

## GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel's (GAP) highest priority is the expansion of survey activities to provide more information on the stocks that underpin stock assessments and groundfish management, and that determine the health and viability of our groundfish fisheries and West Coast fishing communities. We encourage the Science Centers to proceed as soon as possible with their proposed workshops with industry, scientists, and managers to conceptualize the expansion of information collection, and ways that fishermen could collaboratively provide information. It is crucial that we seize every opportunity to gather more information in nearshore and shallow waters immediately, since information takes a long time to work through the process. The GAP continues to recommend expanding the [hook and line survey](#) north and into nearshore areas, and expanding the trawl survey into shallower water.

It was positive to hear from Ms. Melissa Monk about the work being conducted on the [California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program](#), and the possibility of contributing to these data collection efforts with private funding and/or volunteers. With respect to the whiting fishery, the GAP requests that the Northwest Fisheries Science Center update us at a 2024 Council meeting on volunteer industry acoustic data collection, and whether that data was beneficial and should continue to be collected.

With respect to the Take Reduction Team (TRT), the GAP recommends that the team be narrowly focused on the Federal sablefish pot fishery, with regional representation from a minimum of three industry representatives from different areas of the coast. We would like at least one member to be an open access fisherman to ensure representation from that sector. Due to the extensive time and travel requirements that are anticipated for TRT membership, we recommend that NMFS consider appointment of alternates for industry representatives and provide some remote attendance options.

PFMC  
11/03/23