

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FIXED GEAR LOGBOOKS – FINAL ACTION

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) report on groundfish fixed gear logbooks from Ms. Lynn Massey, NMFS. The GAP also wishes to thank Lt. Jason Krause, CDFW enforcement for fielding numerous questions relating to enforcement issues. The GAP offers the following comments and recommendations on final action for fixed gear logbooks.

As we enter the final phase of groundfish fixed gear logbooks discussion and prepare for a January 1, 2023, implementation, NMFS has presented the Council with a couple of clarifying questions as found in [Agenda Item E.5.a, NMFS Report 1](#).

The first clarifying question centers on whether to have the logbook requirement apply to the “non-trawl” groundfish fleets as opposed to the “fixed gear” groundfish fleets. After a lengthy discussion, the GAP supports the requirement apply to all “non-trawl” groundfish fleets. This broader language would allow for future expansion of the logbook coverage into other incidental open access sectors that use non-trawl gear to retain groundfish.

The second question relates to the fishery sectors that will be required to submit the logbooks on initial rollout come January 2023. NMFS provides an itemized list of those sectors at the bottom of page two of their report. The GAP suggests simplifying the list to simply include all “limited entry (LE) fixed gear groundfish” or something similar to that language. As currently written in the NMFS report, the GAP believes the language does not cover all LE fixed gear participants. In southern California, we have numerous LE groundfish fishermen that target different types of groundfish such as slope rockfish and deeper shelf rockfish as well as flatfish (sanddabs), using traditional bottom longline gears. This fishery would not fall under the LE fixed gear daily-trip-limit language contained within the NMFS statement nor any of the other LE items listed.

Lastly, the GAP wishes to thank Ms. Massey for meeting with fishermen previously as we worked through the process of finalizing the fixed gear logbooks. The GAP encourages NMFS to continue working with industry on the design elements of the logbooks to make sure that they’re user friendly and comfortable for the fleet’s use.

PFMC
03/10/22