

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

November 2023 Agenda

Referencing the [Draft November 2023 Agenda](#), the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) suggests:

1. Split E.7, Inseason Adjustments, into two parts. This would provide the opportunity for the GAP and Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to receive Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) guidance to better inform our ongoing discussions during the week. Additionally, this would provide more public transparency for those interested in this agenda item, since the Council will be considering actions that may modify some or all of 2024 fishing seasons. The Council has done this for inseason action in the past.
2. Split the I.1, Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan into two parts. This would enable the advisory bodies to provide comments and the Council to take public comments prior to Council action. This would allow Council members the time to fully digest the reports and public comments and devise motions for a quick final action discussion on the Council floor.
3. Convening a GAP webinar immediately prior to the November in-person meeting to cover items such as halibut catch sharing plan, which is an item of great importance to the GAP (and could be helpful if the Council chooses to split the halibut item for the Council agenda); 2025-2026 harvest specifications and management measures; and possibly some administrative items. These webinars facilitate the development of timely, comprehensive GAP reports.

Closed Area Workshop

The GAP continues to recommend the Council schedule 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. For reference, see the SSC's [March 2023 Groundfish Subcommittee Report 1 under Agenda Item F.6, Final Assessment Methodologies](#). The GAP also recommended this in our [April 2023 GAP Report 1](#) and [June 2023 GAP Report 1](#) on future workload planning. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of obtaining information on the stocks in these areas that could inform future stock assessments.