

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

Generally, the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) is concerned the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) table is filled with side dishes and not seafood. That is, we are turning the crank on routine management issues and items that are required by law or policy directives, and not spending time on actually improving and supporting the fisheries or making management more efficient. For example, how can follow-on actions to program reviews, such as the trawl catch share review, be implemented more quickly than they have been implemented in the past?

The GAP would like to highlight three specific recommendations/items from this meeting that would have the potential to benefit fisheries in a positive way. We ask these be considered for the future by whatever mechanism is most expedient.

1. We noted in our [Agenda Item F.1, Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulations, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#), the GAP would like to consider changes to the directed commercial halibut fishery, particularly the season structure, in 2026 and beyond. We would like to see this scheduled on the Year-at-a-Glance.
2. Referencing [Agenda Item H.1, Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 4, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#), the GAP proposes a more holistic look at adaptive management, including reviewing the time-varying sigma in its entirety or the ability for "green light" management when a stock assessment indicates a stock is more robust than previously thought.
3. Regarding [Agenda Item I.7, Trawl Catch Share Review](#), the GAP remains concerned that follow-on actions implementation may take years to finish. As part of the review, the GAP suggests clearly planning for quick implementation of follow-on actions. The same may apply to other fisheries, such as the fixed gear program.

In short, absent implementation of actions identified to make fisheries more efficient -- and participation in the Council process more enjoyable and meaningful for active fishermen in particular -- advisory body participants who volunteer their time can get easily dismayed about the state of fisheries management. This only worsens the situation when trying to get public involvement and support.

Draft November Agenda

Referencing the [Preliminary November Agenda](#), the GAP suggests:

- [Unshading G.2, Pacific Halibut Commercial Fishery Measures: Vessel Monitoring System, Seabird Avoidance, and Catch Reporting Final Preferred Alternative](#). The sooner the Council approves these, the better chance the regulations are in place for the fishery.

- Unshading Cordell Bank Regulations Range of Alternatives/Preliminary Preferred Alternative (this is unshaded on the November agenda but shaded on the Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance).

Non-agenda items

The GAP appreciates the Scientific and Statistical Committee scheduling a closed area workshop for December or January. We request a GAP member be included in this workshop, as we have commented on in several of our Future Workload Planning statements ([June 2024](#), [April 2024](#), [November 2023](#), [September 2023](#), [June 2023](#), and [April 2023](#)).

Additionally, we request GAP participation in the stock assessment workshops scheduled for 2025.

PFMC
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