

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FINAL ACTION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS – INCLUDING FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS ON EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR 2020

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to discuss progress of this year's fishery and possible inseason adjustments. The GMT discussion was led by Mr. Patrick Mirick. The GAP offers the following recommendations and comments on proposed inseason adjustments to ongoing groundfish fisheries.

Sablefish Daily-Trip-Limit

Due to very tough market conditions, fixed gear sablefish landings have been tracking quite low to date, thus, there is an opportunity to increase the daily-trip-limits for both limited entry and open access fixed gear in the north. For those fishermen that have a buyer willing to purchase their sablefish, a trip limit increase would be greatly beneficial. Working from the supplemental GMT Report 1, Table 2; the GAP recommends the following:

Open Access Fixed Gear Sablefish North of 36° N. Latitude

Current 2019 trip limits: 300 lb. daily/1,400 lb. weekly/2,800 lb. bimonthly.

The GAP supports GMT **Alternative 1**: 300 lb. daily/1500 lb. weekly/3,000 bimonthly.

Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish North of 36° N Latitude

Current 2019 trip limits: 1,300 lb. weekly, not to exceed 3,900 lb. bimonthly.

The GAP supports GMT **Alternative 2**: 1,700 lb. weekly, not to exceed 5,100 lb. bimonthly.

Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) for 2020

The GAP also briefly discussed the EFP extensions under this agenda item and supports extending the year-round midwater trawl gear EFP and electronic monitoring EFPs through 2020.