

GROUND FISH ADVISORY PANEL REPORT ON  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the documents and received presentations from Ms. Keeley Kent, West Coast Area Groundfish Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region (WCR), and Mr. Craig Russell, Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC), under this agenda item and offers the following comments.

Ms. Kent informed the GAP about an upcoming November 16th workshop, convened in coordination with Oregon Sea Grant, about pot gear line marking. Ms. Kent emphasized that NMFS is proactively seeking input and participation from the public and included a link to the workshop registration in the NMFS report under this agenda item, sending flyers to all limited entry and open access vessel representatives that have recently landed groundfish with fixed gear, and conducting outreach to industry participants. The GAP appreciates these efforts and encourages stakeholders to participate in this process.

Ms. Kent also updated the GAP about development of electronic logbooks for non-trawl groundfish fisheries. The proposed rule is expected to publish soon and is intended to be effective January 1, 2023. 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. The GAP highlights that, for those fishermen that choose to continue to use paper logbooks for the near term, information is needed about how and from whom fishermen should request paper logbooks.

Mr. Russell updated the GAP about several groundfish surveys occurring in 2022. The GAP appreciates the great communication between NMFS and the groundfish industry. Mr. Russell noted that there are no current impediments for the F/V Shimada's participation in the 2023 coastwide acoustic hake survey. However, he said they will be monitoring for any issues that could limit Shimada's participation, such as staffing or supply chain issues, so that they can both engage on potential problems early and keep stakeholders and Council informed. The GAP appreciates this effort as the Shimada's full participation in the survey is critical for the whiting fishery.

Mr. Russell also updated the GAP on 2022 California Current Ecosystem hake ecology and survey methods research project in support of the hake/whiting treaty. The GAP appreciates efforts to incorporate new technologies to provide non-extractive evaluations methods to contribute both to new information streams and potential efficiencies gained. The GAP suggests during the process to re-envision surveys that gained efficiencies only be done to the extent that survey integrity is not compromised. The GAP also suggests Council and stakeholder involvement in the process as it progresses.