

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FISHERY ECOSYSTEM
PLAN INITIATIVE 4 – ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP UPDATE

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an update on the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Initiative from Dr. Kit Dahl and offers the following comments/suggestions.

The GAP believes it is important in considering assessment of risk to consider not only downside risk (i.e., to what extent ecosystem considerations might indicate a lower state of nature or risk to a stock), but also potential upside benefits (e.g., conditions that suggest a higher state of nature, improved growth rates, improved survivability etc.). Otherwise the Initiative would not actually capture accurate ecosystem information, but instead would seem merely to be a tool to limit catch.

The GAP supports the idea of hosting workshops to help develop more detailed guidance on how to incorporate ecosystem information into the existing management system. Primary topics of interest for the GAP are use of risk and stoplight tables in fishery management decisions, and criteria and processes for species selection. The GAP thanks The Nature Conservancy for its willingness to host and fund these workshops.

PFMC
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