

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON NMFS REPORT

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an update on National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) activities from Ms. Keeley Kent, Mr. Craig Russell, Dr. Jim Hastie and Dr. Kevin Werner and offers the following comments.

The GAP appreciates updates regarding the NMFS West Coast Region (WCR) and activities related to both Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers and thanks Ms. Kent, Mr. Russell, Dr. Hastie and Dr. Werner for their time. GAP members are glad to hear that most surveys planned for this year are either completed, in process or moving forward as scheduled.

Furthermore, the GAP appreciates the inclusion of information explaining how a suspension of surveys in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic may affect future stock assessments. It is clear the WCR and Science Centers have given much thought to the means to mitigate missing data or how to use existing fishery data to help fill in those survey gaps so uncertainty is decreased and stock assessments remain the best available science.

This information is helpful and valuable. The GAP would like to see these discussions and updates continue at each Council meeting.

PFMC
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