

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
HARVEST SET-ASIDE FLEXIBILITY

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a presentation from Mr. John DeVore and Ms. Jamie Goen on Harvest Set-aside Flexibility and offers the following comments and recommendations.

The GAP reaffirms the desire to establish a flexible system of managing harvest set-asides as a routine inseason adjustment. The GAP understands there are two fundamental differences between alternatives 2 and 3 in Agenda Item F.7.a, Attachment 1. Alternative 2 requires real-time reporting of catch before reallocation can be done. Inseason and reallocations would need to be made based on specified sector allocations decided under Amendment 21 or in the biennial specifications process. Alternative 3 allows the use of catch estimates to make inseason adjustments and a reallocation of yield to sectors different from the prescribed allocation percentages.

**The GAP recommends alternative 3, which allows more flexible use of released set-asides and the use of projected catch data.** This last point is especially important since real-time catch accounting is only possible in the trawl fishery; projected catches reported in the quota species monitoring and RecFIN data feeds are the only inseason catch accounting mechanisms for non-trawl fisheries. Further, the GAP strongly believes the Council should be able to reallocate released harvest set-asides according to sector needs rather than prescribed sector allocations. When reallocations to sectors are contemplated in future inseason actions, it would not serve West Coast communities and sectors well to reallocate to sectors inseason that cannot use this extra yield. This could potentially disadvantage other sectors that could use that yield to maximize fishery benefits or simply maintain their fishery inseason. Such management flexibility allows optimal use of fishery resources and maximizes potential benefits to West Coast fishing communities.

PFMC  
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