

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of this item from Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council or Council) staff, Ms. Jennifer Gilden, and reviewed the briefing book documents under this agenda item.

The GAP appreciates the inclusion and summaries of proposed state legislation and Executive Orders (EOs) that could affect the seafood industry, specifically [Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#).

The GAP, in our [March statement under legislative matters](#), supported the [Council Coordination Committee's draft letter](#) regarding the EO. At this meeting, GAP members reviewed both Pacific Council letters that address Section 216(a) and Section 216(c) of the EO and supports both letters.

Furthermore, in line with our comments from March 2021 regarding “protections,” the GAP appreciates the Council’s statement related to the revision of Marine Protected Areas definitions, as written in its [letter to the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Commerce](#) regarding Section 216(a):

“In 2020, the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center adopted a new definition of MPAs and is now using the International Union of Conservation of Nature definition. This resulted in a dramatic reduction in marine areas off the U.S. West Coast considered to be within MPAs. The new definition relies on the stated management objectives rather than the actual conservation value of an area under protection. ... many of our conservation actions are designed for ecosystem protection rather than fisheries management. We encourage you to carefully consider the criteria you recommend for meeting the EO 14008 objective of conserving 30 percent of land and waters. We believe that conservation includes wise use, not just preservation.”

As the Council knows, fishermen are excluded from several areas in state and Federal waters for various reasons. Ensuring currently protected areas, for whatever reason, are included as considerations for the “30x30” process is critical for the seafood industry to retain its viability and to promote economic security for many coastal communities.

Similarly, the GAP appreciates the Council’s ongoing ecosystem work and description of those ecosystem efforts in the letter to Dr. Paul Doremus, addressing the climate resiliency section, 216(c), of the EO.