

## GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the documents under this agenda item and offers the following comments and recommendations.

### Overarching comments

The GAP notes much of the April and June 2022 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meetings overlap with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings. We realize the transition to virtual meetings due to the covid-19 pandemic created scheduling difficulties. Scheduling in-person meetings as we transition out of the pandemic is undoubtedly as challenging, especially with regard to scheduling hotels. However, many of our groundfish members participate in both North Pacific and Pacific fisheries and they would like to stay engaged in the management processes in both areas. The GAP requests the Council remain cognizant of potential conflicts and avoid them if possible. We appreciate the Council's perseverance during the pandemic to accommodate the Council, advisory bodies and the public through virtual meetings.

### April 2022 Council agenda

Referencing the [draft April 2022 Council meeting agenda](#), the GAP recommends adding a Marine Planning agenda item to the agenda. Advisory bodies, the public and the Council spoke to the importance of this issue under Agenda Item C.2, Marine Planning, especially since the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management recently released the Oregon call areas and it is expected a formal *Federal Register* notice will be announced soon with a comment period that overlaps the April Council meeting. Additionally, the Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee (MPC) plans to meet in early April to help inform the Council regarding three items: the Oregon call areas, comments related to an imminent announcement of a draft Morro Bay wind energy area environmental assessment and the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Access Route Study. The GAP suggests including a narrowly focused marine planning agenda item for April.

### Council and Council-related meetings in 2022

Referencing the [preliminary Year-at-a-Glance calendar](#) under this agenda item, the GAP recommends the following:

- Adding a stock definitions agenda item to the Year-at-a-Glance calendar. The Council identified this as a priority under Agenda Item E.3, stock definitions, and the GAP supports scheduling that item.
- Retaining/unshading gear-switching for the June agenda. This issue has been ongoing for several years and the GAP would like to continue the momentum to move it forward.
- Moving forward with a workshop on acoustic surveys, remotely operated or autonomous underwater vehicle surveys or other fisheries-independent surveys that could be used in closed areas such as marine protected areas, rockfish conservation or cowcod conservation areas and nearshore areas that are difficult to access by other means, The data from those

kinds of surveys could be critical to informing stock assessments in the future. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) addressed this in the [GMT's Supplemental Report 1](#) under E.8, Stock Assessments. The GAP also noted this in our [E.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#). A workshop is tentatively planned for August; we recommend this workshop proceed as planned.

PFMC  
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