

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
SABLEFISH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION UPDATE

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of the sablefish management strategy evaluation update from Mr. John DeVore, Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff; Ms. Maia Kapur, University of Washington; and Dr. Melissa Haltuch, National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Science Center and offers the following comments and suggestions.

The GAP supports this project moving forward and appreciates the update, for many of the same reasons we supported it in March, 2018. As we noted in our [statement under Agenda Item F.3](#) at the time, it is important to have stakeholder engagement and the project team recognizes this. We fully support a workshop in the spring of 2021 to identify management objectives and performance metrics. It is likely it will be necessary to hold the workshop virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The GAP suggests scheduling a tentative follow-up workshop for the November 2021 meeting when we could possibly discuss the issues further in person.

GAP members recognized the full 2019 sablefish assessment showed an improved picture of the fishery compared to the comparatively pessimistic long-term projections as described in the early stages of the management strategy evaluation. We suggest this will be helpful in engaging stakeholders during further development of this management tool.

PFMC
11/16/20