to line up with the 2021 fishing seasons and the biennial harvest specifications process.

Regarding electronic monitoring (EM) and the Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee (GEMPAC) [Report under Agenda Item D.6](#), the GAP supports the proposed EM Data Storage Procedural Directive two-meeting process in that statement to schedule review of the

document (if its available) at the September and November 2019 Council meetings. In addition, the current EM exempted fishing permits (EFPs) are valid through December 2019 and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) anticipates extending the EFPs through December 2020. Therefore, the Council may need to add the extension issue to the September or November meeting.

As noted in the Supplemental [GEMPAC Report 1](#) and Agenda Item I.1.a, [Supplemental NMFS Report 3](#), there is a potential misalignment of the forthcoming storage directive and the final rule for whiting and fixed gear. NMFS anticipates revisiting the three-year retention period with the Council once the national policy is finalized. NMFS indicated that the directive may be finalized by January 2020. Therefore, the Council may want to add a placeholder on the YAG for this issue during the March and April Council meetings.

PFMC

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