

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.

Proposed March 2021 meeting

Referencing the [proposed March 2021 agenda](#), the GAP recommends keeping mothership utilization on the March agenda (unshade this item). The industry came together to propose a suite of alternatives the GAP scoped in March and April 2020 ([Informational Report 4, June 2020](#)), and the Council scoped in September 2020 ([Agenda Item D.2, Situation Summary, September 2020](#)). The GAP recommends keeping this item moving forward since it could result in significant improvements for the fishery.

Proposed April 2021 meeting

Referencing the [proposed April 2021 agenda](#), the GAP recommends:

- Retaining the gear-switching agenda item on the April schedule (unshade it). Action taken at this meeting under Agenda Item G.1 should allow the economics team and Groundfish Management Team to provide some initial analysis over the winter to inform this process and keep it moving forward. Analysis of gear-switching limits to further develop and refine action alternatives should be completed by April.
- Continue the scoping of moving the Emley-Platt exempted fishing permit (EFP) into regulation. It is shaded in April; the GAP requests it be unshaded for April (see below for more information).

Year-at-a-glance 2021

Referencing the [Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance Summary](#), the GAP suggests:

Unshading and clarifying the Non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)/Emley-Platt EFP-Scoping item. The proposed April agenda does not include the non-trawl RCA item, but the GAP would like to see both issues moved forward as a package. The Council has received dozens of comments on opening the non-trawl RCA for open access vessels. The new approach proposes opening the non-trawl RCA north of 34° 27' N. lat. to non-bottom contact gear (no dinglebar, no longline) to ensure minimal contact with yelloweye rockfish. Under this proposal, fixed gear fishermen would not be limited to *only* the longleader gear used in the Emley-Platt EFP; the longleader gear would be one option to use for targeting midwater stocks. Other types of midwater gear could also be used. Furthermore the GAP suggests continuing scoping of this item as detailed in Table 1 of the GAP's Informational Report for High Priority [Groundfish Items from June 2020](#). A more appropriate title for combining these issues may be Non-trawl Area Management.