

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT AND ELECTRONIC MONITORING UPDATE

Expansion of Hook and Line Survey and Trawl Survey

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reiterates its past support to explore ways to expand the hook and line survey north and into nearshore areas, and expanding the trawl survey into shallower water. The negative impacts from data gaps informing stock assessments seem to be on the increase, most notably recently with quillback and canary rockfish. The GAP understands that funding is a major hurdle in expanding the hook and line survey. The GAP suggests focusing on structuring surveys to be partially or fully self-funded through the sale of fish. There is a regulatory barrier to doing so in California, so the GAP suggests collaborative methods be explored to remedy the situation. With no such barrier in Oregon and Washington, one or both of those states would be a good place to start with a self-funded pilot survey through the sale of fish.

Existing collaborative efforts through the California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program ([CCFRP](#)) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Science Centers could be models to use in Oregon and Washington. NMFS recently highlighted these efforts in its [Dive In podcast](#). GAP members also described current collaborations with researchers (for example, donating fish carcasses to graduate students), and believes similar voluntary pathways would have a lot of support from fishermen, and could be effective in filling data gaps. The GAP anticipates developing further suggestions under the Research and Data Needs agenda item later this year.

Integrated West Coast Pelagics Survey

The jointly administered U.S./Canada hake acoustic survey (its survey biomass index, age-1 index, and biological and oceanographic data) is the scientific foundation of managing the whiting fishery and is of fundamental importance to the successful implementation of the U.S./Canada Whiting Treaty process.

In 2025 and beyond, the U.S. portion of the hake survey is planned to be integrated with the U.S. coastal pelagic species (CPS) survey, and several important tasks must be completed in 2024 in order for that transition to be successful. The Treaty's Scientific Review Group (SRG) provided several recommendations to the Joint Management Committee (JMC) on the integrated survey, which can be found on page 9 of the [2024 SRG Report to the JMC](#). The GAP supports the SRG recommendations for the integrated survey, noting that any developments should continue to include input from CPS and hake participants.

Some members of the GAP plan to attend the March 8, 2024 Integrated Hake/CPS Survey Meeting, and appreciate the outreach conducted by NMFS.