

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN FIVE-YEAR REVIEW – FINAL ACTION

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the materials in the briefing book for this agenda item and discussed previous GAP comments about the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Five-Year Review. The GAP appreciates the responsiveness of the Ecosystem Workgroup to previous comments made by the GAP ([Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, March 2020](#)) and Groundfish Management Team ([Agenda Item F.2.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, September 2020](#)) on this topic. The updates to FEP Chapters 3 and 4 appear to be on point and on track, and the GAP looks forward to providing additional comments about these chapters when the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) again considers them, which is currently scheduled for September 2021.

The GAP generally supports the concept of removing Chapter 5 from the FEP to create a stand-alone document to convey Council priorities and concerns relative to potential future development of non-fishing offshore activities. Recognizing that this document is a work in progress the GAP supports the topic areas outlined in [Agenda Item I.3.a, EWG Report 2, March 2021](#). The information provided about non-fishing activities and their potential impacts and harm to Council-managed fish stocks, and the habitats they depend upon, is important and appears accurate. The GAP highlights that disruption and/or displacement of existing commercial and recreational fisheries from offshore development and other non-fishing activities is not emphasized sufficiently in the current draft. There is brief mention about communities, specifically the need for viable ports and infrastructure, which is important and true. However, existing fisheries also need space on the ocean to conduct their operations. Any guidance document developed to provide Council perspective on non-fishing activities (including offshore development) needs to emphasize clearly that siting of a non-fishing activity should not displace fisheries from their fishing grounds. Therefore, the GAP recommends that the Council provide guidance to the EWG that Chapter 5 should more fully recognize the potential for spatial conflicts between new and current ocean uses and emphasize the need to support and sustain current fisheries by ensuring they are not displaced from their fishing grounds.