

GROUND FISH ADVISORY PANEL REPORT ON WORKLOAD AND NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURES PRIORITIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of this item from Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Staff Officer Todd Phillips and discussed this agenda item with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT).

As we noted in our [March 2021 statement](#) on this agenda item, the many GAP members remain dismayed with how long it takes for some items to move through the planning, analysis, and Council decision process. However, we don't have a better solution for groundfish workload planning at this time.

We reiterate our suggestion that the exempted fishing permits (EFPs) that have proven their efficacy and ability to perform within the boundaries established by the EFPs be expeditiously moved into regulation by the quickest means possible. This will increase the opportunities available for all fishermen and processors.

Candidate management measures

The GAP supports the recommendations included in [Supplemental GMT Report 2](#) under this agenda item and proposing moving one, some, or all the following from the "B" list to the "A" list (in no particular order) now that the Council has taken action on Pacific whiting utilization.

- **B16, An EFP for at-sea whiting processing south of 42 degrees N. lat.:** The [Council](#) removed the measure from the Pacific whiting utilization package and suggested it move forward as an EFP. The GAP requests the addition of this EFP to the list so at-sea processors can explore processing in waters off northern California. Other whiting EFPs have shown the fishing and at-sea processing industry can minimize impacts to salmon. Expanding at-sea whiting processing areas may become more important as competition for space increases due to proposed offshore wind areas that may or may not be realized in the future. However, it is important for the seafood industry to begin preparing for changes related to offshore wind, changes in the ocean relative to both target species and bycatch species, etc.
- **B8, Develop a discard mortality index in the context of descending device** use for additional rockfish guilds or by species including copper, quillback, vermilion/sunset, and SoCal dwarf species as is already in process by a subgroup of the GMT. This subgroup desires to present these results later this year. GAP members feel these values are critical to have in time for use in estimating total catch and bycatch of these species during the 2022 season when these values are first needed by managers.
- **B19, Sablefish limited entry fixed gear catch shares program review and cost recovery:** Per our [Agenda Item E.4.a, Report 1](#) (limited entry fixed gear catch share program review), the GAP suggests adding three items as a follow-on package. Those include:

- Amending the tiered sablefish permits that are hook-and-line endorsed to use slinky pots;
- For vessels with stacked sablefish endorsed permits, allow vessels to fish a cumulative landing limit for each permit registered; and
- Amending the program to allow a fourth permit per vessel, providing the permit is of second-generation ownership.

The GAP also recommends that if the Council moves forward with cost recovery, that it be included as part of the follow-on package.

New management measures

The GAP notes the following also is referenced in [Supplemental GMT Report 2](#) as a priority item for the “A” list. We include it here as additional information and perspective from the GAP.

- **A5, Stock definitions:** The GAP understands this is a priority issue for the Council, as determined under Agenda Item E.3, Stock Definitions. The [GMT Report 1](#) and [GAP Report 1](#) under this agenda item address the importance of adding this measure to the workload list.

PFMC
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