

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES REPORT

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

Mr. Russell updated the GAP about several groundfish surveys planned for 2023. The GAP appreciates the effort to keep stakeholders, the GAP, and the Council informed throughout the year on these vital surveys for the groundfish fisheries. The GAP recommends extending the hook & line survey north of Point Conception and into nearshore waters. Ms. Kent provided an overview of NMFS rulemaking and workload, and updated the GAP about implementation of electronic logbooks for non-trawl groundfish fisheries. The GAP appreciates the staff's efforts to communicate this new requirement with stakeholders.

Dr. Hastie noted unusually large, recent sablefish recruitment numbers in survey data has initiated discussion of conducting an out of cycle assessment update in 2023 to affect 2025-26 biennial harvest specifications and management measures cycle. The GAP supports this effort as the survey data confirms anecdotal evidence of increased encounters across fisheries, depths, and coastal areas.

PFMC
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