

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

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the documents under the agenda item and offers the following comments.

Referencing Version 1 of the [Proposed June 2019 Agenda](#), the GAP requests the seabirds Endangered Species Act (ESA) item (Agenda item G.7) be unshaded for June. The seabird item must move forward at this time for implementation in 2020.

Additionally, the GAP requests the Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Attainment Committee (SaMTAAC) item (Agenda item G.8) be unshaded. The SaMTAAC will meet in May, so we assume any time on the June agenda could be shortened to account for an informational update only and would not require three hours of floor time.

Furthermore, the GAP is concerned about the ESA salmon mitigation issue (Agenda Item G.6 in June). The briefing book deadline for the June Council meeting is in late May. If this issue is unshaded and scheduled for June, the relatively brief time between this meeting and the June briefing book deadline leaves little time for comprehensive analyses of all the options, which then leaves little time for advisory bodies to be adequately prepared to discuss the issue and construct their statements. The issue is further exacerbated if reports don't come in until the supplemental deadline or later, which could happen. Advisory bodies and Council members are better prepared to discuss proposed changes and offer meaningful points if there is sufficient time to consider the analyses, especially for complex issues. It could be advantageous to move the ESA salmon mitigation issue to September.

The GAP also requests beginning our June meeting on Thursday, June 20, instead of Friday, June 21, since groundfish issues are scheduled to be on the Council floor Friday. Again, this will give us more time to better prepare our statements.

Referencing the [Proposed Year-at-a-Glance](#) schedule and consistent with our March 2019 statement, the GAP requests the SaMTAAC process stay on track in the months after the June meeting. That is, that it be unshaded and moved to the scheduled months as proposed in the Year-at-a-Glance document.

The 2020 Mid-water Trawl Exempted Fishing Permit Final Preferred Alternative (FPA) is shaded in September. Originally this issue was proposed for June. The GAP has no problems moving this to June or keeping it on the September agenda, so long as it is not postponed past September. Delaying the FPA for this could also postpone its implementation past the Jan. 1, 2020, implementation date.