

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an update on National Marine Fisheries Service activities from Mr. Craig Russell, Dr. Jim Hastie (Northwest Fisheries Science Center), and Ms. Keeley Kent (West Coast Region). We offer the following comments.

The GAP appreciates receiving these regular updates at our meetings and thanks Ms. Kent, Mr. Russell, and Dr. Hastie for their time and information. Of particular interest, the GAP is pleased that 2021 research surveys were completed as planned and scheduled. The GAP also thanks the West Coast Region staff for their efforts to timely implement two emergency rules during 2021 that provided significant benefits to fishery participants.

With respect to the information provided by Dr. Hastie about the suspension of research surveys in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the potential impacts on future stock assessments, the GAP thanks Dr. Hastie for his preliminary analysis. The GAP is keenly interested in this topic and will continue to track it as potential impacts, and their mitigation, are considered further in advance of future stock assessments.

PFMC
11/15/2021