

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
2023-2024 HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES PLANNING

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of this item from Mr. Todd Phillips, Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), and the Groundfish Management Team regarding this agenda item.

The GAP understands the biennial harvest specifications process, as proposed, will primarily include only those management measures necessary to implement the specifications for that biennium. The GAP generally supports this proposal. However, the GAP remains concerned, as we have stated in the past, about the inability to consider some new management measures in conjunction with the biennial harvest specifications process.

The GAP reviewed the revised [proposed schedule](#) for developing the 2023-2024 harvest specifications and management measures and agrees it should allow sufficient time for completion of the specified tasks.

The GAP reviewed the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife \(CDFW\) supplemental report](#) on repealing the Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCA). CDFW has proposed new coordinates for the Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area boundary lines that would replace the former CCA boundary lines. The GAP agrees this should move forward in conjunction with the 2023-2024 harvest specifications and management measures process. Given the recent copper and quillback rockfish stock assessments that suggest those stocks may be considered overfished in certain areas, the GAP sees these modifications as critically important. Opening all or a portion of these areas would likely disperse fishing effort and may mitigate some of the pressure on other rockfish species, including copper rockfish, in nearshore areas.

PFMC
06/25/2021