

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON LIMITED ACTIONS FOR
EMERGING ISSUES IN THE 2013-14 BIENNIAL SPECIFICATIONS PROCESS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) discussed emerging issues under Agenda Item F.2.

Widow rockfish

The GAP discussed the November 2011 action by the Council concerning widow rockfish. The motion that passed addressed the sector allocation of widow rockfish within the trawl fishery between at-sea and shorebased sectors, and would freeze the current individual fishing quota (IFQ) allocations of widow rockfish at their current levels.

The GAP has no problem with the sector allocations; however it is greatly concerned that alternatives are not being considered for IFQ allocations now that widow rockfish are no longer listed as overfished.

The current allocations are based entirely upon bycatch needs in the past at a time when widows rockfish was considered overfished. The GAP believes that other approaches should be explored for the distribution of quota for the future when widows will be part of a target fishery.

We are asking the Council give consideration to expanding the alternatives for quota share allocations of widow rockfish.

Lingcod management line

The GAP still supports the use of the 40°10' line to manage lingcod.

OFLs and ACLs

We also reviewed the overfishing limits and annual catch limits for the “other fish” complex and don’t feel the proposed changes will have any constraint on existing fisheries at those levels.