

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON REGIONAL  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
STRATEGY (EEJ)

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received from Jim Seger and reviewed the report on Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) activities responsive to EEJ, [F.1, Attachment 1](#), and offers the following comments.

The GAP found this to be an excellent review of existing Council processes that support EEJ currently and consider what more the Council process might explore in furthering EEJ goals. It is an excellent review of current Council processes that encourage and enable participation by a broad group of stakeholders while recognizing the need to broaden outreach to fishery participants and the public currently under-represented within the Council family.

We recommend alignment of efforts made by the Council with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional planning process for EEJ, and to recognize, account for, and include outside efforts (such as those being developed by the Marine Resource Education Program) to take advantage of complementary aspects of the respective initiatives.

GAP members noted the importance of providing economically available, highly nutritious seafood products to economically disadvantaged people, through commercial and recreational fisheries. Further, we note fish and other wild-caught seafood represent a rich source of high-quality protein with extremely little alteration of our natural environment in comparison to agricultural impacts on natural ecosystems ashore.

The GAP further recognizes and appreciates Council and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) staff, and the Council's ongoing efforts to define and identify underserved communities and constituencies within their EEJ work. In particular, the GAP recognizes this need with respect to participation, allocations, regulations, research, and especially the potential for more broad outreach. We note the potential for outreach products to local school districts by offering educational opportunities on fisheries conservation and management and the benefits provided by NOAA, NMFS, the science centers, the Councils, State agencies and the public process.

PFMC  
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