

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2021
PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY UNDER THE U.S./CANADA AGREEMENT

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of the bilateral science and management process defined in the Agreement between the U.S. and Canada from Mr. Dan Waldeck (U.S. industry representative to the Joint Management Committee [JMC]). Mr. Waldeck also provided a summary of the 2021 stock assessment and the bilateral Total Allowable Catch (TAC) negotiation undertaken by the Agreement’s Advisory Panel (AP) and JMC.

The GAP appreciated the background provided by Mr. Waldeck. We briefly discussed the process that resulted in the inability of the JMC to agree on a 2021 coastwide TAC and considered the next steps in the U.S. rulemaking process to establish 2021 harvest levels. Most notably, the GAP supports the work developed by the U.S. AP during the 2021 negotiation process and agrees with their recommendations. The GAP understands that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is developing a proposed rule for the 2021 U.S. whiting fishery and expects that the work of the U.S. AP will be a significant part of the agency’s consideration of a 2021 coastwide TAC. It appears that NMFS is on the right track and has the appropriate science and management information available to them to support the rulemaking process.

PFMC
4/09/21