

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE NATIONAL MARINE
FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the briefing book documents and received presentations from Ms. Keeley Kent, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region (WCR), and Mr. Craig Russell, Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFS), under this agenda item and offers the following comments. Ms. Kent reviewed rulemaking actions that occurred since November 2021, provided information about initial planning for a fixed gear gear-marking workshop, and updated the GAP about WCR staffing, including the Catch Shares Coordinator and Hake Agreement Coordinator positions. Mr. Russell provided helpful summaries of upcoming 2022 research surveys, including the West Coast Bottom Trawl Survey, Southern California Hook-and-Line Survey, and Off-year Hake Ecosystem and Methodology Survey. The GAP appreciates these regular updates from the WCR and NWFS.

Hook-and-Line Survey

As part of his presentation, Mr. Russell noted current consideration being given to expanding the geographic scope of the hook-and-line survey. The GAP appreciates consideration of expanding the Southern California Hook-and-Line Survey north of Point Conception due to lack of information of nearshore species such as copper and quillback rockfish. Furthermore, the GAP highlights that an expanded hook-and-line survey could provide critically needed information about species that inhabit nearshore and untrawlable habitats. Therefore, the GAP requests the Council recommend to NMFS that reviewing the scope of the hook-and-line survey be expanded to include its north/south geographic range, as well as expanding the survey into currently un-surveyed areas (such as, nearshore and untrawlable habitats). The GAP also suggests that it would be helpful to include fishery participants in these planning efforts because it would provide an important opportunity for affected stakeholders to provide input on what areas might be the most beneficial for survey expansion.

PFMC
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