

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON PACIFIC HALIBUT TRANSITION
OF AREA 2A FISHERY MANAGEMENT – FINAL ACTION

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of the 2021 Pacific halibut catch sharing plan (CSP) from Mr. Brett Wiedoff, Pacific Fishery Management Council staff, and offers the following comments and suggestions.

The GAP reviewed the [Updated Range of Alternatives for the Proposed Transfer of Management](#) under this agenda item and suggests the Council adopt the bolded alternatives as the final preferred alternatives. The GAP supported all these alternatives in our [September 2020 Report](#).

Specific to Item (4.2.5), Permitting Process/Proof of Permit, the GAP continues to support Alternative 1, status quo (revised), with the proposed revisions in the updated report. That is, requiring either a paper copy or electronic copy as proof of permit. As we noted in our [September report](#), the GAP understands the permit owner/vessel captain will be responsible for producing the proof of permit, whether paper or electronic, even if the vessel is out of cellular service range or other electronic access is unavailable.

The GAP also notes that retaining a permit application process as similar as possible to the current International Pacific Halibut Commission application process is preferred. That is, apply online, receive an email copy of the permit, etc. A potentially more complicated Federal process could create confusion for participants who are used to the existing permit application procedure.

PFMC
11/12/20