

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

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) considered the preliminary agendas and the progress made on groundfish items at this meeting and recommends the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) postpone anything that is not urgent or that will not directly impact the groundfish fishery at this time. The GAP is concerned that outside influences such as budgets, staffing levels, policy mandates or other items may create confusion about what can be accomplished. Streamlining the process by eliminating some of those agenda items now will likely lead to efficiencies for both the Council family and the seafood industry.

Referencing the [Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance](#) summary, the GAP recommends:

1. Scoping the prioritized items D1-D4 from the H.8, Groundfish Workload and New Management Measures as soon as possible. The GAP understands groundfish items are not scheduled for April, but the Council’s discussion of these priorities may fit well under the Ecosystem April agenda item, “Flexible and Adaptive Management and Project Updates.” However, we recognize that April is only weeks away and therefore, if not possible for April, then we request scoping in June. While the items contained in the [H.8.a, GAP Report 1](#) are groundfish-focused, this issue affects fishermen and businesses across all sectors and fisheries who have not been able to fish for salmon or other species due to closures or management changes. Therefore, these actions *do* affect participants in more than just the groundfish fishery. The GAP is prepared to assist and support this effort in any way possible.
2. The Council remain nimble when considering future Marine Planning items. It’s currently shaded for the rest of the year, but aquaculture or offshore energy concerns – items competing for ocean space or that may affect marine waters – may come up at any time during the year.
3. Unshade trawl catch share review for September. The GAP understands the trawl catch share hearings will have been held by then and looks forward to identifying issues out of that review that could make the trawl industry more efficient and profitable.