

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON STOCK ASSESSMENT PLANNING
FOR 2013-2014 FISHERIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) discussed stock assessment planning for the 2013-2014 fisheries and wishes to make the following recommendations:

- 1) The GAP recommends establishing pre-assessment workshops as early in the year as possible. These workshops would be the most useful venue to address industry questions pertaining to data compilation and methodology.
- 2) Under Agenda Item B.4.b, NMFS report on stock assessment scheduling, the GAP recommends adopting the Table 2 schedule. We feel that sablefish should stand alone as an assessment, understanding that it will be a very comprehensive undertaking. As it is such a critically important species economically, it deserves full attention at a panel.
- 3) Under Agenda Item B.4.a, Attachment 3 on considerations for new stock assessments terms of reference, the GAP supports all of the recommendations contained within the document with the additional suggestions:
 - A) Please have the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) identify Stock Assessment Review Panel Chairs as early as possible so as to provide for a point of contact for all interested parties.
 - B) The GAP feels very strongly that further discussions on estimating ~~B~~ continue. The GAP has serious concerns about some new estimates of historic catches, which may not be accurate as to species or quantities, and which are now older than 100 years in some cases. The GAP seeks review of whether adding historic catch estimates from many years ago actually improves the overall confidence of ~~B~~ estimates.