

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
CURRENT HABITAT ISSUES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the Habitat Committee (HC) report on habitat issues and offers the following comments.

With respect to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) update on oil rig (hydrocarbon production) platforms, the GAP is interested in continuing to be involved in the discussion and collaborate with the HC in that regard. The GAP thinks each decommissioning project should be analyzed on its own merits and is concerned with the establishment of process whereby all decommissioning projects are left solely to the purview of BOEM, without considering individual characteristics and offering additional opportunity for meaningful public input. The GAP welcomes the opportunity to work with the HC in drafting a letter for the September briefing book.

With respect to BOEM's expanded "Morro Bay 399" Call Area, the GAP welcomes the opportunity to review and provide input and comment on any proposed changes to the spatial footprint, location and design of projects which could potentially impact fisheries access.

PFMC
6/23/21