

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

Ms. Keeley Kent, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region (WCR) informed the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) about progress on current rulemakings, WCR staffing updates, and other items of relevance. The GAP also received presentations from Mr. Craig Russell and Dr. Jim Hastie, Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) about groundfish science activities and a recent analysis of the potential impacts to groundfish research surveys because of Offshore Wind (OSW) development in waters off Oregon and California.

In addition to the rulemaking and staffing updates, Ms. Kent informed the GAP about an upcoming workshop, convened in coordination with Oregon Sea Grant, about pot gear line marking. The workshop is tentatively planned for November 16, 2022 (on-line format). Ms. Kent emphasized that NMFS is interested in receiving input from the public and plans to provide several opportunities for public engagement. The GAP consistently encourages these types of outreach efforts and appreciates learning that NMFS is making strides to coordinate with the fishing industry on this topic.

Ms. Kent also updated the GAP about development of electronic logbooks for non-trawl groundfish fisheries. The proposed rule is expected to publish soon. In addition, NMFS is interested to learn from and coordinate with the fishing industry about implementation details. Ms. Kent discussed plans for a two-year transition period from paper logbooks and efforts to encourage fishermen to understand and begin to use the new electronic logbooks. To assist in this effort, the GAP will convene an informal session with staff from Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) on Sunday June 12th where fishermen will engage with PSMFC staff about developing an electronic logbook that is suited to the needs of fishermen, which should facilitate adoption of and use by non-trawl groundfish fishery participants.

Mr. Russell updated the GAP about several groundfish surveys occurring in 2022. He also reported about a recent workshop coordinated with Midwater Trawlers Cooperative and the Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative aimed at gaining insights from whiting fishermen about environmental drivers that influence whiting distribution, recruitment, and abundance. Mr. Russell also reported on a workshop designed to better understand ecosystem thresholds and their interplay with fisheries management, and how management could adapt in response to the environment. The GAP thanks the NWFSC for their work on these initiatives.

Finally, Dr. Hastie presented a summary of [Agenda Item F.1.b, Supplemental NWFSC Report 1 – Potential of wind-energy areas currently-identified off Oregon to adversely impact future groundfish surveys conducted by the NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center](#). The GAP very much appreciated the high-level overview Dr. Hastie provided and looks forward to a more detailed presentation when we take up Administrative Item C.3 (Marine Planning). The GAP will provide detailed comments about this topic in our Marine Planning report. We encourage the

Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to carefully consider this analysis because it appears likely that OSW development could negatively impact the science that is the foundation of the sustainable management of Pacific coast groundfish fisheries. The results of this analysis are troubling to fishery participants and should be of great concern to the Council because of the potential harm to Council-managed fisheries.

PFMC
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