

GROUND FISH ADVISORY PANEL REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the documents under this agenda item and offers the following comments and suggestions.

March 2023 Council meeting

Referencing the [Draft March Council Meeting Agenda](#), the GAP hopes any potential designation document regarding the proposed Chumash Sanctuary overlaps the March or April agenda so the Council and its advisory bodies have the opportunity to provide input to the Council on this important issue, perhaps under C.1, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) update. As we heard under [Agenda Item C.4, Chumash Sanctuary Situation Summary](#), designation documents may be forthcoming. A comment period that overlaps the March or April Council meeting will be helpful in providing comments to the Council and, perhaps, the Council generating comments to ONMS.

Additionally, the GAP suggests adding a halibut catch sharing plan (CSP) scoping item to the March GAP agenda (see further comments below regarding the remainder of 2023). As noted in our [Agenda Item E.1.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#) regarding the halibut CSP, the GAP would like to begin scoping this in March (scheduled in the GAP but *not* on the Council agenda) so as to better inform the Council when it begins formally scoping CSP changes in June.

April 2023 Council meeting

Regarding the [Draft April 2023 Council Meeting Agenda](#), the GAP is currently scheduled to meet virtually. The GAP agrees with this in light of recent action on the gear-switching agenda item; that is, a preliminary preferred alternative was *not* chosen at this meeting and will be selected in June. However, the GAP believes it would be helpful to have a “gear switching alternatives check-in” agenda item in April to provide additional information on the scope of the analysis prior to the June meeting.

Future Council meetings/Year-at-a-Glance

Referencing the Preliminary [Year-at-a-Glance schedule](#), the GAP suggests the following:

1. Unshading the halibut catch sharing plan agenda item for June, September and November. As noted above, the GAP could begin scoping in March (GAP agenda only) and better prepare information to inform Council discussion beginning in June. This is an important issue to the recreational fishermen on the GAP.
2. Unshading the marine planning agenda item for March, June and September. Marine planning issues, including both aquaculture and offshore renewable energy, will continue to intersect with fisheries management concerns over the next year. Some of these include a potential final environmental impact statement for aquaculture opportunity areas, new

leases for offshore wind in California and work on their respective site assessment plans, pending identification of wind energy areas (and subsequent lease areas) in Oregon, etc. Given the Council's significant engagement on these issues, it seems clear the Council, through the Marine Planning Committee, should remain involved as these processes move forward.

3. Adding a shaded placeholder to the November 2023 agenda for adopting stock assessments. Past actions have indicated it is beneficial to include a placeholder in November for adoption of stock assessments that require more time to finalize outstanding issues.
4. Retain tier program fixed-gear efficiency measures on the Groundfish Workload and New Management Measures item in March. Measures under that item include: 1) allowing a fourth permit on a vessel; 2) allowing longline-endorsed permits to use pots (specifically, slinky pots); and 3) provide for a trip limit per tiered permit held on a fishing trip.

PFMC
11/08/22