

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL 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.

June 2023

Referencing the [Draft June agenda](#), the GAP suggests the following:

Gear switching: Retain the schedule for gear-switching (unshade for June), with selection of a preliminary preferred alternative in June 2023 and selection of a final preferred alternative in November. Doing so will avoid overlap with other groundfish-heavy items such as biennial harvest specifications in March/April 2024, as noted in the [Groundfish Management Team's Supplemental Report 1](#) under Agenda Item G.5, Gear Switching. Furthermore, it would allow the National Marine Fisheries Service to address any concerns or complications while writing the regulations for implementation on Jan. 1, 2026.

Scoping Long Term Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and Commercial Fishery Regulatory Changes: The GAP has discussed potential changes to the Pacific halibut fisheries now that management of the Area 2A fisheries have been transferred from the International Pacific Halibut Commission to the National Marine Fisheries Service. Additionally, the GAP is aware there is an interest in considering substantive changes to the catch sharing plan due to changes in stock abundance and range in Area 2A. The GAP would appreciate guidance from the Council about how to proceed, for example, preliminary guidance about the scope of potential action and purpose and need, and getting this prior to the June meeting would be helpful.

Year-at-a-Glance

Referencing the [Draft Year-at-a-Glance schedule](#), the GAP recommends:

Scheduling a Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Groundfish Subcommittee workshop to analyze potential closed area data gathering of large spatial closures. The GAP suggests conducting this workshop as soon as possible in order to have the workshop results in time to be incorporated into the next stock assessment cycle in 2025-2026. For reference, see the SSC's March 2023 [Groundfish Subcommittee Report 1](#) under Agenda Item F.6, Final Assessment Methodologies.

Other items for consideration

In-person meetings: The GAP thanks the Council and staff for proposing GAP in-person meetings in both September and November, as outlined in [Agenda Item F.7, Supplemental Attachment 3](#), Council Staff Proposal - Advisory Body Meeting Formats. As the GAP has noted under prior agenda items, meeting in person is preferable and creates better interpersonal communication, especially when discussing complex or difficult topics.