

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON STOCK ASSESSMENT
METHODOLOGY REVIEW TOPIC SELECTION – FINAL TOPICS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) endorses the methodology review of commercial fishery-dependent index standardization ([Agenda Item G.4, Supplemental NWFSC Report 1, September 2025](#)). The GAP believes that fishery-dependent data can be informative to stock assessments, especially if fishermen are consulted to provide context to the data.

Fishermen have a wealth of both historical and current information on the spatial and functional nature of the fishery and can provide insight as to why there are changes over time based on ever changing markets, gear, strategies, constraints, etc. Many fishermen also have decades of experience fishing on grounds that are no longer fished, so they can provide insight to the spatial distribution and habits of stocks that cannot be gleaned from either the current fishery data or the bottom trawl survey.

The GAP suggests that the development of this methodology include communications with individual fishermen. These communications could take place at different phases of the process, such as early on development and testing the near finished product. This would be especially helpful for individual species such as canary and widow rockfish, and petrale sole.

PFMC
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