

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE
FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVE WORKPLAN

Members of the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) attended the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) virtual meeting on March 1, 2023, presented by Yvonne deReynier and offer the following comments.

The EWG seeks further guidance from the Council on initiative implementation, and input from Council and advisory bodies with respect to report timing and species selection as outlined in their report at this meeting under this agenda item.

The GAP thinks the appropriate timing for reports is at the point during a management cycle at which the Council is first tasked to consider an appropriate P^* value. This would help inform Council and advisory body members of observed environmental trends and their likely impacts on the fished population, confidence in model outputs, as well as the gravity of the consequences should fish population levels fall.

These are important considerations in developing the appropriate P^* level for developing management specifications (overfishing limits, acceptable biological catches, annual catch limits, etc.).

The EWG also asked for guidance with respect to species selection. The GAP thinks species with high importance to fisheries whose reproductive success or year-to-year productivity is tightly linked to specific ecosystem parameters easily observed over their entire range should score high in the ranking of species considered for analysis. Such parameters include remote sensing data, for example sea surface temperature, upwelling and chlorophyll-a extent and concentration. Oceanographic survey data already being collected annually might also influence species selection, on the basis of forage and ichthyoplankton data.

For example, the observation of an incoming strong year class as juveniles might signal relaxation of precautionary P^* selection. Conversely, weak upwelling in recent seasons might signal lower P^* selection than otherwise.

PFMC
03/06/23