

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENTS
AND COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURES – 2025-2027 ADVISORY BODY
COMPOSITION AND RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE POLICIES

Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Representatives to Other Forums: Take Reduction Team

As detailed in the [Situation Summary](#), the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) has proposed a few fishermen candidates who would be willing to serve on the Take Reduction Team (TRT) and possess the knowledge and experience to provide meaningful input and ideas. Those names are listed in the Situation Summary and represent a variety of fisheries and geographic areas.

The GAP suggests adding Mr. David Lethin to the list of proposed TRT candidates. Mr. Lethin fished in all West Coast states and Alaska and has fishing experience in the sablefish pot/trap and longline fisheries and the Dungeness crab fishery.

Additionally, when the Council is making their recommendation on TRT members to the National Marine Fisheries Service, the GAP reiterates our past recommendations on the TRT process including allowing for alternates, remote participation, and consideration of locations ([Agenda Item F.1.d, Supplemental GAP Report 1, April 2024](#)).

Council Advisory Body Appointments for the 2025-2027 Term: GAP Composition

The GAP acknowledges it is the largest Council advisory body, at 21 members, but feels the GAP composition covers the fisheries sectors and geographic scope well, with one exception.

During the last GAP call for nominations, no one applied for the recreational at-large seat that traditionally went to a recreational fisherman from Washington. Since the private recreational seats are at-large, a California fisherman was appointed to the GAP. As such, the Washington Charter Boat Operator member is responsible for providing input regarding *all* recreational fishing from the Washington perspective. The private recreational fishing perspective from Washington is missing.

Therefore, the GAP proposes adding one more recreational at-large seat to the GAP, providing Washington fishery managers and industry fishermen can recruit someone to fill that seat. That would bring the GAP roster to 22 positions.

The GAP acknowledges there may be concern about the cost incurred of adding another member to the GAP. However, we believe the benefit outweighs the cost, and the efficiencies gained in other areas could offset the cost. With the potential for fewer fishermen on the Council, we think the fishermen's perspectives on the GAP may become more important than ever, and that these fisheries should be well represented at Council meetings.

California has a very large coastline therefore having charter boat positions for both north and south of 40° 10' N. lat. provides crucial information from both geographic portions of the state. The same applies to the two at-large recreational seats held by California at this time. Losing one

of those at-large perspectives from California could limit input at a time when California fisheries are facing critical restrictions to both groundfish and non-groundfish opportunities.

GAP members recommend the sport at-large positions be designated state-specific, as follows: 1 Washington, 1 Oregon, 2 California. If the Washington seat isn't filled immediately, we would prefer for it to be held for Washington. We note that the current GAP composition is made up of 8 California residents, 8 Oregon residents, and 5 Washington residents, with one of the Washington residents in the Tribal seat. Lastly, we suggest that if, for some reason, this composition does not work, the Council can revisit this again at the next opportunity.

For reference, the GAP currently has 21 members:

- 3 Fixed Gear Fisheries (at-large)
- 1 Bottom Trawl Fisheries
- 1 Mid-Water Trawl Fisheries
- 2 At-Large Trawl Fisheries
- 1 Open Access Fisheries north of Cape Mendocino
- 1 Open Access Fisheries south of Cape Mendocino
- 2 Processors (at-large)
- 1 At-Sea Processor
- 1 Washington Charter Boat Operator
- 1 Oregon Charter Boat Operator
- 1 California North of Pt. Conception Charter Boat Operator
- 1 California South of Pt. Conception Charter Boat Operator
- 3 Sport Fisheries (at-large)
- 1 Tribal Fisheries
- 1 Conservation Group

PFMC
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