

***Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery 2027-28
Harvest Specifications and Management
Measures***

The Preferred Alternative:

***Including the analytical documents for the Range of
Alternatives and the Preliminary Preferred Alternative.***

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Chapters

The Preferred Alternative

Appendix A: The Analysis of the Preliminary Preferred Alternative

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABC	Acceptable Biological Catch
ACL	Annual Catch Limit
ACT	Annual Catch Target
BMSY	Biomass Maximum Sustainable Yield
BSIA	Best Scientific Information Available
CDFW	California Department Of Fish And Wildlife
CP	Catcher-Processor
CPFV	Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels
DTL	Daily Trip Limits
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FMP	Fishery Management Plan
FMSY	Fishery Maximum Sustainable Yield
FMU	Fishery Management Unit
FPA	Final Preferred Alternative
GAP	Groundfish Advisory Subpanel
GMT	Groundfish Management Team
HCR	Harvest Control Rule
HG	Harvest Guideline
IFQ	Individual Fishing Quota
IOA	Incidental Open Access
ITS	Incidental Take Statement
LE	Limited Entry
LOA	Length Overall
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MS	Mothership (Whiting)
MSA	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation And Management Act
MSCV	Mothership Catcher Vessel
MSST	Minimum Stock Size Threshold
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NWFSC	Northwest Fishery Science Center
OA	Open Access
ODFW	Oregon Department Of Fish And Wildlife
OFL	Overfishing Limit
PFMC	Pacific Fishery Management Council
PPA	Preliminary Preferred Alternative
QP	Quota Pounds
QS	Quota Share
RFA	Regulatory Flexibility Act

SBA	Small Business Administration
SSC	Scientific And Statistical Committee
WDFW	Washington Department Of Fish And Wildlife

1. 2027-28 Groundfish Harvest Specifications

The following table reports 2027-28 biennium harvest specifications, i.e., overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and annual catch limit (ACL), for all stocks and stock complexes actively managed under the [Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan \(FMP\)](#). These metrics are described in detail in the [Status of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery: Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation \(SAFE\)](#) document, which is incorporated by reference. A detailed analysis of the harvest specifications, including analyses of alternative harvest control rules (HCR) is in [Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 1, April 2026](#)⁵. Appendix 1 and impacts are described in [Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 3, June 2026](#)

1.1 Action Item 1: Harvest Specifications

The Council adopted default harvest control rules (HCRs), i.e., Alternative 1, to calculate harvest specifications for all managed stocks and stock complexes, except for canary, rougheye/blackspotted, widow, and yellowtail (north of 40°10' N. lat.) rockfishes; shortspine thornyhead, and petrale sole.

1.1.1 Stocks with Alternative Harvest Control Rules

The Council considered Alternative HCRs for eight stocks for these stocks: canary, chilipepper, rougheye/blackspotted, widow, yellowtail (north of 40°10' N. lat.), and yelloweye rockfishes; shortspine thornyhead, and petrale sole. However, the Council adopted HCRs, i.e., Alternative 2, only for canary, rougheye/blackspotted, widow, and yellowtail (north of 40°10' N. lat.) rockfishes; shortspine thornyhead, and petrale sole. Table 1 shows the resulting ACLs.

Table 1. Stocks with alternative harvest control rules

Stock	HCR	ACLs
Canary Rockfish	ABC=ACL, P* 0.45, no 40-10 adjustment	ACLs 643 mt (2027), 664 mt (2028)
Rougheye/ Blackspotted Rockfish	Constant ACL	2027-28 ACL = 300 mt - Slope Complex N of 40°10' N. lat.: 2027-28 ACL contributions = 294 mt - Slope Complex S of 40°10' N. lat.: 2027-28 ACL contribution = 6 mt
Widow Rockfish	OFL - 1	2027-28 ABC/ACL= 6,238
Yellowtail Rockfish (north of 40°10' N. lat.)	Phase-in	ACLs 5,050 mt (2027), 4,730 mt (2028)
Shortspine thornyhead	Constant ACL	2027-28 ACL 902 mt
Petrale Sole	Constant ACL	2027-28 ACL = 2,489 mt

1.1.2 Analysis of Stocks with Alternative HCRs

The detailed analysis of the stocks considered under Alternative HCRs is found in [Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 1, April 2026](#) and the Environmental Assessment, which are incorporated by

reference. The following summarizes the comparison of the default s and the Alternative HCRs for these stocks.

In comparison to No Action, under Alternative 1 harvest specifications would be set according to BSIA by applying default HCRs to information in the most recent stock assessments and pre-prescribed changes such as time-varying sigmas. The OFL, ABC, and ACL under Alternative 1 are shown in [Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 2, June 2026](#). For most stocks this process is likely to prevent overfishing, meanwhile allowing greater realization of economic benefits in cases where BSIA indicates ACLs can be increased compared to No Action. However, the stocks specifically identified below are described in detail because alternative HCRs are considered under Alternative 2 for these stocks, as conservation and socioeconomic goals may not be achieved under the default HCRs. As reference, the stocks discussed under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 consider the 10-year projection period for unfished biomass relative to the Council’s management objective for that stock, as detailed in the Council Analytical Document, which is incorporated by reference. The Council’s biomass target for rockfish/thornyheads is an unfished biomass of 40 percent (i.e., $B_{40\%}$) and the management objective is 25 percent unfished biomass (i.e., $B_{25\%}$) for flatfish (see Chapter 4, PFMC, 2025).

Biomass, or “B” reference points, are determined relative to an estimate of the “virgin” or unexploited spawning biomass of the stock, denoted as B_0 , which is defined as the average equilibrium abundance of a stock’s spawning biomass before it is affected by fishing related mortality. B_0 is then used to estimate MSY, as identified in the MSA and National Standard Guidelines. MSY represents a theoretical maximum surplus production from a population of constant size. National Standard Guidelines define it as “the largest long-term average catch or yield that can be taken from a stock or stock complex under prevailing ecological and environmental conditions.” For a given population and set of ecological conditions, there is a biomass that produces MSY (denoted as B_{MSY}), which is less than the equilibrium size in the absence of fishing (B_0). The harvest rate used to achieve or sustain B_{MSY} is referred to as the Maximum Fishing Mortality Threshold (MFMT, denoted as F_{MSY}). When the stock biomass is determined to be lower than B_{MSY} , the ACL is set to an adequately low level to rebuild the stock to a healthy level in a timely fashion. The threshold for declaring a stock overfished is when the stock’s spawning biomass declines to less than the specified Minimum Stock Size Threshold or MSST (i.e., 12.5 percent of B_0 or $B_{12.5\%}$ for assessed flatfish stocks and $B_{25\%}$ for all other groundfish stocks). Management measures intended to optimize the fishery consistent with the ACLs derived from the default HCRs would be applied under Alternative 1.

Alternative 1

Canary rockfish: The Alternative 1 default HCR is $ABC > ACL$, $P^* 0.45$, with a 40-10 adjustment. The 40-10 adjustment is a precautionary reduction of the ABC due to the status of the stock being the precautionary zone (i.e., above the overfished threshold, but below the management target).¹ Projections from the stock assessment for 2027 and beyond are based on a spawning potential ratio (SPR) of 50 percent and the 40-10 rule. This HCR results in ACLs of 606 mt and 623 mt in 2027 and 2028, respectively (Table 2). At the start of the 10-year projection period (i.e., 2027), the stock is estimated to be at 34 percent of unfished biomass, which is below the 40 percent unfished biomass ($B_{40\%}$) management target for rockfish, but above the MSST. Under Alternative 1, the

¹ Described at FMP Section 4.6.1

biomass decreases until 2031; however, after 2031, the biomass is projected to increase over the remainder of the 10-year projection period to an estimated 35.3 percent. Thus, while the stock's biomass increases steadily over the projection period (Figure 2), it remains below $B_{40\%}$ (i.e., stays in the precautionary management zone) over the 10-year projection.

Chilipepper: The Alternative 1 default HCR is $ABC=ACL$, $P^* 0.45$. Projections from the stock assessment for 2027 and beyond are based on $SPR_{50\%}$. This HCR results in coastwide ACLs of 3,211 mt and 3,086 mt for 2027 and 2028, respectively. The coastwide OFLs are apportioned north and south of $40^{\circ}10'$ N lat., with seven percent apportioned north of $40^{\circ}10'$ N lat. and 93 percent apportioned south of $40^{\circ}10'$ N lat. based on average historical landings. Chilipepper is managed in the north under the shelf rockfish complex north of $40^{\circ}10'$ N. lat. and the ACL contributions to this complex are 225 mt and 216 mt for 2027 and 2028, respectively. South of $40^{\circ}10'$ N. lat. chilipepper is managed as a single stock. The ACLs south of $40^{\circ}10'$ N. lat. are 2,986 mt and 2,870 mt for 2027 and 2028, respectively (Table 2). This stock is well above $B_{40\%}$ at the start of the projection period, with chilipepper estimated to be at 76.6 percent of unfished biomass in 2027. Under Alternative 1, the coastwide unfished biomass is projected to decrease by three percent in the 2027-28 biennium. Over the course of the 10-year projection period, the unfished biomass levels continue to decrease and at the end of the 10-year period it is estimated to be at 59 percent (Figure 3).

Rougheye/Blackspotted rockfish: The Alternative 1 default HCR is $ABC = ACL$, $P^* 0.40$. This HCR results in coastwide ACLs of 844 mt and 827 mt for 2027 and 2028, respectively; however, this stock is managed within the slope rockfish complexes north and south of $40^{\circ}10'$ N. lat. The OFL is apportioned 98 percent to the north and two percent to the south. The Alternative 1 HCR results in an ACL contribution of 827 mt and 810 mt for 2027 and 2028, respectively, to the slope rockfish complex north of $40^{\circ}10'$ N. lat. and contributions of 17 mt and 17 mt for 2027 and 2028, respectively, to the slope rockfish complex south of $40^{\circ}10'$ N. lat. (Table 2). The biomass of this stock is well above the $B_{40\%}$ target, estimated at 88 percent of unfished biomass in 2027 (Figure 4). Within the biennium, the unfished biomass is projected to decrease by 1.2 percent, i.e., from 87.7 percent to 86.5 percent. The coastwide unfished biomass is projected to decrease to 78.6 percent by the end of the 10-year projection period.

Widow rockfish: The Alternative 1 default HCR is $ABC = ACL$, $P^* 0.45$. The Alternative 1 HCR results in coastwide ACLs of 4,596 mt and 4,810 mt for 2027 and 2028, respectively. The biomass of this stock is currently estimated to be above the $B_{40\%}$ target at 41.7 percent. Under Alternative 1, the unfished biomass of this stock is projected to be above $B_{40\%}$, for both years of the biennium. Specifically, under Alternative 1, the estimated unfished biomass in 2027 is expected to decrease by approximately two tenths of a percent over the biennium from 41.7 percent to 41.5 percent in 2028 (Table 2). However, after 2028, the unfished biomass is expected to begin increasing. Under this alternative, the unfished biomass is projected to increase from 41.7 percent at the beginning of the 10-year projection period to 43.1 percent at the end of the projection period ([Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 4, June 2026](#)).

Yelloweye rockfish: The Alternative 1 HCR is $ABC = ACL$, $P^* 0.40$, $SPR_{50\%}$. Yelloweye rockfish is currently under a rebuilding plan, however, the stock is estimated to be at 40.1 percent of unfished biomass in 2025, which is above the management target for rockfish of $B_{40\%}$, thus indicating that the stock has rebuilt. The SSC noted this stock should no longer be considered

overfished ([Agenda Item G.3.a, supplemental SSC Report 2, September 2025](#)). The Alternative 1 HCR would result in ACLs of 113 mt and 114 mt for 2027 and 2028, respectively (Table 2). Under Alternative 1, the unfished biomass is estimated at 44.3 percent at the beginning of the 10-year projection period and projected to steadily increase to 50.3 percent by the end of the period. Within the biennium, the assessment (Johnston et al. 2025) estimates the stock's biomass would increase from 44.3 percent to 45.7 percent under this alternative (Figure 6).

Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat.: The Alternative 1 default HCR is $ABC = ACL$, $P^* 0.40$. Projections from the stock assessment for 2027 and beyond are based on a $SPR_{50\%}$. This HCR results in ACLs of 4,723 mt and 4,540 mt in 2027 and 2028, respectively (Table 2). The 2025 assessment (Oken et al. 2025) indicated the stock is estimated to be 62.6 percent of unfished biomass. This HCR is projected to maintain a biomass above $B_{40\%}$ throughout the 10-year projection period. The estimated unfished biomass is 58 percent at the beginning of the 10-year projection period and by the end of the period is projected to be 52 percent of unfished biomass (Figure 7).

Shortspine thornyhead. The Alternative 1 default HCR is $ABC > ACL$, $P^* 0.45$, with a 40-10 rule adjustment. The 40-10 adjustment is recommended for this stock as it is below $B_{40\%}$ but above the MSST. Projections from the stock assessment for 2027 and beyond are based on $SPR_{50\%}$ and the 40-10 rule. This HCR results in ACLs of 847 mt and 856 mt in 2027 and 2028, respectively (Table 2). Within the biennium, the biomass is projected to increase by one tenth of a percent, from 39.3 percent to 39.4 percent. Over the course of the projection period, the unfished biomass is estimated to slightly increase to 40.4 percent (Figure 8), i.e., above the management target of $B_{40\%}$ for thornyheads.

Petrale sole: The Alternative 1 default HCR is $ABC = ACL$, $P^* 0.45$ and results in ACLs of 2,449 mt and 2,423 mt in 2027 and 2028, respectively (Table 2). Projections are based on an $SPR_{30\%}$. The target biomass for flatfish is $B_{25\%}$. Under Alternative 1, the unfished biomass is estimated to decrease from 26.6 percent to 26 percent within the biennium. However, the unfished biomass is projected to increase over the 10-year projection period from approximately 26 percent to 28 percent, i.e., above the Council's management target for flatfish. (Figure 9).

Table 2. Overfishing limit (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), Annual Catch Limit (ACL) in metric tons (mt) and the estimated fraction of unfished biomass for stocks considered under Alternative 1.

Stock	Year	OFL (mt)	ABC (mt)	ACL (mt)	Fraction unfished
Canary rockfish	2027	694	643	606	0.340
	2028	721	665	623	0.335
Chilipepper a/	2027	3,434	3,211	3,211	0.766
	2028	3,318	3,086	3,086	0.736
Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish a/	2027	844	844	966	0.877
	2028	826	826	955	0.865
Widow rockfish	2027	4,916	4,596	4,596	0.417
	2028	5,172	4,810	4,810	0.415
Yelloweye rockfish	2027	129	113	113	0.443
	2028	132	114	114	0.457

Stock	Year	OFL (mt)	ABC (mt)	ACL (mt)	Fraction unfished
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.	2027	5,051	4,723	4,723	0.575
	2028	4,882	4,540	4,540	0.545
Shortspine thornyhead	2027	994	852	847	0.393
	2028	1,014	861	856	0.394
Petrale sole	2027	2,645	2,449	2,449	0.260
	2028	2,628	2,423	2,423	0.257

a/ these stocks are in part or in whole managed in stock complexes; however, values are presented coastwide scale as this was how they were presented in stock assessment documents.

Alternative 2

Under Alternative 2, alternative HCRs are considered for all stocks identified below, based on recent stock assessments conducted in 2025. Alternative HCRs are evaluated to determine whether the alternative HCRs would better achieve conservation and socioeconomic goals in comparison to Alternative 1. The OFL, ABC, and ACL for stocks considered under Alternative 2 HCRs are shown in Table 3.

Canary Rockfish: The Alternative 2 HCR differs from Alternative 1 only by the removal of the 40-10 adjustment. This HCR results in ACLs of 643 mt and 664 mt for 2027 and 2028, respectively (Table 3). Within the biennium, under Alternative 2, the unfished biomass is expected to decrease from 34 percent in 2027 to 33.5 percent in 2028. Further, the 2025 catch-only projection (Langseth, 2025) indicates the stock's unfished biomass is projected to decrease under this Alternative to a low of 32.5 percent in 2031, but then to begin to increase steadily over the remainder of the 10-year projection period (see Figure 2 in Section 4.1.3) to an estimated 35.1 percent (Table 4) at year 10. While the stock's biomass increases over the projection period under Alternative 2, the unfished biomass is projected to remain below B_{40%} (i.e., stays in the precautionary management zone) over the entire 10-year projection.

Chilipepper: The Alternative 2 HCR is a constant catch ACL of 2,114 for both years of the biennium (Table 3). Alternative 2 is the long-term equilibrium yield based on SPR_{50%} for 2027-2028. After this biennium, the ACL would revert to the Alternative 1 default HCR. As noted above, chilipepper OFLs are apportioned seven percent north of 40°10' N. lat. and 93 percent south of 40°10' N. lat. The chilipepper contribution to the shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. under this Alternative would be 148 mt in both 2027 and 2028. The Alternative 2 ACL for chilipepper north of 40°10' N. lat. is 1,966 mt in both 2027 and 2028. Within the biennium, the unfished biomass under Alternative 2 is expected to decrease from 76.6 percent in 2027 to 75.8 percent in 2028. Over the course of the 10-year projection period the unfished biomass of chilipepper is projected to remain above B_{40%} but decrease from a projected 76.6 percent to 60.2 percent (Figure 3).

Rougheye/Blackspotted rockfish: The Alternative 2 HCR is a phase-in approach setting a constant coastwide ACL of 300 mt (the maximum mortality reported in Somers et al, 2025) for 2027-28 only. After this biennium, the ACL would revert to the Alternative 1 default HCR. The rougheye/blackspotted rockfish OFL is apportioned 98 percent to the north and two percent to the south of 40°10' N. lat. Alternative 2 would result in an ACL contribution of 294 mt and 6 mt to

the north and south of 40°10' N. lat. slope rockfish complexes, respectively, for each year of the biennium (Table 3). The biomass of this stock is well above the B_{40%} target, at an estimated 88 percent of unfished biomass in 2027. Within the biennium, the projected unfished biomass does not change, i.e., stays at 88 percent for both years. Under Alternative 2, the unfished biomass is expected to steadily decrease from approximately 88 to 80 percent, but to remain above B_{40%}, over the ten-year projection period (Figure 4).

Widow Rockfish:

As described in Sections 2.4.3 and 2.4.4, the Council considered four Alternative 2 sub-options for widow rockfish. However, Sub-options 2a and Sub-option 2c were considered but not moved forward for further evaluation in this Impact Analysis. This discussion therefore focuses on Sub-options 2b and 2d (Table 3).

Sub-option 2b: The Alternative 2, Sub-option 2b HCR is a constant catch ABC=ACL of 6,720 mt for 2027 and 2028 based on 20 percent decrease from forecasted 2026 catch ([Agenda item D.4,a Supplemental GMT Report 1, March 2026](#), [Agenda Item D.4, Attachment 3, March 2026](#), [Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1, April 2026](#)). After 2028, the HCR would revert to the default 2025-26 HCR (ABC=ACL, P* 0.45) in 2029. Under Sub-option 2b, the 2027 unfished biomass is estimated at approximately 41.7 percent and at the end of the 10-year projection period is estimated to be approximately 44.9 percent; however, under this Alternative, the unfished biomass is estimated to drop below B_{40%} in 2029 to 39.7 percent and then begin to increase ([Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 4, June 2026](#)). Within the biennium, the stock is projected to be above B_{40%} in 2028 and below B_{40%} in 2029, which would prompt the Council to consider applying the 40-10 rule to the ABC, per the guidance of the FMP and the Council's long term policy for unfished biomass levels.

Sub-option 2d: The Alternative 2, Sub-option 2c HCR is a constant catch ABC=ACL of 6,238 mt for 2027-28. The HCR would revert to the default 2025-26 HCR (ABC=ACL, P* 0.45) in 2029. This HCR is based on the SSC recommendation of an alternative OFL of 6,239 mt, equal to the yield corresponding to B_{40%} ([Agenda Item C.3.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, April 2026](#)) and was recommended by the GMT ([Agenda Item C.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, April 2026](#)) and GAP ([Agenda Item C.3.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, April 2026](#)). Under Sub-option 2d, the 2027 unfished biomass is estimated at approximately 41.7 percent and at the end of the 10-year projection period is estimated to be approximately 45.2 percent ([Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 4, June 2026](#)). The stock would remain above B_{40%} both years of the biennium and through the entire projection period.

Yelloweye rockfish: The Alternative 2 HCR is a constant catch of 85 mt for both years of the biennium. This constant catch amount is the mid-point between the 2026 ACL of 56.6 mt and the 2027 Alternative 1 default HCR ACL of 113 mt. After this biennium, the HCR would revert to the Alternative 1 default HCR. Under Alternative 2, the unfished biomass is projected to increase within the biennium, from 44.3 percent to 45.9 percent (Table 3). The unfished biomass is projected to increase to 50.8 percent over the course of the 10-year projection period under Alternative 2.

Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat.: The Alternative 2 HCR is a phase-in approach, with ABC = ACL of 5,050 mt in 2027. In 2028, the midpoint of the newly calculated OFL and ABC/ACL would be used to calculate the ACL of 4,730 mt for 2028, with ABC = ACL (Table 3).

Under this Alternative, the unfished biomass in 2027 is estimated at 58 percent and, at the end of the 10-year projection, it is estimated at 52 percent. The unfished biomass is projected to decrease within the biennium from 58 percent to 54 percent (Figure 6). The first year of this HCR results in an ABC/ACL one metric ton lower than the OFL, whereas, in 2028, there is 129 mt between the OFL and ABC/ACL (Table 3).

Shortspine thornyhead: The Alternative 2 HCR is a phase in approach used to set a constant ABC = ACL of 902 mt (i.e., the ABC for 2026), for 2027-28 only (Table 3). The HCR would then revert to the Alternative 1 default HCR. Within the biennium, under this Alternative, the unfished biomass is expected to remain static for both years at 39.3 percent (Table 3). Under Alternative 2, the stock is projected to increase over the 10-year projection period by a percentage point, from 39.3 percent to slightly above 40.3 percent.

Petrale sole: The Alternative 2 HCR is a phase in approach that sets a constant ACL of 2,489 mt for both 2027 and 2028 (Table 3). Post this biennium, the ACL would revert to the Alternative 1 default HCR. The constant catch ACL is the same ACL amount adopted for 2026 under the emergency rule (91 FR 2714; January 22, 2026). At the start of the biennium, the unfished biomass for petrale sole is projected at 26 percent. Within the biennium, under Alternative 2, the unfished biomass is expected to decrease from 26 percent to 25.6 percent; however, that amount is still above the biomass target of B_{25%}. By the end of the 10-year projection period, unfished biomass is projected at 28 percent. Overall, under this Alternative, the stock's unfished biomass is projected to remain above B_{25%} and increase over the projection period (Figure 9).

Table 3. Overfishing limit (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), and Annual Catch Limit (ACL) in metric tons (mt) and the estimated fraction of unfished biomass for stocks considered under Alternative 2.

Stock	Year	OFL (mt)	ABC (mt)	ACL (mt)	Fraction Unfished
Canary rockfish	2027	694	643	643	0.340
	2028	720	664	664	0.335
Chilipepper a/	2027	3,434	3,211	2,114	0.766
	2028	3,409	3,170	2,114	0.758
Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish a/	2027	966	844	300	0.87
	2028	967	836	300	0.87
Widow rockfish 2b	2027	6,239	6,720	6,720	0.417
	2028	6,239	6,720	6,720	0.403
Widow rockfish 2d	2027	6,239	6,238	6,238	0.417
	2028	6,239	6,238	6,238	0.406-
Yelloweye rockfish	2027	129	113	85	0.443
	2028	132	114	85	0.459
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.	2027	5,051	5,050	5,050	0.575
	2028	4,859	4,730	4,730	0.542
Shortspine thornyhead	2027	994	902	902	0.393
	2028	1013	902	902	0.393
Petrale sole	2027	2,645	2,489	2,489	0.260
	2028	2,619	2,489	2,489	0.256

a/ the values for these stocks are presented at the coastwide scale as depletion was calculated at that scale.

1.1.3 Synthesis - Comparative Effects of the Alternatives on Managed Fish

Table 4 specifically reports a comparison between Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 ACLs, except for widow rockfish. A comparison of Alternative 1 and the Alternative 2 sub-option ACLs for widow rockfish is reported in Table 5

Table 4. Comparison between Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 Annual Catch Limits (ACL)s, the difference in metric tons (mt), and the percent increase or decrease of the Alternative 2 ACL relative to Alternative 1.

Stock	Year	Alt 1 ACL (mt)	Alt 2 ACL (mt)	Difference (mt)	% increase/decrease
Canary rockfish	2027	606	643	+37	+6.1%
	2028	623	664	+41	+6.6%
Chilipepper	2027	3,211	2,114	-1,097	-34.2%
	2028	3,086	2,114	-972	-31.5%
Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish	2027	966	300	-666	-68.9%
	2028	955	300	-655	-68.6%
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.	2027	4,723	5,050	+327	+6.9%
	2028	4,540	4,730	-190	+4.2%
Yelloweye rockfish	2027	113	85	-28	-24.8%
	2028	114	85	-29	-25.4%
Shortspine thornyhead	2027	847	902	+55	+6.5%
	2028	856	902	+46	+5.4%
Petrable sole	2027	2,449	2,489	+40	+1.6%
	2028	2,423	2,489	+66	+2.7%

Table 5. Comparison of Alternative 1 annual catch limits (ACL)to Alternative sub-option 2b and sub-option 2d ACLs for widow rockfish showing the difference in metric tons (mt) and the percent (%) increase or decrease relative to Alternative 1

Year	Alt 1 ACL (mt)	Alt 2b ACL (mt)	Alt 1 compared Alt 2b ACL		Alt 2d ACL (mt)	Alt 1 compared Alt 2d ACL	
			Difference (mt)	% increase/decrease		Difference (mt)	% increase/decrease
2027	4,596	6,720	+2,124	+46%	6,238	1,642	+36%
2028	4,810	6,720	+1,910	+40%	6,238	1,428	+30%

Canary rockfish: Under Alternative 1, the buffer between the ACL and the OFL is approximately 20 mt higher than under Alternative 2 in both years of the biennium. Under Alternative 2, the 40-10 adjustment is removed and ACLs increase by 37 mt and 41 mt for 2027 and 2028 (Table 5), respectively, over Alternative 1. The removal of the 40-10 rule under Alternative 2 slightly changes the trajectory of the stock overtime relative to Alternative 1; meaning the stock's unfished biomass increases at a slower rate under Alternative 2 respective to Alternative 1. It is important to note, however, that neither Alternative results in B_{40%} being achieved for this stock in the 10-year projection period. The spawning output and depletion trajectories (Figure 1) are similar under both Alternatives over the 10-year projection period and the stock remains in the precautionary zone under either Alternative, even though Alternative 1 permits a lower amount of harvest in 2027 and

2028. Under both Alternatives, the unfished biomass increases over the 10-year projection period; however, under Alternative 2, the unfished biomass increases at slightly slower rate than under Alternative 1. At the end of the 10-year projection, the unfished biomass is projected to be 35.3 percent under Alternative 1 and 35.1 percent under Alternative 2. Within the biennium, Alternative 2 and Alternative 1 are projected to have identical unfished biomass percentages. In summary, the choice between Alternatives will not impact the overall stock status in the projection period. On the other hand, Alternative 2 provides more yield to the fishery, which may offer some opportunity and operational flexibility for fishery participants over Alternative 1. Further, as indicated in the above comparisons, it is unlikely either Alternative will result in overfishing as the unfished biomass remains greater than $B_{25\%}$ (i.e., MSST) over the entire projection period. The Council adopted Alternative 2 as their FPA for canary rockfish.

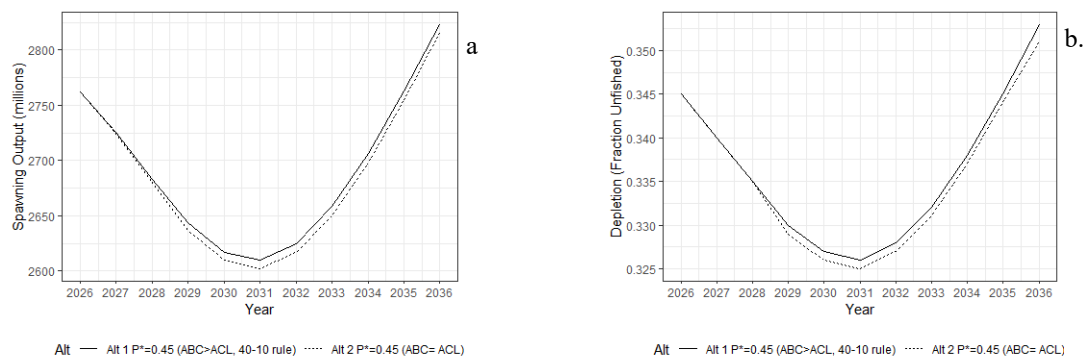


Figure 1. (a.) Projected spawning output (millions of eggs) of canary rockfish under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 HCRs, 2026-36 (b.) Projected depletion (fraction unfished) of canary rockfish under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, 2026-36.

Chilipepper: At the coastwide scale, the Alternative 1 ACLs are 1,097 mt and 972 mt higher in 2027 and 2028, respectively, than the Alternative 2 ACLs. At the management scale, under Alternative 1, the north of 40°10' N. lat. ACLs are 77 mt and 66 mt higher in 2027 and 2028, respectively, than under Alternative 2. South of 40°10' N. lat., the Alternative 1 ACL is 1,020 mt and 904 mt higher in 2027 and 2028, respectively, than under Alternative 2 (Table 4). At the start of the projection period (i.e., 2027), chilipepper is estimated at 76.6 percent unfished biomass under both Alternatives. Under Alternative 1, the 10-year projection shows unfished biomass at 59 percent at the terminal end of the projection period; whereas, under Alternative 2, the unfished biomass is projected to be at 60 percent at year 10. Accordingly, Alternative 2 is more precautionary and may have slightly more positive benefits to the stock biomass than Alternative 1. Under Alternative 2, at the coastwide scale, the buffer between the ACL and the OFL is approximately 1,000 mt higher than under Alternative 1 in both years of the biennium. For both Alternatives 1 and 2, the spawning output and depletion trajectories (Figure 2) are similar under both Alternatives over the projection period. Under Alternative 2, the stock is at a higher stock status over the time series due to the lower harvest in 2027 and 2028. Regardless, both alternatives stay above the management target and the choice between Alternatives will not impact the overall stock status in the projection period. Further, the above indicates that it is unlikely that either Alternative will result in overfishing as the stock's unfished biomass is expected to remain well above the $B_{25\%}$ (i.e., MSST) threshold over the entire projection period under both Alternatives. The Council adopted Alternative 1 as their FPA for chilipepper.

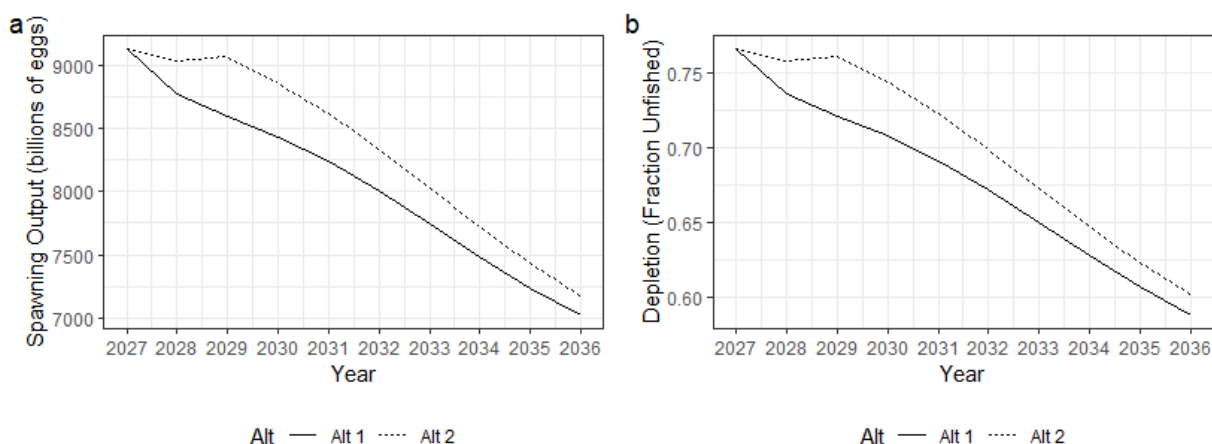


Figure 2. (a) Projected spawning output (billions of eggs) of chilipepper under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 HCRs, 2026-36 (b.) Projected depletion (fraction unfished) of chilipepper under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, 2026-36.

Rougheye/Blackspotted rockfish: The ACL contribution to the rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. is 970 mt and 792 mt higher under Alternative 1 than under Alternative 2 for 2027 and 2028, respectively (Table 4). The ACL contribution to the rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat. is 682 mt and 678 mt higher under Alternative 1 than under Alternative 2 for 2027 and 2028, respectively. Under Alternative 1, the unfished biomass is projected to be at 78.6 percent at the end of the 10-year projection period; whereas, under Alternative 2, the unfished biomass is projected to be 80 percent. The unfished biomass of the stock is therefore projected to remain above $B_{40\%}$ over the projection period for either alternative. Alternative 2 has less impact to the stock's unfished biomass than Alternative 1 and, at the end of the projection period, results in a slightly higher estimated biomass. The Alternative 2 HCR is precautionary and may mitigate against the uncertainty of the 2025 assessment (Cope et al, 2025, [Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)). Alternative 2 is therefore more precautionary in respect to biological impacts. The buffer between the ACL and the OFL under Alternative 2 is approximately six times larger than under Alternative 1. For both Alternatives 1 and 2, the spawning output and depletion trajectories (Figure 3) are similar over the ten-year projection period. However, Alternative 2, with the lower amount of harvest in 2027 and 2028, does result in higher spawning output and depletion as compared to Alternative 1 over the time series. Overall, the choice between Alternatives is not expected to impact the overall stock status in the projection period. Based on the unfished biomass projections, it is unlikely that either Alternative will result in overfishing as the stock's unfished biomass remains well above the $B_{25\%}$ (i.e., MSST) threshold over the entire projection period under both Alternatives. Additionally, there are no operational advantages for the fishery expected from the higher ACLs under Alternative 1. Therefore, a precautionary approach would not limit the fishery for this stock (i.e., prevent optimization) and is proposed. The Council adopted Alternative 2 as their FPA for rougheye/blackspotted rockfish.

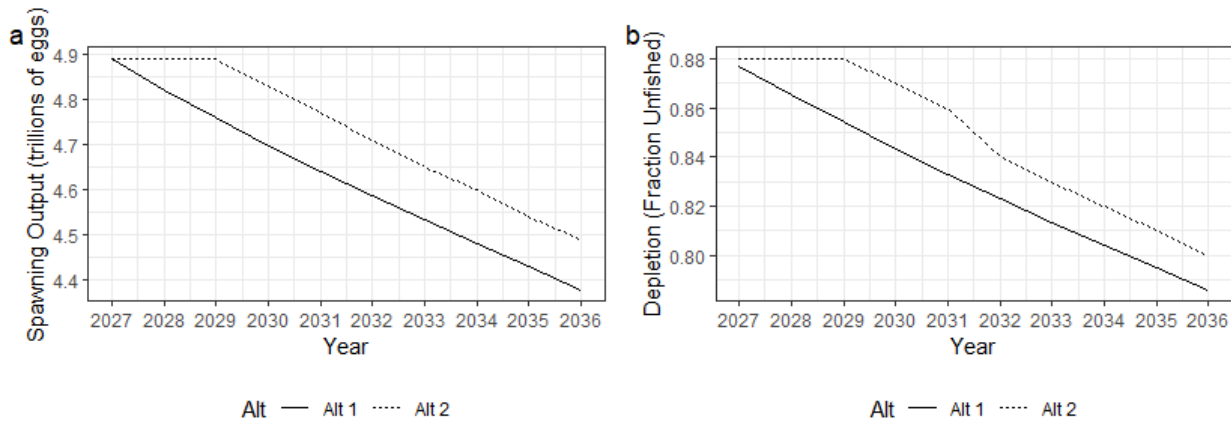


Figure 3. (a) Projected spawning output (trillions of eggs) of rougheye/blackspotted rockfish under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 HCRs, 2027-36 (b.) Projected depletion (fraction unfished) of rougheye/blackspotted rockfish under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, 2027-36.

Widow rockfish

Two sub-options were adopted for full evaluation in this Impact Analysis under Alternative 2. Alternative 2, Sub-option 2b (hereinafter “Sub-option 2b”) ACLs are 2,124 mt and 1,910 mt greater than Alternative 1 in 2027 and 2028, respectively (Table 5) and 438 mt higher than Alternative 2, Sub-option 2d (hereinafter “Sub-option 2d”). However, the Sub-option 2b ACL is above the SSC’s recommended OFL ([Agenda Item C.3.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, April, 2026](#) and [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, June 2026](#)). This Sub-option is therefore contrary to National Standard 1 guidance and to the SSC’s role in recommending OFLs and ABCs to the Council, as described in the MSA and the Groundfish FMP (PFMC, 2025). Sub-option 2d ACLs are 1,262 mt and 1,048 higher than the Alternative 1 ACLs in 2027 and 28, respectively (Table 5). Sub-option 2d would set catch limits below the SSC’s recommended OFL ([Agenda Item 3.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, April, 2026](#) and [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, June 2026](#)).

At the start of the biennium, the unfished biomass for widow rockfish is estimated at approximately 42 percent depletion under Alternative 1, Sub-option 2b, and Sub-option 2d. By the end of the biennium, the biomass under Alternative 1 is projected to be at 46.1 percent fraction unfished biomass, while Sub-option 2b and Sub-option 2d are projected to be at approximately 44.9 and 45.2 percent respectively ([Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 4, June 2026](#)). Under Alternative 1 and Sub-option 2d, the biomass is projected to stay above $B_{40\%}$ throughout the entire 10-year projection period; whereas, under Sub-option 2b, the biomass is expected to drop slightly below $B_{40\%}$ in 2029 to 39.7 percent.

Alternative 1 would yield the lowest ACL to the fishery, about 59 percent lower (approximately 5,000 mt) than No Action; whereas ACLs under Sub-option 2b and Sub-option 2d are expected to be about 40 percent (approximately 3,000 mt) and 48 percent (approximately 2,000 mt) lower than the No Action ACL, respectively. Sub-option 2b projected depletion is approximately 43 percent, on average, higher than Alternative 1 and Sub-option 2d projected depletion is about 33 percent higher than Alternative 1 (Table 5). Alternative 1 therefore would provide the least yield to the fishery, with Sub-option 2b providing the most yield and Sub-option 2d the second highest yield to the fishery. While Sub-option 2b would offer the most opportunity and flexibility to the fishery,

the ACL for Sub-option 2b is above the SSC-recommended OFL. Therefore, Sub-option 2b is not a viable option under the governing MSA framework. The Sub-option 2d ACL is below the SSC-recommended OFL recommendation, however, and provides more yield to the fishery than Alternative 1. Therefore, Sub-option 2d would offer some increased opportunity and operational flexibility within the fishery over Alternative 1.

For both Alternative 1 and the Alternative 2 sub-options, the spawning output and depletion trajectories for widow rockfish (Figure 4) are similar over the projection period. Alternative 1 would result in a higher biomass at year 10. However, the choice between Alternatives would not impact stock status in the projection period.

The Alternative 2 sub-options were proposed for consideration because they create options to increase opportunity and promote near-term stability in the fishery. Each sub-option's HCR would result in higher ACLs relative to Alternative 1 and thus could mitigate some of the negative impacts on industry of the reduced ACLs in this biennium as compared to No Action. The Council adopted Alternative 2, Sub-option 2d as its FPA for widow rockfish.

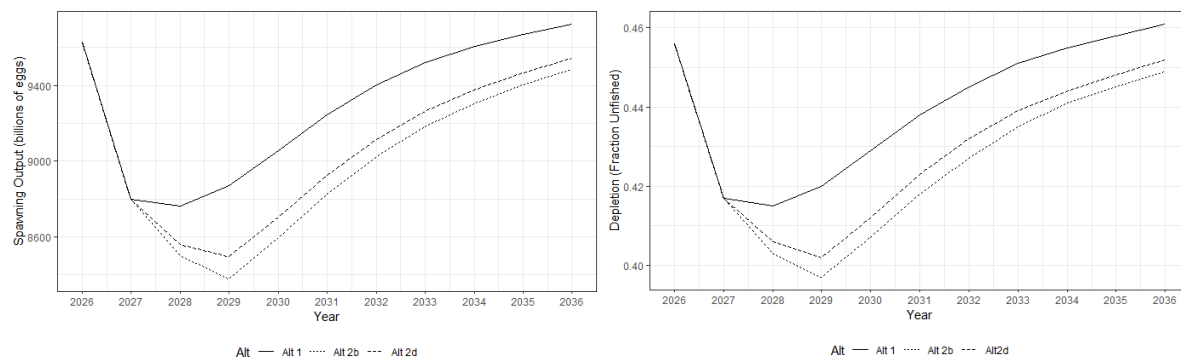


Figure 4. (a) Projected spawning output (billions of eggs) of widow rockfish under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, sub-options b and d, 2026-36 (b.) Projected depletion (fraction unfished) of widow rockfish under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, sub-options b and d, 2026-36.

Yelloweye rockfish: The Alternative 2 ACLs are 28 mt and 29 mt less than Alternative 1 for 2027 and 2028, respectively (Table 4). The unfished biomass is estimated at 44.3 percent at the start of the biennium under both alternatives. By the end of the 10-year projection period, the unfished biomass under Alternative 1 is projected to be at 50.3 percent, whereas, under Alternative 2, the unfished biomass is projected to be 50.8 percent. While the difference in impacts to biomass at the end of the projection period may be minimal, Alternative 2 is a more precautionary approach to biomass depletion at the beginning of the projection period. The Alternative 2 ACLs for 2027 and 2028, while lower than under Alternative 1, could provide some relief to industry, while balancing a precautionary approach for stock recovery from the overfished state, because the Alternative 2 ACLs would promote stability for the fishery ([Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)). The Alternative 2 ACLs, though lower than the Alternative 1 ACL, is approximately 30 mt higher than No Action. This 35 percent increase in potential yield may offer more flexibility to industry as constraints on the fishery may be relaxed to account for increased available yelloweye biomass. For both Alternatives 1 and 2, the spawning output and depletion trajectories (Figure 5) are similar over the projection period. Under Alternative 2, the stock ends up at a higher biomass at year 10 due to the lower harvest in 2027 and 2028. However, the choice

between Alternatives would not impact the overall stock status in the projection period. As indicated above, it is unlikely that either Alternative would result in overfishing, as the stock's unfished biomass is projected to remain about double the $B_{25\%}$ (i.e., MSST) threshold over the entire projection period under both Alternatives. The Council adopted Alternative 1 as their FPA for yelloweye rockfish.

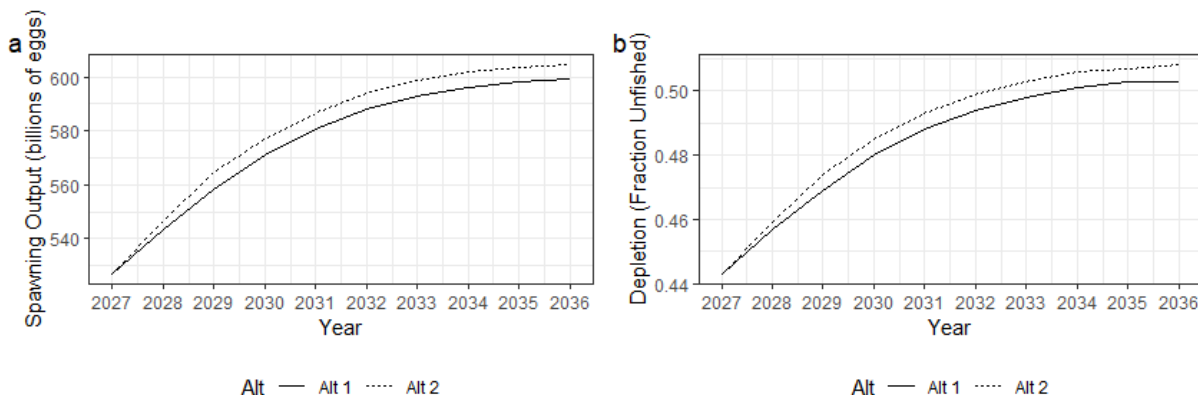


Figure 5. (a) Projected spawning output (billions of eggs) of yelloweye rockfish under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 HCRs, 2027-36 (b.) Projected depletion (fraction unfished) of yelloweye rockfish under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, 2027-36.

Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat.: Under Alternative 2, the ACLs are 337 mt and 190 mt higher in 2027 and 2028, respectively, than under Alternative 1 (Table 4). Under the Alternatives, the initial unfished biomass is estimated at 58 percent and, at the end of the projection period, the unfished biomass is projected to be at 52 percent and 51.9 percent for Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, respectively. Accordingly, the difference between the two Alternatives in terms of the estimated unfished biomass of the stock is 0.1 percent, which is a negligible difference. A key difference between the Alternatives is the Alternative 2 HCR would be set one metric ton lower than the OFL for 2027. Alternative 2 would still not be expected to result in overfishing, as the Council closely monitors catch of managed species and, if needed, could take inseason action to adjust the fishery so as to achieve but not exceed the ACL during the fishing year. Such action could be taken at any one of five annual meetings and would be expected to prevent overfishing. For both Alternatives 1 and 2, the spawning output and depletion trajectories are similar over the projection period (Figure 6). Under Alternative 2, the stock is projected to be at a lower stock status for the majority of the time series, due to the higher harvest in 2027 and 2028, but overall remains in a similar state as Alternative 1 over the 10-year period. Therefore, the choice between Alternatives will not impact the overall stock status over the projection period.

In terms of impacts on fishery participants, by year ten of the projection period, the yellowtail north of 40°10' N. lat. ACL under Alternative 1 would be nine metric tons higher than the Alternative 2 ACL. Alternative 2 is proposed, nevertheless, because it would provide more yield to the fishery in 2027 and 2028, which would offer increased opportunity and operational flexibility in the short term. It is unlikely that either Alternative would result in overfishing as the stock's unfished biomass is projected to remain about double the $B_{25\%}$ (i.e., MSST) threshold over the entire projection period under both alternatives. The Council adopted Alternative 2 as their FPA for yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat.

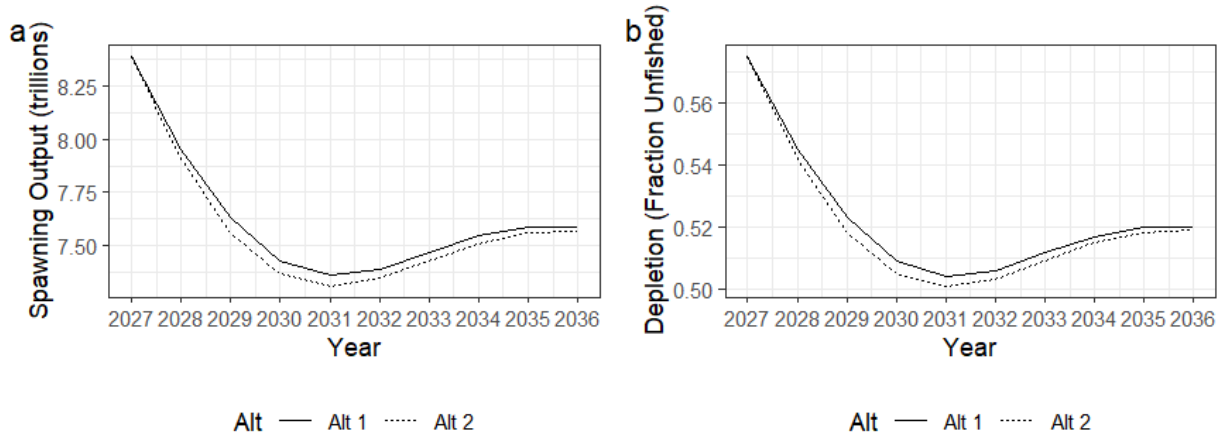


Figure 6. (a) Projected spawning output (trillions of eggs) of yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat. under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 HCRs, 2027-36 (b.) Projected depletion (fraction unfished) of yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat. under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, 2027-36.

Shortspine thornyhead: The ACLs under Alternative 2 are 50 mt and 46 mt higher in 2027 and 2028, respectively, than under Alternative 1 (Table 4). At the end of the projection period, Alternative 1 is projected to result in a 0.1 percent higher estimated unfished biomass than under Alternative 2. In both cases, the stock is projected to reach $B_{40\%}$ at the end of the projection period. For both Alternatives 1 and 2, the spawning output and depletion trajectories are similar over the 10-year projection period (Figure 7). Thus, the choice between Alternatives would not be expected to impact the overall stock status in the projection period. Alternative 2 permits a higher amount of harvest in 2027 and 2028. Therefore, even though the stock is in the precautionary zone, because the choice is not expected to impact overall stock status, Alternative 2 is proposed as it would provide more yield to the fishery, which would offer increased opportunity and operational flexibility. Both Alternatives are unlikely to result in overfishing as the biomass is projected to remain above the $B_{25\%}$ (i.e., MSST) threshold over the entire projection period. The Council adopted Alternative 2 as their FPA for shortspine thornyhead.

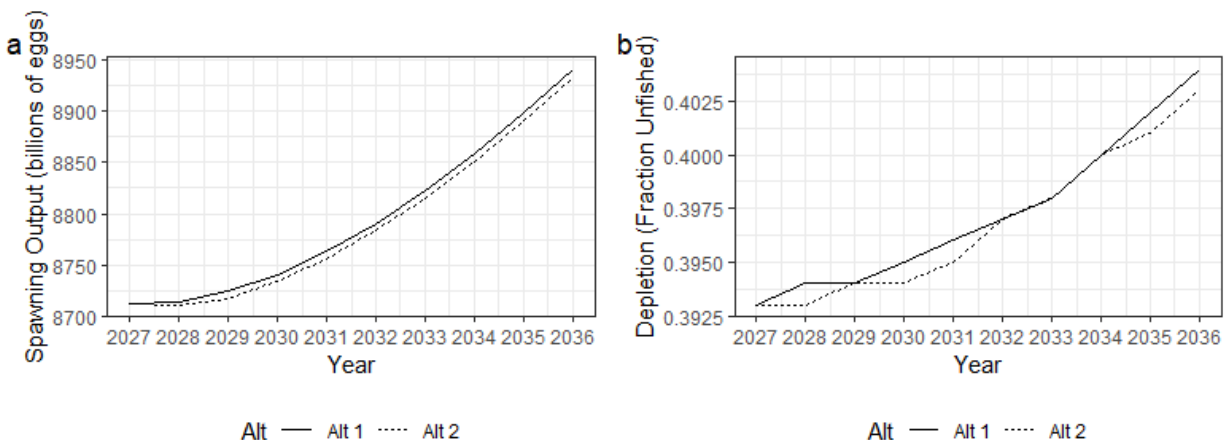


Figure 7. (a) Projected spawning output (billions of eggs) of shortspine thornyhead under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 HCRs, 2027-36 (b.) Projected depletion (fraction unfished) of shortspine thornyhead under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, 2027-36.

Petrale sole: The ACLs under Alternative 2 are 40 mt and 66 mt higher for 2027 and 2028, respectively, than under Alternative 1 (Table 4). The unfished biomass is estimated at 26 percent at the start of the biennium under both alternatives. There is an approximately 70 mt larger buffer between the ABC/ACL and OFL under Alternative 1 than under Alternative 2, which could decrease the risk of overfishing. Additionally, under Alternative 2, with the higher amount of harvest in 2027 and 2028, unfished biomass is projected to remain below the Alternative 1 estimate until 2034. However, by the end of the 10-year projection period, the projected difference between the unfished biomass under the Alternatives is negligible. Biomass is projected to increase under both Alternatives. Moreover, for both Alternatives, the spawning output and depletion trajectories are similar over the ten-year projection period, and the stock remains above $B_{25\%}$ during that time (Figure 8). Therefore, the choice between Alternatives would not impact the overall stock status over the projection period and it is unlikely that either Alternative would result in overfishing as the stock's unfished biomass is projected to remain above the $B_{12.5\%}$ (i.e., MSST) threshold for flatfish. Alternative 2 is therefore proposed because it would provide slightly increased yield to the fishery in 2027 and 2028, which may offer some increased opportunity and operational flexibility over Alternative 1. The Council adopted Alternative 2 as their FPA for petrale sole.

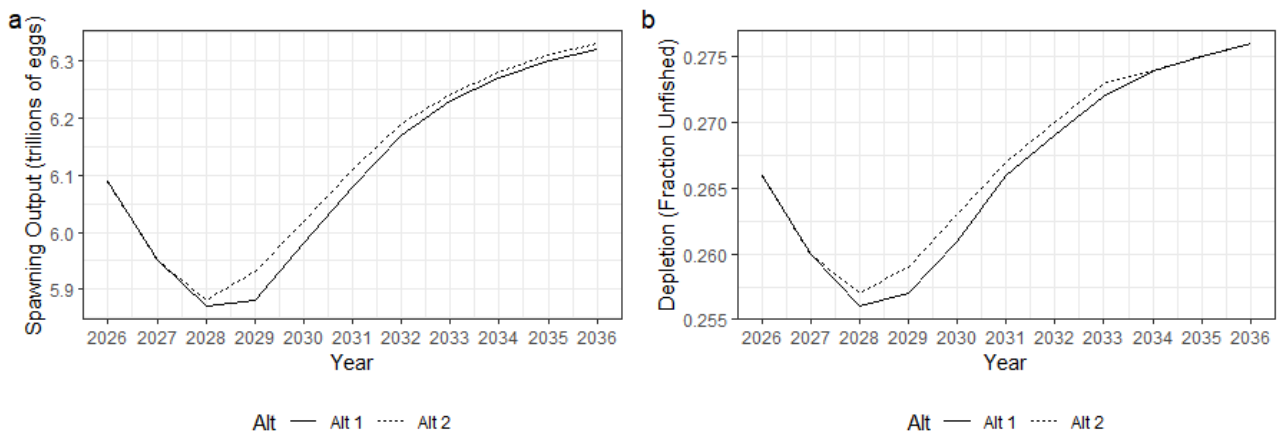


Figure 8. (a) Projected spawning output (trillions of eggs) of petrale sole under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 HCRs, 2026-36 (b.) Projected depletion (fraction unfished) of petrale sole under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, 2026-36.

1.1.4 Final Specifications

Table 6 shows the final preferred 2027-28 OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs for all managed stocks and stock complexes. OFL, ABC, ACLs for component stocks of complexes are not shown here, that information is available in [Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 1, April 2026](#)

Table 6. Final 2027-28 OFL, ABC, and ACLs for all managed stocks and stock complexes

Year	Stock	FMU	OFL (mt)	ABC (mt)	ACL (mt)
2027	Arrowtooth Flounder	CW	12,152	7,947	7,947
2028	Arrowtooth Flounder	CW	11,107	7,131	7,131

Year	Stock	FMU	OFL (mt)	ABC (mt)	ACL (mt)
2027	Big Skate	CW	1,398	1,155	1,155
2028	Big Skate	CW	1,372	1,122	1,122
2027	Black Rockfish	WA	260	240	240
2028	Black Rockfish	WA	261	241	241
2027	Black Rockfish	CA	281	260	249
2028	Black Rockfish	CA	293	270	261
2027	Bocaccio	S of 40° 10'	2,542	2,288	2,288
2028	Bocaccio	S of 40° 10'	2,438	2,185	2,185
2027	Cabazon	CA	165	150	150
2028	Cabazon	CA	161	146	146
2027	California Scorpionfish	CW	263	233	233
2028	California Scorpionfish	CW	261	229	229
2027	Canary Rockfish	CW	694	643	643
2028	Canary Rockfish	CW	720	664	664
2027	Chilipepper	S of 40° 10'	3,194	2,986	2,986
2028	Chilipepper	S of 40° 10'	3,086	2,870	2,870
2027	Cowcod	S of 40° 10'	111	74	74
2028	Cowcod	S of 40° 10'	111	73	73
2027	Darkblotched Rockfish	CW	859	773	773
2028	Darkblotched Rockfish	CW	842	754	754
2027	Dover Sole	CW	42,064	38,573	38,573
2028	Dover Sole	CW	39,010	35,616	35,616
2027	English Sole	CW	4,072	3,168	3,168
2028	English Sole	CW	4,072	3,168	3,168
2027	Lingcod	N of 40° 10'	4,140	3,482	3,482
2028	Lingcod	N of 40° 10'	4,128	3,439	3,439
2027	Lingcod	S of 40° 10'	966	812	789
2028	Lingcod	S of 40° 10'	984	820	796
2027	Longnose Skate	CW	1,872	1,546	1,546
2028	Longnose Skate	CW	1,852	1,515	1,515
2027	Longspine Thornyhead	CW	4,076	2,471	-
2028	Longspine Thornyhead	CW	4,008	2,413	-
2027	Longspine Thornyhead	S of 34° 27'	-	-	593
2028	Longspine Thornyhead	S of 34° 27'	-	-	579
2027	Longspine Thornyhead	N of 34° 27'	-	-	1,878
2028	Longspine Thornyhead	N of 34° 27'	-	-	1,834
2027	Pacific Cod	CW	3,200	1,926	1,600
2028	Pacific Cod	CW	3,200	1,926	1,600
2027	Pacific Ocean Perch	N of 40° 10'	3,856	3,123	3,123
2028	Pacific Ocean Perch	N of 40° 10'	3,781	3,036	3,036
2027	Pacific Spiny Dogfish	CW	1,810	1,278	1,278
2028	Pacific Spiny Dogfish	CW	1,790	1,240	1,240

Year	Stock	FMU	OFL (mt)	ABC (mt)	ACL (mt)
2027	Pacific Whiting ^a	CW	-	-	-
2028	Pacific Whiting ^a	CW	-	-	-
2027	Petrale Sole	CW	2,645	2,489	2,489
2028	Petrale Sole	CW	2,628	2,489	2,489
2027	Quillback Rockfish	CA	13	12	12
2028	Quillback Rockfish	CA	13	12	12
2027	Sablefish	CW	14,935	13,964	-
2028	Sablefish	CW	16,240	15,103	-
2027	Sablefish	N of 36°	-	-	10,962
2028	Sablefish	N of 36°	-	-	11,856
2027	Sablefish	S of 36°	-	-	3,002
2028	Sablefish	S of 36°	-	-	3,247
2027	Shortspine Thornyhead	CW	994	902	902
2028	Shortspine Thornyhead	CW	1,013	902	902
2027	Splitnose Rockfish	S of 40° 10'	796	620	620
2028	Splitnose Rockfish	S of 40° 10'	796	620	620
2027	Starry Flounder	CW	652	393	393
2028	Starry Flounder	CW	652	393	393
2027	Widow Rockfish	CW	6,239	6,238	6,238
2028	Widow Rockfish	CW	6,239	6,238	6,238
2027	Yelloweye Rockfish	CW	129	113	113
2028	Yelloweye Rockfish	CW	131	113	113
2027	Yellowtail Rockfish	N of 40° 10'	5,051	5,050	5,050
2028	Yellowtail Rockfish	N of 40° 10'	4,859	4,730	4,730
2027	Blue/Deacon/Black Rockfish	OR	495	448	448
2028	Blue/Deacon/Black Rockfish	OR	502	452	452
2028	Cabazon/Kelp Greenling	WA	19	14	14
2027	Cabazon/Kelp Greenling	OR	193	174	174
2028	Cabazon/Kelp Greenling	OR	193	173	173
2027	Nearshore Rockfish North	N of 40° 10'	104	85	85
2028	Nearshore Rockfish North	N of 40° 10'	103	83	83
2027	Nearshore Rockfish South	S of 40° 10'	1,145	929	928
2028	Nearshore Rockfish South	S of 40° 10'	1,145	925	924
2027	Other Fish	CW	286	223	223
2028	Other Fish	CW	286	223	223
2027	Other Flatfish	CW	9,367	6,577	6,577
2028	Other Flatfish	CW	8,950	6,193	6,193
2027	Shelf Rockfish North	N of 40° 10'	1,673	1,342	1,342
2028	Shelf Rockfish North	N of 40° 10'	1,665	1,333	1,333
2027	Shelf Rockfish South	S of 40° 10'	1,832	1,457	1,456
2028	Shelf Rockfish South	S of 40° 10'	1,831	1,453	1,453
2027	Slope Rockfish North	N of 40° 10'	1,966	1,623	1,090

Year	Stock	FMU	OFL (mt)	ABC (mt)	ACL (mt)
2028	Slope Rockfish North	N of 40° 10'	1,963	1,612	1,086
2027	Slope Rockfish South	S of 40° 10'	878	699	688
2028	Slope Rockfish South	S of 40° 10'	877	696	686

2. Management Measures: The Preferred Alternative

The Council adopted its final preferred alternatives (FPA) for the 2027-28 harvest specifications and management measure action at their June 2026 meeting. This action also included Amendment 38 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) which removed the rebuilding plans for California quillback rockfish and yelloweye rockfish, as these stocks are now rebuilt.

2.1 Management Measures

The Council adopted their preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) as the FPA for routine management measures in the 2027-28 groundfish fisheries as recommended by the Groundfish Management Team ([Agenda Item E.6.a Supplemental GMT Report 1, June 2026](#), and the GAP. ([Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, June 2026](#)). These measures are summarized below and follow the structure of the Action Item Checklist ([Agenda Item E.6 Attachment 1, June 2026](#)). The following summarizes the Council's FPA. The Council analytical document ([Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 2, June 2026](#)) details all the items summarized below. That reference is included as Appendix A and the range of alternative analysis is included as Appendix B to this document.

2.2 Action Item 2: Area Management Modifications

The Council's adopted the following area management modifications as FPA.

- 1) Remove the following Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas (YRCAs) from regulations: Stonewall Bank Expansions 1 and 2, Point St. George, South Reef, Reading Rock, Point Delgada (North), and Point Delgada (South) YRCAs.
- 2) Remove the 150 fm Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundary line around Lasuen Knoll and revise regulatory text in the Federal non-trawl trip limit tables to reflect the RCA boundary.
- 3) Modify the 20-fathom line in Washington Marine Area 4A currently in place June–July to exclude Duntze and Duncan Rocks from the depth-restricted area by changing the coordinates defining the 20 fathom line (50 CFR 660.71(b)) as follows:
 - (1) 48°25.00' N. lat., 124°44.06' W. long. (added)
 - (2) 48°25.00' N. lat., 120°45.22' W. long. (added)
 - ~~(1) 48°23.90' N. lat., 124°44.20' W. long. (removed)~~
 - (3) 48°23.60' N. lat., 124°44.90' W. long. (unchanged)

2.3 Action Item 3 and 4: Off-the-Top Deductions

The Council adopted a revised method to calculate amounts for research and incidental open access set-asides for 2027-28, as described in [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, June 2026](#), and [Agenda Item E.6.a Supplemental GMT Report 1, June 2026](#). In brief, The Council adopted a 5-year rolling median research mortality to calculate research set-asides and a 5-year rolling average to calculate mortality ([Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)). The off-the-top deductions for 2027-28 are shown in Table 7.

The Council adopted custom amounts for yelloweye rockfish (2.92 mt) and petrale sole (24.1 mt) research set-asides. The yelloweye rockfish research set-aside is designed to accommodate specific research projects that catch yelloweye rockfish. The petrale sole research set aside increased relative to the November 2025 ROA as new information was made available showing an increase to the estimated 2025 year-end research mortality (see [Agenda Item C.6.a, GMT Report 1, April 2026](#)).

There are no exempted fishing permit (EFP) set-asides requested for 2027-28. The Council adopted the resultant fishery harvest guidelines (HGs), which are the annual catch limit minus the set-asides (see Appendix 2 of [Agenda Item E.6.a Supplemental GMT Report 1, June 2026](#)) as shown in Table 7. The Council also adopted the Tribal set-asides as shown in [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 1, June 2026](#) as FPA.

Table 7. FPA. 2027-28 off-the-top deduction set-asides in for tribal, exempted fishing permits (EFP), research, incidental open access (IOA) in metric tons (mt).

Stock	FMU	Tribal (mt)	EFP (mt)	Research (mt)	IOA (mt)	Sum (mt)
QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	California	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	12.0	0.0	2.92	1.4	16.3
Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	2,041.0	0.0	8.0	18.9	2,067.9
Big skate	Coastwide	15.0	0.0	2.6	31.6	49.2
Black rockfish	Washington	18.0	0.0	0.6	0	18.6
Black rockfish	California	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3
Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.6	3.3
Cabazon	S of 42° N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0	0.6	0.6
California scorpionfish	California	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.7
Canary rockfish	Coastwide	35.0	0.0	4.4	2.1	41.5
Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	5.4	0.3	5.7
Cowcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5
Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	5.0	0.0	2.5	13.7	21.2
Dover sole	Coastwide	1,497.0	0.0	44.6	4.9	1,546.5
English sole	Coastwide	200.0	0.0	4.8	7.2	212.0
Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	250.0	0.0	6.7	12.1	268.8
Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.4	2.2
Longnose skate	Coastwide	220.0	0.0	12.3	10.2	242.5
Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	30.0	0.0	14.4	0	44.4
Longspine thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.2	1.0
Pacific cod	Coastwide	500.0	0.0	0.1	0	500.1
Pacific Ocean perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	130.0	0.0	3.8	2.0	135.8
Pacific spiny dogfish	Coastwide	275.0	0.0	8.0	4.9	287.9
Pacific whiting b/	Coastwide	-	0.0	750	750	1,500.0
Petrable sole	Coastwide	290.0	0.0	24.1	3.2	317.3
Sablefish	N of 36° N. lat.	See §2.8.1				
Sablefish	S of 36° N. lat.	See § 2.8.2				
Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	40.0	0.0	9.3	3.4	52.7
Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	4.1	0.0	4.1

Stock	FMU	Tribal (mt)	EFP (mt)	Research (mt)	IOA (mt)	Sum (mt)
Starry flounder	Coastwide	2.0	0.0	0.0	12.7	14.7
Widow rockfish	Coastwide	100.0	0.0	0.5	0.1	100.6
Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,000.0	0.0	4.9	2.0	1,006.9
Stock Complexes						
Nearshore rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.6	2.2
Nearshore rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.4	1.9
Shelf rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	30.0	0.0	8.9	9.7	48.6
Shelf rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	9.4	0.4	9.8
Slope rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	36.0	0.0	5.0	9.1	50.1
Slope rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.2	1.5
Other fish complex	Coastwide	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	4.0
Other flatfish complex	Coastwide	60.0	0.0	18.6	46.9	125.5
OR black/blue/deacon rockfish	Oregon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5
OR cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
WA cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0

b/Tribal amounts are based on the TAC, which is determined annually through the Treaty process and is thus not able to be provided for this table.

2.4 Action Item 5. Harvest Guidelines

Harvest guidelines are the ACL minus any off the top deductions. The ACL and HG are shown in Table 8

Table 8. FPA. 2027-28 annual catch limits (ACL) and fishery harvest guideline (HG) in metric tons (mt). ACL values rounded to nearest mt. HGs rounded to nearest tenth of a mt for improved accuracy.

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)	HG (mt)
2027	QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	California	12	12
2028	QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	California	12	12
2027	YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	113	96.7
2028	YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	113	96.7
2027	Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	7,947	5,879.5
2028	Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	7,131	5,062.8
2027	Big skate	Coastwide	1,155	1,105.8
2028	Big skate	Coastwide	1,122	1,072.8
2027	Black Rockfish	Washington	240	221.7
2028	Black Rockfish	Washington	241	222.3
2027	Black Rockfish	California	249	248.8
2028	Black Rockfish	California	261	260.7
2027	Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,288	2,284.9
2028	Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,185	2,182.1
2027	Cabezon	California	150	149.6
2028	Cabezon	California	146	145.4
2027	California Scorpionfish	California	233	232.5

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)	HG (mt)
2028	California Scorpionfish	California	229	228.6
2027	Canary Rockfish	Coastwide	643	601.5
2028	Canary Rockfish	Coastwide	664	622.5
2027	Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,986	2,980.6
2028	Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,870	2,864.1
2027	Cowcod	California	74	73.3
2028	Cowcod	California	73	72.0
2027	Darkblotched Rockfish	Coastwide	773	751.9
2028	Darkblotched Rockfish	Coastwide	754	733.2
2027	Dover Sole	Coastwide	38,573	37,026.2
2028	Dover Sole	Coastwide	35,616	34,069.6
2027	English Sole	Coastwide	3,168	2,956.0
2028	English Sole	Coastwide	3,168	2,956.0
2027	Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,482	3,212.9
2028	Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,439	3,170.1
2027	Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	789	786.8
2028	Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	796	793.8
2027	Longnose Skate	Coastwide	1,546	1,303.8
2028	Longnose Skate	Coastwide	1,515	1,272.4
2027	Longspine Thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,878	1,833.9
2028	Longspine Thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,834	1,789.3
2027	Longspine Thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	593	592.1
2028	Longspine Thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	579	578.1
2027	Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600	1,099.9
2028	Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600	1,099.9
2027	Pacific Ocean Perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,123	2,987.6
2028	Pacific Ocean Perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,036	2,900.3
2027	Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Coastwide	1,278	990.2
2028	Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Coastwide	1,240	952.5
2027	Pacific whiting a/	Coastwide	-	-
2028	Pacific whiting a/	Coastwide	-	-
2027	Petrale Sole	Coastwide	2,489	2,171.7
2028	Petrale Sole	Coastwide	2,489	2,171.7
	<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>N of 36° N. lat.</i>	See §1.8.1	
	<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>S of 36° N. lat.</i>	See §1.8.2	
2027	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	902	849.3
2028	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	902	849.3
2027	Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	620	615.9
2028	Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	620	615.9
2027	Starry flounder	Coastwide	393	377.8
2028	Starry flounder	Coastwide	393	377.8

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)	HG (mt)
2027	Widow rockfish	Coastwide	6,238	6,137
2028	Widow rockfish	Coastwide	6,238	6,137
2027	Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	5,050	4,043.1
2028	Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	4,730	3,723.1
Stock Complexes				
2027	Nearshore rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	85	82.3
2028	Nearshore rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	83	81.0
2027	Nearshore rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	928	925.6
2028	Nearshore rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	924	921.7
2027	Shelf rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,342	1,293.3
2028	Shelf rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,333	1,284.1
2027	Shelf rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,456	1,443.1
2028	Shelf rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,453	1,439.8
2027	Slope rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,090	1,039.4
2028	Slope rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,086	1,036.2
2027	Slope rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	688	686.8
2028	Slope rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	686	684
2027	Other fish	Coastwide	223	218.5
2028	Other fish	Coastwide	223	218.5
2027	Other flatfish	Coastwide	6,577	6,451.7
2028	Other flatfish	Coastwide	6,193	6,067.7
2027	Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	Oregon	448	447.5
2028	Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	Oregon	452	451.7
2027	OR cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	174	174
2028	OR cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	173	173
2027	WA cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	15	12.5
2028	WA cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	14	12.4

a/ Pacific whiting harvest limits are set through an annual bilateral treaty process external to the Council

2.5 Action Item 6: Annual Catch Target

The Council adopted the Alternative 1 recreational annual catch target (ACT) copper rockfish south of 34° 27' N. lat. and non-trawl ACT for shortspine thornyhead north of 34° 27' N. lat. (i.e., 25 percent of the non-trawl allocation) as FPA. The Council adopted Alternative 1 recreational ACTs for California quillback rockfish (statewide), vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat., and lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat. as FPA

2.5.1 Copper Rockfish ACT south of 34° 27' N. lat.

The copper rockfish south of 34°27' N. lat. ACT is equal to the “sub-ACL” produced by the 2023 copper rockfish stock assessment, which is proportional to the stock’s estimated biomass south of

34°27' N. lat (Table 9). For 2027, the estimated biomass south of 34°27' N. lat. is 20.1 mt and for 2028 it is 22.0 mt. (see Wetzel et al, 2023) ².

Table 9. FPA: Copper rockfish south of 34°27' N. lat. California recreational annual catch target (ACT) with respect to the overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catches (ABC) for the nearshore rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat. Values in metric tons (mt).

Nearshore Rockfish Complex S. of 40°10' N. lat.	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
ACL	928	924
HG	925.6	921.7
<i>Copper rockfish ACL Contribution</i>	127.8	129.1
ACT south of 34°27' N. lat.	20.1	22.0

2.5.2 Shortspine Thornyhead ACT

The non-trawl ACT for shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat. is 25 percent of the coastwide non-trawl allocation (Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2026), which equates to 61.6 mt for 2027 and 2028 (Table 10).

Table 10. FPA 2027-28 shortspine thornyhead annual catch target (ACT) for the non-trawl sector north of 34°27' N. lat. Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a metric ton (mt).

Shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat.	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
Coastwide non-trawl allocation	246.3	246.3
Non-trawl ACT north of 34°27' N. lat.	61.6	61.6

2.5.3 California Quillback Rockfish ACT

The California quillback rockfish recreational ACT (Table 11) is set at 7.1 mt (for both 2027 and 2028) using the historical informal sharing arrangement between the recreational and commercial sectors off California (see [Section 6.4 of Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 1, April 2026](#)).

Table 11. FPA: Recreational ACT for quillback rockfish off California for 2027-28.

Year	Fishery HG (mt)	Rec ACT (mt)
2027	11.6	7.1
2028	11.9	7.1

2.5.4 Vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. ACT

The vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat., the recreational ACT (Table 12). is the ACL contribution to the complex, minus the anticipated 100 mt of non-trawl commercial mortality (see [Section 6.4 of Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 1, April 2026](#))

² Wetzel, C.R., M.H. Monk, J. Coates. 2023. Status of copper rockfish (*Sebastes caurinus*) along the U.S. California coast south of Point Conception in 2023. Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland, Oregon. 323 p.

Table 12. FPA: Recreational ACT for Vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. based on the proposed vermilion/sunset rockfish ACL contribution to the shelf rockfish complex S. of 40°10' N. lat. minus 100 mt.

Year	ACL contribution	ACT (mt)
2027	268.0	168.0
2028	264.4	164.4

2.5.5 Lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat. ACT

The lingcod south of 40°10' N. lat. recreational ACT (Table 13) is the non-trawl HG minus the anticipated 2027-28 commercial non-trawl mortality, which is approximated based on the historic high in mortality from that sector (85 mt).

Table 13. FPA: Recreational Lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat. ACTs for 2027-28.

Year	Non-Trawl HG (mt)	Rec ACT (mt)
2027	472.1	387.1
2028	476.3	391.3

2.6 Action Item 7: Allocations

The Council adopted the Alternative 1 two-year trawl and non-trawl allocations for all allocated stocks and stock complexes except for slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat (Table 14).

For the slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat, the Council considered four allocation options and ultimately adopted Option 4 as FPA. Option 4 adjusts the allocation by using five-year average of mortality to calculate blackgill rockfish and “other slope rockfish” (i.e., all other slope rockfish species excluding blackgill rockfish) share proportions (see [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, June 2026](#) and [Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 2, June 2026](#) for detail).

Table 14.FPA, 2027-28 trawl/non-trawl allocations

Year	Stock/Stock Complex	Management Area	Fishery HG (mt)	Allocation Type	Trawl		Non-Trawl	
					%	mt	%	mt
2027	YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	96.6	Biennial	8	7.7	92	88.9
2028	YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	96.6	Biennial	8	7.7	92	88.9
2027	Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	5,879.5	A-21	95	5,585.5	5	294.0
2028	Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	5,062.8	A-21	95	4,809.7	5	253.1
2027	Big skate	Coastwide	1,105.8	Biennial	95	1,050.5	5	55.3
2028	Big skate	Coastwide	1,072.8	Biennial	95	1,019.2	5	53.6
2027	Bocaccio	south of 40°10' N. lat.	2,284.9	Biennial	39	891.9	60	1,393.8
2028	Bocaccio	south of 40°10' N. lat.	2,182.1	Biennial	39	851.0	60	1,331.1
2027	Canary rockfish	Coastwide	601.5	Biennial	72.3	434.9	27.7	166.6
2028	Canary rockfish	Coastwide	622.5	Biennial	72.3	450.1	27.7	172.4
2027	Chilipepper	south of 40°10' N. lat.	2,980.6	A-21	75	2,235.5	25	745.2
2028	Chilipepper	south of 40°10' N. lat.	2,864.1	A-21	75	2,148.1	25	716.0
2027	Cowcod	south of 40°10' N. lat.	73.3	Biennial	36	26.4	64	46.9

Year	Stock/Stock Complex	Management Area	Fishery HG (mt)	Allocation Type	Trawl		Non-Trawl	
					%	mt	%	mt
2028	Cowcod	south of 40°10' N. lat.	72.0	Biennial	36	25.9	64	46.1
2027	Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	751.9	A-21	95	714.3	5	37.6
2028	Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	733.2	A-21	95	696.6	5	36.7
2027	Dover sole	Coastwide	37,026.2	A-21	95	35,174.9	5	1,851.3
2028	Dover sole	Coastwide	34,069.6	A-21	95	32,366.1	5	1,703.5
2027	English sole	Coastwide	2,956.0	A-21	95	2,808.2	5	147.8
2028	English sole	Coastwide	2,956.0	A-21	95	2,808.2	5	147.8
2027	Lingcod	north of 40°10' N. lat.	3,212.9	A-21	45	1,445.8	55	1,767.1
2028	Lingcod	north of 40°10' N. lat.	3,170.1	A-21	45	1,426.6	55	1,743.6
2027	Lingcod	south of 40°10' N. lat.	786.8	Biennial	40	314.7	60	472.1
2028	Lingcod	south of 40°10' N. lat.	793.8	Biennial	40	317.5	60	476.3
2027	Longnose skate	Coastwide	1,303.8	Biennial	90	1,173.4	10	130.4
2028	Longnose skate	Coastwide	1,272.4	Biennial	90	1,145.2	10	127.2
2027	Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,833.9	A-21	95	1,742.2	5	91.7
2028	Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,789.3	A-21	95	1,699.9	5	89.5
2027	Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,099.9	A-21	95	1,044.9	5	55.0
2028	Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,099.9	A-21	95	1,044.9	5	55.0
2027	Pacific Ocean perch	north of 40°10' N. lat.	2,987.6	A-21	95	2,838.2	5	149.4
2028	Pacific Ocean perch	north of 40°10' N. lat.	2,900.3	A-21	95	2,755.3	5	145.0
2027	Pacific whiting a/	Coastwide	-	A-21	100	-	0	-
2028	Pacific whiting a/	Coastwide	-	A-21	100	-	0	-
2027	Petrable sole b/	Coastwide	2,171.7	Biennial	-	2,141.7	-	30
2028	Petrable sole b/	Coastwide	2,171.7	Biennial	-	2,141.7	-	30
	<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>north of 36° N. lat.</i>	See §9.1.2					
	<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>south of 36° N. lat.</i>	See § 9.3.2					
2027	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	849.3	Biennial	71	603.0	29	246.3
2028	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	849.3	Biennial	71	603.0	29	246.3
2027	Splitnose rockfish	south of 40°10' N. lat.	615.9	A-21	95	585.1	5	30.8
2028	Splitnose rockfish	south of 40°10' N. lat.	615.9	A-21	95	585.1	5	30.8
2027	Starry flounder	Coastwide	377.8	A-21	50	188.9	50	188.9
2028	Starry flounder	Coastwide	377.8	A-21	50	188.9	50	188.9
2027	Widow rockfish c/	Coastwide	6,238	Biennial	-	5,938	-	300.0
2028	Widow rockfish c/	Coastwide	6,238	Biennial	-	5,938	-	300.0
2027	Yellowtail rockfish	north of 40°10' N. lat.	4,043.1	A-21	88	3,557.9	12	485.2
2028	Yellowtail rockfish	north of 40°10' N. lat.	3,723.1	A-21	88	3,276.3	12	446.8
Stock Complexes								
2027	Shelf rockfish north	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,293.3	Biennial	60.2	778.6	39.8	514.7
2028	Shelf rockfish north	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,284.1	Biennial	60.2	773.0	39.8	511.1
2027	Shelf rockfish south	south of 40°10' N. lat.	1,443.1	Biennial	12.2	176.1	87.8	1,267.0
2028	Shelf rockfish south	south of 40°10' N. lat.	1,439.8	Biennial	12.2	174.3	87.8	1,265.5

Year	Stock/Stock Complex	Management Area	Fishery HG (mt)	Allocation Type	Trawl		Non-Trawl	
					%	mt	%	mt
2027	Slope rockfish north	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,039.4	A-21	81	841.9	19	197.5
2028	Slope rockfish north	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,036.2	A-21	81	839.3	19	196.9
2027	Slope rockfish south d//	south of 40°10' N. lat.	686.8	Biennial	-	360.8	-	326.0
2028	Slope rockfish south d/	south of 40°10' N. lat.	684.0	Biennial	-	359.5	-	324.5
2027	Other flatfish	Coastwide	6,451.7	A-21	90	5,806.5	10	645.2
2028	Other flatfish	Coastwide	6,067.7	A-21	90	5,460.9	10	606.8

a/ The Pacific whiting ACL is set annually through a process external to the Council

b/ Petrale sole is a custom allocation, 30 mt to non-trawl remainder to trawl

c/ Widow rockfish is a custom allocation, 300 mt to non-trawl remainder to trawl

d/ Slope Rockfish Complex south of 34°27' N. lat is a custom allocation, refer to Attachment 2 for detail

2.7 Action Item 8: Further Allocations

2.7.1 Cowcod South of 40° 10' N. lat. Non-trawl Sharing Agreement

The Council adopted, as FPA, the Alternative 1 sharing agreement of 50 percent of the non-trawl HG to the commercial non-trawl sector and 50 percent of the non-trawl HG to the recreational sector for cowcod south of 40° 10' N. lat. (Table 15).

Table 15. FPA: 2027-28 cowcod south of 40°10' N. lat. within non-trawl harvest guideline (HG), and within non-trawl sector allocations in metric tons (mt) to the commercial and recreational fisheries using the status quo sharing agreement percentages (%). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Sector	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
Non-Trawl HG (64%)	46.9	46.1
<i>Commercial (50%)</i>	23.5	23.1
<i>Recreational (50%)</i>	23.5	23.1

2.7.2 Bocaccio South of 40° 10' N. lat. Non-trawl Sharing Agreement

The Council adopted, as FPA, the Alternative 1 sharing agreement of 69.1 percent of the non-trawl HG to the commercial non-trawl sector and 30.9 percent of the non-trawl HG to the recreational sector (Table 16)

Table 16. FPA: 2027-28 bocaccio south of 40° 10' N. lat. within non-trawl harvest guideline (HG) in metric tons (mt) for the commercial non-trawl and recreational sectors south of 40°10' N. lat. using the status quo sharing agreement percentages (%). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Sector	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
Non-trawl HG	1,393.8	1,331.1
<i>Commercial (30.9%)</i>	430.7	411.3
<i>Recreational (69.1%)</i>	963.1	919.8

2.8 Action Item 9: Sablefish

Sablefish is managed north and south of 36° N. lat. The dispersal of the harvest specifications for this stock is presented here for clarity due to the importance of this stock and the complexity of its allocation structure

2.8.1 Sablefish North of 36° N. lat.

The Council adopted Alternative 1 off-the-top deductions and LE/OA shares for sablefish north of 36° N. lat as FPA, with the exception of recommending an increase to the recreational set-aside, from 30mt to 50mt (Table 17).

Table 17. FPA. 2027-28 sablefish north of 36° N. lat. annual catch limit (ACL); status quo tribal, exempted fishing permits (EFP), and research set-aside values; recreational (Rec) set-aside value; and the resulting non-tribal commercial harvest guideline in metric tons (mt).

Year	ACL (mt)	Tribal (mt)	EFP (mt)	Research (mt)	Rec. (mt)	Set-Aside Sum (mt)	Non-Tribal Commercial HG (mt)
2027	10,962	1,096	0.0	40.7	50	90.7	9,774.8
2028	11,856	1,186	0.0	40.7	50	90.7	10,578.6

Table 18 shows the allocations of the Alternative 1 non-tribal commercial HG to the limited entry (LE) fisheries (trawl and non-trawl) and the open access (OA) fishery allocations for the non-tribal commercial sablefish north of 36° N. lat.

Table 18. FPA: 2027-28 non-tribal sablefish north of 36° N. lat. commercial harvest shares guidelines (HG) and limited entry (LE) fisheries– LE trawl and LE fixed gear (LEFG) – primary tier, LEFG trip limit, and open access (OA) fishery allocations as percentages (%) and metric tons (mt). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

	Percent	2027 Allocation (mt)	2028 Allocation (mt)
Non-Tribal Commercial HG	-	9,774.8	10,578.6
LE Share	90.6%	8,856	9,584.2
LE Trawl a/	58%	5,136.5	5,558.8
At-Sea Set-aside	-	305	305
SB IFQ	-	4,831.5	5,253.8
LEFG	42%	3,719.5	4,025.4
Primary Share	85%	3,161.6	3,421.6
LEFG Daily Trip limit Share	15%	557.9	603.8
OA Share	9.4%	918.8	994.4

Table 19 shows the tier amounts for 2027-28 under the FPA.

Table 19. FPA: Draft 2027-28 Tier amounts in whole pounds (lbs).

	2027 (lbs)	2028 (lbs)
Tier 1	93,770	101,480
Tier 2	42,623	46,128
Tier 3	24,356	26,359

2.8.2 Sablefish South of 36° N. lat.

The Council adopted Alternative 1 off-the-top deductions and LE/OA shares for sablefish south of 36° N. lat as FPA (Table 20)

Table 20. FPA: 2027-28 sablefish south of 36° N. lat. annual catch limit (ACL) and estimated exempted fishing permits (EFP), research, incidental open access (IOA) set-aside values, and the resulting fishery harvest guideline in metric tons (mt).

Year	ACL	EFP	Research	IOA	Sum	Fishery HG
2027	3,002	0.0	1.5	10.5	12.0	2,990.3
2028	3,247	0.0	1.5	10.5	12.0	3,235.2

Table 21 shows the draft 2027-28 sablefish south of 36° N. lat. commercial allocations between trawl and non-trawl under Alternative 1.

Table 21. FPA: 2027-28 sablefish south of 36° N. lat. commercial harvest shares guidelines (HG) and limited entry (LE) fisheries– trawl, LE fixed gear (LEFG)– and open access (OA) fishery allocations as percentages (%) and metric tons (mt). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

	Percent	2027 Allocation (mt)	2028 Allocation (mt)
Fishery HG	-	2,990.3	3,235.2
Trawl	42%	1,255.9	1,358.8
Non Trawl	58%	1,734.4	1,876.4
Rec set-aside	-	10	10
Non-Trawl HG	-	1,724.4	1,866.4
LEFG Share	70%	1,207.1	1,306.5
OA Share	30%	517.3	559.9

2.9 Action Item 10: Yelloweye Rockfish

The Council adopted the Alternative 1 trawl/non-trawl allocation structure for yelloweye rockfish shown in Table 22. The biennial allocation structure is 92 percent non-trawl and 8 percent trawl. The non-trawl sector, including commercial and recreational fisheries, are subject to ACTs of 78.4 percent of the HG. Additionally, the non-trawl HG is divided between the commercial non-trawl and state-specific recreational sectors through a percentage-based informal sharing arrangement. The commercial non-trawl sector is allocated 29 percent of the total non-trawl HG and the Washington, Oregon, and California recreational sectors are allocated 25.6 percent, 23.3 percent, and 30.2 percent of the non-trawl HG, respectively. The HG for these fisheries are also subject to the 78.4 percent ACT.

Table 22. FPA: 2027-28 status quo yelloweye rockfish calculated annual catch limit (ACL), trawl and non-trawl allocations under status quo biennial allocation methodology, harvest guideline (HG), and annual catch target (ACT), including the within non-trawl HGs and ACTs, in metric tons (mt). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Year	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
ACL	113.0	113.0
Off-the-Top Deduction	16.3	16.3

Year	2027 (mt)		2028 (mt)	
Fishery HG	96.7		96.7	
Trawl (8%)	7.7		7.7	
At-Sea	-		-	
IFQ	7.7		7.7	
	HG	ACT	HG	ACT
Non-trawl (92%)	89.0	69.7	89.0	69.7
Commercial (20.9%)	18.6	14.6	18.6	14.6
WA Rec (25.6%)	22.8	17.9	22.8	17.9
OR Rec (23.3%)	20.7	16.3	20.7	16.3
CA Rec (30.2%)	26.9	21.1	26.9	21.1

2.10 Action Item 11: Canary Rockfish

The Council adopted the Alternative 1 trawl/non-trawl allocation structure for canary rockfish shown in Table 23 as FPA. Canary rockfish is a biennial allocation, with 72.3 percent of the HG allocated to trawl and 27.7 percent of the HG allocated to non-trawl. The non-trawl HG is divided between the commercial non-trawl and state-specific recreational sectors through a percentage-based informal sharing agreement. The non-trawl sharing agreement is 36 percent commercial, 12.3 percent Washington recreational, 18.5 percent Oregon recreational, and 33.2 percent California recreational.

Table 23. FPA: 2027-28 canary rockfish within non-trawl sector commercial non-trawl and recreational status quo share percentages in metric tons (mt). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Sector	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
Non-Trawl allocation	166.6	172.4
<i>Commercial (36%)</i>	60.0	62.1
<i>WA Recreational (12.3%)</i>	20.5	21.2
<i>OR Recreational (18.5%)</i>	30.8	31.9
<i>CA Recreational (33.2%)</i>	55.3	57.2

2.11 Action Item 12-13: Trawl Individual Fishing Quota and Pacific Whiting At-Sea Fisheries

2.11.1 At-sea Set-asides

The Council adopted Alternative 1 at-sea whiting set-asides FPA (Table 24). The change from the 20252-26 biennium are:

- Removal of Dover sole, lingcod north of 40°10' N lat., longnose skate, and petrale sole set-asides;
- Increases to canary rockfish set-asides; and
- Reductions to sablefish north of 36° N. lat., widow rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, and yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat. set-asides

Table 24. FPA. At-sea set-aside (mt) for the 2027-28 biennium by stock or stock complex.

Stock/Stock Complex	At-Sea Set-Aside (mt)
Arrowtooth flounder	100
Canary rockfish	21.9
Darkblotched rockfish	100
Other flatfish	100
Pacific halibut	10
Pacific ocean perch	300
Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.	305
Shelf rockfish complex north of 40° 10' N. lat.	35
Slope rockfish complex north of 40° 10' N. lat.	300
Shortspine thornyhead	76.3
Widow rockfish	300
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.	320

2.11.2 IFQ Allocation Projections

The shorebased IFQ allocations as FPA for 2027-28 are shown in Table 25 and Table 26.

Table 25. FPA. 2027 IFQ allocations along with projected catch and projected attainment. Allocations are rounded to the nearest whole number, except for yelloweye rockfish for which the allocation is rounded to the nearest tenth. Projected catches are rounded to the nearest tenth, and projected attainments are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Stock or Stock Complex	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Projected Attainment (%)
Arrowtooth flounder	5,486	980.9	18%
Bocaccio rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat	891	417.5	47%
Canary rockfish	413	242.9	59%
Chilipepper rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat	2,235	932.4	42%
Cowcod south of 40°10' N. lat	26	5.6	22%
Darkblotched rockfish	614	189.5	31%
Dover sole	35,175	3,352.3	10%
English sole	2,808	150.6	5%
Lingcod north of 40°10' N. lat	1,446	367.8	25%
Lingcod south of 40°10' N. lat	315	61.3	19%
Longspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat	1,742	23.6	1%
Minor shelf rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat	744	282.2	38%
Minor shelf rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat	176	55.2	31%
Minor slope rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat	542	161.0	30%
Minor slope rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat	397	51.8	13%
Other flatfish	5,707	325.6	6%
Pacific cod	1,045	4.1	<1%
Pacific halibut (IBQ) north of 40°10' N. lat	91	10.7	12%
Pacific ocean perch north of 40°10' N. lat	2,538	273.2	11%

Stock or Stock Complex	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Projected Attainment (%)
Pacific whiting	119,603	108,038.3	90%
Petrale sole	2,142	2,148.4	100%
Sablefish north of 36° N. lat	4,832	2,818.8	58%
Sablefish south of 36° N. lat	1,256	73.8	6%
Shortspine thornyhead	527	265.4	50%
Splitnose rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat	585	14.5	2%
Starry flounder	189	0.3	<1%
Widow rockfish	6,019	6,074	101%
Yelloweye rockfish	7.7	1.8	23%
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat	3,238	1,711.5	53%

Table 26. FPA. 2028 IFQ allocations along with projected catch and projected attainment. Allocations are rounded to the nearest whole number, except for yelloweye rockfish for which the allocation is rounded to the nearest tenth. Projected catches are rounded to the nearest tenth, and projected attainments are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Stock or Stock Complex	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Projected Attainment (%)
Arrowtooth flounder	4,710	918.5	20%
Bocaccio rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat	851	412.2	48%
Canary rockfish	428	247.7	58%
Chilipepper rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat	2,148	930.4	43%
Cowcod south of 40°10' N. lat	26	5.5	21%
Darkblotched rockfish	597	188.8	32%
Dover sole	32,366	3,234.0	10%
English sole	2,808	150.6	5%
Lingcod north of 40°10' N. lat	1,427	363.4	25%
Lingcod south of 40°10' N. lat	318	61.6	19%
Longspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat	1,700	23.6	1%
Minor shelf rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat	738	280.6	38%
Minor shelf rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat	176	55.1	31%
Minor slope rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat	539	160.8	30%
Minor slope rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat	395	51.6	13%
Other flatfish	5,361	321.5	6%
Pacific cod	1,045	4.1	<1%
Pacific halibut (IBQ) north of 40°10' N. lat	91	10.8	12%
Pacific ocean perch north of 40°10' N. lat	2,455	269.7	11%
Pacific whiting	119,603	108,038.3	90%
Petrale sole	2,142	2,148.4	100%
Sablefish north of 36° N. lat	5,254	3,016.8	57%
Sablefish south of 36° N. lat	1,359	79.8	6%
Shortspine thornyhead	527	265.4	50%

Stock or Stock Complex	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Projected Attainment (%)
Splitnose rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat	585	14.5	2%
Starry flounder	189	0.3	<1%
Widow rockfish	6,019	6,074	101%
Yelloweye rockfish	7.7	1.8	23%
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat	2,956	1,663.3	56%

2.11.3 IFQ Trip Limits

The Council adopted Alternative 1 trip limits for IFQ fisheries (Table 27) as FPA.

Table 27. FPA. Trip limits for non-IFQ species.

Species, Species Group, or Stock Complex	Trip Limit
Big skate	Unlimited
Cabazon (California)	50 lb./month
Cabazon/kelp greenling (Oregon)	50 lb./month
California scorpionfish	Unlimited
Longnose skate	Unlimited
Nearshore rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat., Washington black rockfish, and black/blue/deacon rockfish (Oregon)	300 lb./month
Other fish	Unlimited
Pacific spiny dogfish	60,000 lb./month

2.12 Action Item 14-17: Commercial Non-Trawl

The Council adopted a suite of limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) fixed gear trip limit modifications. The 2027-28 trip limits for all stocks and stock complexes trip limits are shown for LE in Table 28 and Table 29 and for OA in Table 30 and Table 31 below. The change in trips limit amounts are shown in Appendix 3 of [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, June 2026](#)

Table 28. FPA Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 40°10' N. lat. Table 2b (North) to Part 660, Subpart E—Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 40°10' N Lat.

Species	Trip Limit
Big skate	Unlimited.
Black rockfish (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	8,000 lb/2 months.
Cabazon (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	Unlimited.
Cabazon/kelp greenling complex (Oregon)	Unlimited.
Canary rockfish	4,000 lb/2 months.
Flatfish (includes dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder)	20,000 lb/2 months.
Lingcod (north of 42°00' N lat.)	11,000 lb/2 months.
Lingcod (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	2,000 lb/2 months.
Longnose skate	Unlimited.
Longspine thornyheads	10,000 lb/2 months.

Species	Trip Limit
Nearshore rockfish complex, Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish, & Washington black rockfish (north of 42°00' N lat.)	5,000 lb/2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue/deacon rockfish. See § 660.230(e) for additional trip limits for Washington black rockfish.
Nearshore rockfish complex (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months.
Other fish	Unlimited.
Other flatfish complex	20,000 lb/2 months.
Pacific cod	1,000 lb/2 months.
Pacific ocean perch	3,600 lb/2 months.
Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Periods 1-2: 200,000 lb/2 months.
	Period 3: 150,000 lb/2 months.
	Periods 4-6: 100,000 lb/2 months.
Pacific whiting	10,000 lb per trip.
Quillback rockfish (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	300 lb/ 2 months.
Sablefish	5,500 lb/week not to exceed 11,000 lb/2 months.
Shelf rockfish complex	8,000 lbs./2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish
Shortspine thornyhead	3,000 lb/2 months.
Slope rockfish complex & darkblotched rockfish	8,000 lb/2 months.
Widow rockfish	12,000 lb/2 months.
Yelloweye rockfish	75 lb/2 months.
Yellowtail rockfish	7,000 lb/2 months.

Table 29. FPA Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 40°10' N. lat. Table 2b (South) to Part 660, Subpart E—Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 40°10' N. lat.

Species	Trip Limit
Big skate	Unlimited.
Bocaccio	8,000 lb/2 months.
Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED.
Cabazon	Unlimited.
California scorpionfish	3,500 lb/2 months.
Canary rockfish	4,000 lb/2 months.
Chilipepper	15,000 lb/2 months.
Cowcod	75 lb/2 months.
Flatfish (includes dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder)	20,000 lb/2 months.
Lingcod	1,600 lb/2 months.
Longnose skate	Unlimited.
Longspine thornyhead	10,000 lb/2 months.
Nearshore rockfish complexes	
Shallow nearshore rockfish	3,000 lb/2 months.

Species	Trip Limit
(south of 40°10' N lat.)	
Deeper nearshore rockfish complex (40°10' N lat.- 34° 27' N lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months.
Deeper nearshore rockfish complex (south of 34° 27' N lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 75 lb may be copper rockfish.
Other fish	Unlimited.
Other flatfish complex	20,000 lb/2 months.
Pacific cod	1,000 lb/2 months.
Pacific spiny dogfish	Periods 1-2: 200,000 lb/2 months
	Period 3: 150,000 lb/2 months
	Periods 4-6: 100,000 lb/2 months.
Pacific whiting	10,000 lb per trip.
Quillback rockfish	300 lb/ 2 months.
Sablefish (40°10' N lat.-36° N lat.)	5,500 lb/week not to exceed 11,000 lb/2 months.
Sablefish (south of 36° N lat.)	3,000 lb/week.
Shelf rockfish complex (40°10' N lat.-34° 27' N lat.); excludes bronzespotted rockfish	8,000 lb per 2 months, of which no more than 500 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish.
Shelf rockfish complex (south of 34° 27' N lat.); excludes bronzespotted rockfish	5,000 lb per 2 months, of which no more than 3,000 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish.
Shortspine thornyhead (40° 10' N. lat lat.-34° 27' N. lat lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months.
Shortspine thornyhead (south of 34°27' N lat.)	5,000 lb/2 months.
Slope rockfish complex & darkblotched rockfish	40,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 6,000 lb may be blackgill rockfish.
Splitnose rockfish	40,000 lb/2 months.
Widow rockfish	24,000 lb/2 months.
Yelloweye rockfish	75 lb/2 months.

**Table 30. FPA Trip Limits for Open Access North of 40°10' N. lat .Table 3b (North) to Part 660, Subpart F—
Trip Limits for Open Access North of 40°10' N. lat.**

Species	Trip Limit
Big skate	Unlimited.
Black rockfish (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	8,000 lb/2 months.
Cabezon (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	Unlimited.
Cabezon/kelp greenling complex (Oregon)	Unlimited.
Canary rockfish	2,000 lb/2 months.
Flatfish (includes dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder)	10,000 lb/2 months.
Lingcod (north of 42°00' N. lat lat.)	9,000 lb/2 months.
Lingcod (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	2,000 lb/2 months.
Longnose skate	Unlimited.
Longspine thornyheads	100 lb/2 months.

Species	Trip Limit
Nearshore rockfish complex, Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish, & Washington black rockfish (north of 42°00' N. lat lat.)	5,000 lb/2 months no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue/deacon rockfish. See § 660.330(e) for additional trip limits for Washington black rockfish.
Nearshore rockfish complex (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months.
Other fish	Unlimited.
Other flatfish complex	10,000 lb/2 months.
Pacific cod	1,000 lb/2 months.
Pacific ocean perch	200 lb/2 months.
Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Periods 1-2: 200,000 lb/2 months.
	Period 3: 150,000 lb/2 months.
	Periods 4-6: 100,000 lb/2 months.
Pacific whiting	600 lb/2 months.
Quillback rockfish (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	300 lb/ 2 months.
Sablefish	4,000 lb/week not to exceed 8,000 lb/2 months.
Shelf rockfish complex	6,400 lbs./2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish
Shortspine thornyhead	100 lb/2 months.
Slope rockfish complex & darkblotched rockfish	4,000 lb/2 months.
Widow rockfish	8,000 lb/2 months.
Yelloweye rockfish	50 lb/2 months.
Yellowtail rockfish	5,000 lb/2 months.
Salmon Troll	See § 660.334(b)(1).
Pink Shrimp non-groundfish trawl	See § 660.333(g) and (h).

Table 31. FPA Trip Limits for Open Access South of 40°10' N. lat. Table 3b (South) to Part 660, Subpart F—Trip Limits for Open Access South of 40°10' N. lat.

Species	Trip Limit
Big skate	Unlimited.
Bocaccio	6,000 lb/2 months.
Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED.
Cabazon	Unlimited.
California scorpionfish	3,500 lb/2 months.
Canary rockfish	2,000 lb/2 months.
Chilipepper	9,000 lb/2 months.
Cowcod	50 lb/2 months.
Flatfish (includes Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder)	10,000 lb/2 months.
Lingcod (south of 40°10' N lat.)	1,400 lb/2 months.
Longnose skate	Unlimited.
Longspine thornyhead (40° 10' to 34° 27' N lat.)	100 lb/2 months.

Species	Trip Limit
Nearshore rockfish complexes:	
Shallow nearshore rockfish (south of 40°10' N lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months.
Deeper nearshore rockfish complex (40°10' N lat.- 34° 27' N lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months.
Deeper nearshore rockfish complex (south of 34° 27' N lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 75 lb may be copper rockfish.
Other fish (defined at § 660.11)	Unlimited.
Other flatfish complex (defined at § 660.11)	10,000 lb/2 months.
Pacific cod	1,000 lb/2 months.
Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Periods 1-2: 200,000 lb/2 months.
	Period 3: 150,000 lb/2 months.
	Periods 4-6: 100,000 lb/2 months.
Pacific whiting	600 lb/2 months.
Quillback rockfish	300 lb/ 2 months.
Sablefish (40°10' N lat.-36° N lat.)	4,000 lb/week not to exceed 8,000 lb/2 months.
Sablefish (south of 36° N lat.)	2,500 lb/week not to exceed 7,500 lb/2 months.
Shelf rockfish complex (40°10' N lat.-34°27' N lat.); excludes bronzespotted rockfish	4,000 lb per 2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish.
Shelf rockfish complex (south of 34° 27' N lat.); excludes bronzespotted rockfish	3,000 lb per 2 months, of which no more than 900 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish.
Shortspine thornyhead (40° 10' N. lat lat.-34° 27' N. lat lat.)	100 lb/2 months.
Shortspine thornyhead and longspine thornyhead (south of 34° 27' N. lat lat.)	100 lb/day, no more than 1,000 lb/2 months for all periods.
Slope rockfish complex & darkblotched rockfish	10,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 2,500 lb may be blackgill rockfish.
Splitnose rockfish	400 lb/2 months.
Widow rockfish	16,000 lb/2 months.
Yelloweye rockfish	50 lb/2 months.
Salmon Troll	See § 660.334(b)(2).
Ridgeback Prawn, California halibut, and sea cucumber	See § 660.333(e) and (f).

2.13 Recreational Fishery

2.13.1 Action Item 18: Washington

The Council adopted the Alternative 1 as FPA for the Washington recreational groundfish management measures as recommended by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW, [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 1, June 2026](#). The fishery season structure and bag limits are shown in Table 32 and Table 33. As discussed [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 1, June 2026](#) and [Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 2, April 2026](#) in primary driver of the Washington recreational groundfish fishery management will be the state specific HGs for canary rockfish. The WDFW recreational groundfish management measures include a sub-bag limit for yelloweye rockfish, which is detailed in [Agenda](#)

[Item E.6.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 1, June 2026](#). The inclusion of a sub-bag limit is a significant change as it is the first time in over twenty years that this species can be retained. .

The Council recommended changes to depth restrictions as described below (detailed in [Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 2, April 2026](#)).

- North Coast (Marine Area 4) 1. Modify the 20-fathom line depth restriction currently in place June–July to exclude Duntze and Duncan Rocks from the depth-restricted area by changing the coordinates defining the 20 fathom line (see Section 1.2 above) 1.
- Modify the deepwater lingcod restriction in Marine Area 1, so that the closure in both Marine Areas 1 and 2 would be described by a line extending from 47°31.70' N. lat., 124°45.00' W. long to 46° 33.00' N. lat., 124° 28.55' W. long. 2.
- Modify the open dates for deepwater lingcod from September 1–30 to September 1–15.

Table 32. Washington recreational seasons and groundfish retention restrictions. hd = halibut days.

Management Area	Depth/Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
North Coast (MA3 & MA4A)	<= 20 fm	closed		open		open except group c			open		closed		
	> 20 fm	closed		open			group a only and only on hd	group a only on hd and group b	open		closed		
South Coast (MA2)	all depths	closed		open		open except group c			open		closed		
	30 - 50 fm: lingcod	closed		open		lingcod closed except hd	open				closed		
	deepwater: lincod	closed		lingcod closed except hd			lingcod open	lingcod closed except hd		lingcod open	lingcod closed except hd	closed	
Columbia River (MA1)	all depths	closed		open*		open* except group c			open*		closed		
	deepwater: lingcod	closed		lingcod closed			lingcod open	lingcod closed		lingcod open	lingcod closed	closed	

- * during the all-depth halibut fishery, cannot retain bottomfish if halibut on board, except: sablefish, Pacific cod, flatfish species, yellowtail rockfish, widow rockfish, canary rockfish, redstripe rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, silvergray rockfish, chilipepper, bocaccio, blue/dacon rockfish, and lingcod caught north of the Washington-Oregon border (46°16.00' N lat.)

- group a: lingcod, Pacific cod, sablefish, bocaccio, silvergray, canary, widow and yellowtail

- group b: yellowtail and widow

- group c: copper, quillback, vermilion

Table 33. Washington recreational daily bag limits

Groundfish	9-fish per angler, no size limit
<i>Rockfish</i>	7-fish sub-bag limit
<i>Canary rockfish</i>	5-fish sub-bag limit (within rockfish) May -September
<i>Lingcod</i>	2-fish sub-bag limit
<i>Cabezon</i>	1-fish sub-bag limit
<i>Yelloweye rockfish</i>	1 fish, (within rockfish) May -September
Flatfish (not including halibut)	5-fish per day

2.14 Action Item 19: Oregon

The Council adopted the Alternative 1 as FPA for the Oregon recreational groundfish as recommended by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental ODFW Report 1, June 2026](#). ODFW's 2027-28 recreational management measures (Table 34), include a sub-bag limit of five canary rockfish and one yelloweye rockfish. The inclusion of a sub-bag limit is a significant change as it is the first time in over twenty years that this species can be retained. Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish and nearshore rockfish will be the constraining species that drive the Oregon recreational fishery in terms of the season structure and bag limits.

Table 34. FPA. Oregon recreational groundfish season structure and bag limits.

2027-28	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Groundfish Season	Open all depths											
Marine Bag Limit ^{a/}	Ten (10)											
--Yelloweye Rockfish	Sub-bag limit of one (1)											
Long-leader Bag Limit ^{b/}	Ten (10); Seaward of the 40-fathom regulatory line											
--Canary Rockfish	Sub-bag limit of five (5)											
Lingcod Bag Limit	Three (3)											
Flatfish Bag Limit ^{c/}	Twenty-Five (25)											
Sablefish Bag Limit	Ten (10)											

a/ Marine bag limit includes all groundfish species other than lingcod, sablefish, and flatfish.

b/ Long-leader fishery rockfish allowed for retention include blue, bocaccio, canary, chilipepper, deacon, greenstriped, redstripe, silvergray, widow, and yellowtail rockfishes.

c/ Flounders, soles, sanddabs, turbot, and halibuts except Pacific halibut.

2.15 Action Item 20: California.

The Council adopted the Alternative 1 recommendations ([Agenda Item E.6.a, CDFW Report 1, June 2026](#)), for the California recreational management measures as shown in (Table 35) as FPA. Of note, California's 2027-28 recreational management measures (Table 34), include a sub-bag limit of cowcod and yelloweye rockfish in Decembers, which is the first time in over twenty years that these species can be retained.

Table 35. FPA. Summary of management measures for the 2027-28 California recreational fishery.

Decision Point	FPA
Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenling (RCG) Complex	
RCG Complex Decoupled	Regulations for rockfish, cabezon, and kelp greenling would be determined and described separately without reference to the RCG complex. Results in structural changes to regulations for bag, gear, and size limits, but the limits are effectively status quo. Results in structural changes to season and depth regulations, <u>and</u> an effectual change from status quo seasons and depths.
Groundfish Seasons and Area Restrictions	
Groundfish Management Areas (GMAs)	5 GMAs: Northern, Mendocino, San Francisco, Central, and Southern

Decision Point	FPA
Rockfish Conservation Area Waypoints	No waypoint modifications
Groundfish Exclusion Areas	No modifications
Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas	Remove the following YRCAs off California from regulation: Point St. George, South Reef, Reading Rock, Point Delgada (North) and Point Delgada (South).
Season Structure	
Boat-Based Rockfish and Lingcod Season Structure	For all GMAs, - Jan 1 – Mar 31: Closed - Apr 1 – Dec 31: Open at all depths *Includes additional accountability measures; see Appendix A (Section 16.2.4, Option 4 Attachment 2)
Cabazon	Open year-round at all depths
Greenling	Open year-round at all depths
California scorpionfish	Open year-round at all depths
Other groundfish	Open year-round at all depths
Bag Limits, Gear Limits, Size Limits	
Rockfish	10-fish aggregate daily bag and possession limit; no size limits; no more than 2 hooks with 1 line (effectively status quo)
Vermilion/sunset rockfish North of 40° 10' N. lat.	2-fish sub-bag limit
Vermilion/sunset rockfish South of 40° 10' N. lat	2-fish sub-bag limit
Canary rockfish	2-fish sub-bag limit
Copper rockfish	1-fish sub-bag limit
Yelloweye rockfish	1 fish during December only, must be landed whole
Cowcod	1 fish during December only, must be landed whole
Quillback rockfish	Prohibited, 0 fish
Bronzespotted rockfish	Prohibited, 0 fish
Lingcod	2 fish; 22 in. size limit; no more than 2 hooks with 1 line
Cabazon	10 fish; no size limit; no more than 2 hooks with 1 line (effectively status quo)
Greenling	10 fish; no size limit; no more than 2 hooks with 1 line (effectively status quo)
California Scorpionfish	5 fish; no size limit; no more than 2 hooks with 1 line
Pacific sanddab, petrale sole, starry flounder	Unlimited
All other groundfish unless specified (state regulations may also apply)	20 fish, of which no more than 10 may be of any one species

2.15.1 Action Item 21: Amendment 38

The Council adopted the draft Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP amendment language, which removes the rebuilding plans for yelloweye rockfish and California quillback rockfish from the text, and corrections to FMP table 3-2 as FPA. These revisions are detailed in [Attachment 6](#).

2.16 Exempted Fishing Permits

The Council recommended implementation of West Coast Seafood Processors Association and Oregon Trawl Commission year-round trawl gear EFP ([Supplemental Attachment 9](#)) for the area north of 40° 10' N lat. until expected future implementation into regulations and for the area south of 40° 10' N lat. for the entire biennium. The Council also gave guidance to NMFS regarding including coho salmon threshold limits for the EFP south of 40° 10' N lat. Additionally, the Council recommended implementation of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife fishery dependent biological data collection ([Attachment 5](#)).

Reference Documents

[2027-28 Preferred Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Council Analytical Document](#)

[2027-28 Socioeconomic Analysis](#)

Appendix A

*2027-28 Groundfish Harvest Specifications and
Management Measures*

*Analysis of the Management Measures under
the Preliminary Preferred Alternative*

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Action Items 1-11

Groundfish Conservation Areas and Distribution of 2027-28 Annual Catch Limits to the Groundfish Fishery Sectors Under the PPA

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The following details the final preferred alternative (FPA) for harvest specifications (i.e., overfishing limits (OFL), allowable biological catches (ABC), and annual catch limits (ACL)) and the preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) for specifications below the ACL and management measures to achieve harvest objectives.

The appendix is the complete version of the [April 2026, Agenda Item C.7 Attachment 1](#). It is provided for ease of reference to the actions considered under the PPA.

For reference, No Action are the harvest specifications under 2025 harvest control rules (HCR)¹, the No Action alternative would not alter any harvest specifications or management measures implemented for the 2025-26 biennium. No Action harvest specifications are largely an untenable choice for the Council, as they do not integrate the best scientific information available (BSIA), per Amendment 24. No Action harvest specifications would only go into effect if certain circumstances occurred (e.g., the Council did not adopt the 2027-28 harvest specifications). However, No Action is used to evaluate the impacts of the 2025-26 harvest specifications and management measures, and as a comparative tool for the alternatives being considered for the 2027-28 biennium. No Action uses 2025 harvest specifications to serve as reference points because 2025 is the most recent fishing year with complete mortality data to compare against mortality projections for the proposed 2027-28 biennial specifications and management measures. The detailed analyses of No Action harvest specifications and management measures can be found on the Council's website.

Alternative 1 harvest specifications are where BSIA is applied to the HCRs used in the 2025-26 biennium (i.e., the default HCRs²), and Alternative 2 harvest specifications is for the stocks considered under alternative HCRs, i.e., canary rockfish, chilipepper, rougheye/blackspotted rockfish, yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat., yelloweye rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, and petrale sole.

¹ The No Action scenario does not represent Best Scientific Information Available and is an untenable choice for the Council (See Appendix 1, Chapter 1 for more information) and is provided as a means to understand the differences between recent past and the tenable choices

². The default HCRs process is detailed in [Amendment 24](#), at §5.1 of the FMP, and §2.3 of the 2015 Environmental Impact Statement (PFMC, 2015).

1. Annual Catch Limit

1.1 Harvest Specifications:

This section describes the Council’s interim FPA (iFPA) harvest specifications for the 2027-28 biennial period, with the exception of widow rockfish. The context for the term “interim” is the Council could still change their decisions on what they adopted in April. The analysis used to inform the Council’s iFPA harvest specifications decision is found in [Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 1, April 2026](#), which is incorporated by reference, though key points are summarized below.

At its April 2026 meeting, the Council adopted default harvest control rule (HCR) for all stocks (see Appendix 1 of [Agenda Item C.4., Attachment 1](#)) except canary rockfish, petrale sole, rougheye/blackspotted rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, and yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10’ N. lat. These HCRs result in ACLs as shown in Table 1-1.

1.2 Interim Final 2027-28 Annual Catch Limits

Table 1-1 shows the interim iFPA 2027-28 ACLs for all stocks and stock complexes, except widow rockfish.

Table 1-1. iFPA: Annual catch limits (ACL) in metric tons (mt) for 2027-28. Stocks in bold were considered under Alternative harvest control rules.

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)
2027	Quillback Rockfish	California	12
2028	Quillback Rockfish	California	12
2027	Yelloweye Rockfish	Coastwide	113
2028	Yelloweye Rockfish	Coastwide	113
2027	Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	7,947
2028	Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	7,131
2027	Big skate	Coastwide	1,155
2028	Big skate	Coastwide	1,122
2027	Black Rockfish	Washington	240
2028	Black Rockfish	Washington	249
2027	Black Rockfish	California	241
2028	Black Rockfish	California	261
2027	Bocaccio	S of 40°10’ N. lat.	2,288
2028	Bocaccio	S of 40°10’ N. lat.	2,185
2027	Cabazon	California	150
2028	Cabazon	California	146
2027	California Scorpionfish	California	233
2028	California Scorpionfish	California	229
2027	Canary Rockfish	Coastwide	643
2028	Canary Rockfish	Coastwide	664
2027	Chilipepper	S of 40°10’ N. lat.	2,986

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)
2028	Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,870
2027	Cowcod	California	74
2028	Cowcod	California	73
2027	Darkblotched Rockfish	Coastwide	773
2028	Darkblotched Rockfish	Coastwide	754
2027	Dover Sole	Coastwide	38,573
2028	Dover Sole	Coastwide	35,616
2027	English Sole	Coastwide	3,168
2028	English Sole	Coastwide	3,168
2027	Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,482
2028	Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,439
2027	Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	789
2028	Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	796
2027	Longnose Skate	Coastwide	1,546
2028	Longnose Skate	Coastwide	1,515
<i>Longspine Thornyhead</i>			
2027	Longspine Thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,878
2028	Longspine Thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,834
2027	Longspine Thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	593
2028	Longspine Thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	579
2027	Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600
2028	Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600
2027	Pacific Ocean Perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,123
2028	Pacific Ocean Perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,036
2027	Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Coastwide	1,278
2028	Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Coastwide	1,240
2027	Pacific whiting a/	Coastwide	-
2028	Pacific whiting a/	Coastwide	-
2027	Petrale Sole	Coastwide	2,489
2028	Petrale Sole	Coastwide	2,489
<i>Sablefish</i>			
	Sablefish	N of 36° N. lat	See §9.1.2
	Sablefish	S of 36° N. lat.	See §9.3.2
2027	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	902
2028	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	902
2027	Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	620
2028	Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	620
2027	Starry flounder	Coastwide	393
2028	Starry flounder	Coastwide	393
2027	<i>Widow rockfish b/</i>	Coastwide	
2028	<i>Widow rockfish b/</i>	Coastwide	
2027	Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	5,050

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)
2028	Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	4,730
Stock Complexes			
2027	Nearshore rockfish north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	85
2028	Nearshore rockfish north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	83
2027	Nearshore rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	928
2028	Nearshore rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	924
2027	Shelf rockfish complex c/ <i>Chilipepper rockfish</i>	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,342
			225
2028	Shelf rockfish complex c/ <i>Chilipepper rockfish</i>	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,333
			216
2027	Shelf rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,456
2028	Shelf rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,453
2027	Slope rockfish complex d/ <i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,090
			294
2028	Slope rockfish complex d/ <i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,086
			294
2027	Slope rockfish complex d/ <i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>	S of 40°10' N. lat.	688
			6
2028	Slope rockfish complex d/ <i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>	S of 40°10' N. lat.	686
			6
2027	Other fish complex	Coastwide	223
2028	Other fish complex	Coastwide	223
2027	Other flatfish complex	Coastwide	6,577
2028	Other flatfish complex	Coastwide	6,193
2027	Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	Coastwide	448
2028	Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	Coastwide	452
2027	OR cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	174
2028	OR cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	173
2027	WA cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	15
2028	WA cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	14

a/ Pacific whiting harvest specifications are set annually outside of the Council process annually via the Pacific Hake Treaty process.

b/ Widow rockfish harvest specifications have not been adopted

1.3 Stocks Considered under Alternative HCRs

As noted above, alternative HCRs were contemplated chilipepper, canary rockfish, petrale sole, rougheye/blackspotted rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat., yelloweye rockfish, and widow rockfish. While the Council had previously recommended Alternative 2 for chilipepper and yelloweye rockfish as the PPA in November 2025, the Council ultimately recommended Alternative 1 (default HCR) as the iFPA at their April 2026 meeting for those two stocks. Table 1-2 details the iFPA HCRs and the resultant ACL for canary rockfish, petrale sole, rougheye/blackspotted rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, and yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.. The Council has note adopted an iFPA for widow rockfish and is considering

three HCRs for widow rockfish, default (Alternative 1) and two sub-options under Alternative 2. The Alternatives under consideration are described in Section 1.4. Additionally, the biological impacts of the Alternatives are detailed in Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 3, June 2026.

Table 1-2. iFPA: Stocks adopted under Alternative 2 harvest control rules (HCR) as interim final preferred alternative and their annual catch limit (ACL) for 2027-28.

Stock	Alt	HCR	2027 ACL (mt)	2028 ACL (mt)
Canary rockfish	Alt 2	ABC= ACL ($P^* = 0.45$)	643	664
Petrale sole	Alt 2	ABC/ACL = 2,489 mt for 2027-28	2,489	2,489
Rougheye/ Blackspotted rockfish a/	Alt 2	ACL = 300 mt for 2027-28	300	300
Shortspine thornyhead	Alt 2	ABC/ACL = 902 mt for 2027-28	902	902
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N lat.	Alt 2	Phase In	5,050	4,730

a/ Apportioned 98% percent to slope rockfish complex north of 40° 10' N. lat. and 2% percent to the slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. Lat.

1.4 Comparison of No Action and iFPA ACLs

Table 1-3 compares 2025 ACLs (No Action) to 2027 ACLs (iFPA) to illustrate the initial change between No Action and FPA for stocks/stock complexes. Of the stock and stock complex ACLs under Alternative 1, ACLs increase under the iFPA for 11 stocks and five stock complexes. There is no change for one stock and three stock complexes. The ACLs for 18 stocks and six stock complexes decrease under the iFPA. Overall, 62 percent of stocks and 50 percent of stock complex ACLs decrease relative to the No Action values.

Table 1-3. iFPA: A comparison of the annual catch limits (ACL) under No Action (2025) and the final preferred alternative (FPA, 2027), showing the percent (%) increase or decrease between the FPA for stocks/stock complexes relative to No Action. Stocks in bold were considered under alternative harvest control rules.

Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)		Difference (mt)	% incr./decr
		No Action 2025	FPA 2027		
QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	California	1.3	12	+11	+823.1%
YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	56	113	+57	+101.8%
Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	11,193	7,947	-3,246	-29.0%
Big skate	Coastwide	1,224	1,155	-69	-5.6%
Black rockfish	Washington	245	240	-5	-2.0%
Black rockfish	California	234	249	15	+6.4%
Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,681	2,288	+607	+36.1%
Cabazon	California	162	150	-12	-7.4%
California scorpionfish	California	244	233	-11	-4.5%
Canary rockfish	Coastwide	572	643	+71	+12.4%
Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,815	2,986	+171	+6.1%
Cowcod	California	77	74	-3	-3.9%
Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	754	773	+19	+2.5%
Dover sole	Coastwide	47,424	38,573	-8,851	-18.7%
English sole	Coastwide	8,884	3,168	-5,716	-64.3%
Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,631	3,482	-149	-4.1%

Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)		Difference (mt)	% incr./decr
		No Action 2025	FPA 2027		
Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	748	789	+41	+5.5%
Longnose skate	Coastwide	1,616	1,546	-70	-4.3%
Longspine thornyhead	Coastwide				
<i>Longspine thornyhead</i>	N of 34°27' N. lat.	2,050	1,878	-172	-8.4%
<i>Longspine thornyhead</i>	S of 34°27' N. lat.	648	593	-55	-8.5%
Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600	1,600	0	+0.0%
Pacific ocean perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,328	3,123	-205	-6.2%
Pacific spiny dogfish	Coastwide	1,361	1,278	-83	-6.1%
<i>Pacific whiting a/</i>	<i>Coastwide</i>	<i>295,520</i>	-	-	-
Petrale sole	Coastwide	2,354	2,489	+135	+5.7%
Sablefish	Coastwide				
<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>N of 36° N. lat.</i>	26,688	10,962	-15,726	-58.9%
<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>S of 36° N. lat.</i>	7,857	3,002	-4,855	-61.8%
Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	815	902	+87	+10.7%
Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,508	620	-888	-58.9%
Starry flounder	Coastwide	392	393	+1	0.3%
Widow rockfish b/	Coastwide	11,237	-	-	-
Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	6,241	5,050	-1,191	-19.1%
Stock Complexes					
Nearshore rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	88	85	-3	-3.4%
Nearshore rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	932	928	-4	-0.4%
Shelf rockfish complex north c/	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,330	1,342	+12	+0.9%
<i>Chilipepper</i>		212	225	+14	+6.1%
Shelf rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,457	1,457	0	0.0%
Slope rockfish complex north d/	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,488	1,090	-398	-26.7%
<i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>		185	294	+109	+58.9%
Slope rockfish complex south d/	S of 40°10' N. lat.	693	688	-5	-0.7%
<i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>		4	6	+2	+50%
Other fish complex	Coastwide	223	223	0	0.0%
Other flatfish complex	Coastwide	7,974	6,577	-1,397	-17.5%
Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	Coastwide	423	448	+25	+5.9%
OR cabezon/kelp greenling complex	Oregon	177	174	-3	-1.7%
WA cabezon/kelp greenling complex	Washington	15	15	0	0.0%

a/ Pacific whiting harvest specifications are set annually outside of the Council process annually via the Pacific Hake Treaty process.

b/ Widow rockfish ACL final specification has not been adopted.

1.5 Widow Rockfish

At their April 2026 meeting, the Council adopted a revised range of harvest specification alternatives for widow rockfish for the 2027-28 biennium as shown in Table 1-4 below and as recommended by the GAP in [Agenda Item C.3., Supplemental GAP Report 1, April 2026](#).

Alternative 2, Sub-option d (Alternative 2d) is a new alternative added to the range based on the OFL recommended by the Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) ([Agenda Item C.3., Supplemental SSC Report 1, April 2026](#)). The Council is expected to take final action on widow rockfish harvest specifications in June 2026.

Table 1-4. Widow rockfish harvest control rules under consideration for 2027-28.

Description	Alternative 1		Alternative 2b		Alternative 2d	
	Default Harvest Control Rule (mt)		20% Ramp Down (mt)		OFL-1 (mt)	
Year	2027	2028	2027	2028	2027	2028
OFL (mt)	4,916	5,172	-	-	6,239	6,239
ABC (mt)	4,596	4,810	-	-	6,238	6,238
ACL (mt)	4,596	4,810	6,720	6,720	6,238	6,238
	<i>Percent increase/decrease from Alt 1</i>		+2,124 (+46%)	+1,910 (+40%)	+1,642 (+36%)	+1,428 (+30%)

The Council removed from consideration Alternatives 2a (8,400 mt constant catch ACL) and 2c (5,858 mt constant catch ACL) described in the [Situation Summary](#) for the April 2026 Agenda Item C.3 and Alternative 2 from [Agenda Item C.7., Attachment 2](#).

New catch projections for the shoreside individual fishing quota (IFQ) fishery were analyzed following the April 2026 Council meeting. The widow rockfish IFQ allocation is projected to be exceeded by 9 percent under the default HCR (Alternative 1), 2 percent under Alternative 2d, or 1 percent under Alternative 2b (Table 1-5). However, it is likely that a portion of the widow rockfish IFQ allocation will go unharvested. The IFQ model uses the shoreside whiting fleet’s 2025 catches as a proxy for their 2027-28 catches, thus holding the 2025 value constant regardless of the IFQ allocation reduction anticipated. However, in addition to operating in a more risk averse manner to avoid widow rockfish bycatch, shoreside whiting vessels are likely to retain quota in their vessel accounts throughout most of the year to insure themselves against lightning strikes. Sometime in the Fall, once shoreside whiting activity slows down, there is typically another uptick in widow rockfish catch by vessels in the midwater rockfish fleet. This uptick may be driven by leasable quota that shoreside whiting vessels did not need to cover their widow rockfish catch. Lower IFQ allocations in 2027-28 may incentivize shoreside whiting vessels to retain their quota for longer, and the widow rockfish quota market may effectively “freeze” to some extent. Appendix A, Chapter 12 further describes the severe negative impact that Alternative 1 would impose on the shoreside whiting fleet, which has caught an annual 440-967 metric tons (mt) of widow rockfish as bycatch in any given year since 2017. The vessels targeting midwater rockfishes (yellowtail rockfish and widow rockfish) will also be severely impacted under all of the Alternatives, with Alternative 1 imposing the most severe impacts. As indicated in the [Agenda Item C.7, Supplemental Attachment 5, April 2026](#) (hereinafter “Socioeconomic Analysis”), the coastal ports most likely to be impacted by widow rockfish IFQ allocation reductions in 2027-28 are Newport, Astoria, and Coos Bay in Oregon, as well as Westport, Washington.

Table 1-5. A subset of the possible 2027-28 widow rockfish IFQ allocations, based on the Council’s PPA decision to adopt status quo trawl/non-trawl allocations and at-sea set-aside.

	2027			2028		
	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Projected Attain.	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Projected Attain.
Alternative 1*	3,895	4,260	109%	4,109	4,441	108%
Alternative 2d	5,537	5,642	102%	5,537	5,642	102%
Alternative 2b	6,019	6,074	101%	6,019	6,074	101%

*Projected catches for Alternative 1 in this table are based on the October version of the widow rockfish stock assessment, which resulted in IFQ allocations of 3,995 mt in 2027 and 4,197 mt in 2028. Those are slightly different from the current Alternative 1 IFQ allocations shown in this table, which are based on the January version of the widow rockfish stock assessment. New projections were not modeled for the revised Alternative 1 IFQ allocations, because the values are similar.

The IFQ vessel limits for widow rockfish are set at 8.5 percent of the shorebased IFQ allocation (i.e., trawl allocation after the at-sea set aside has been deducted). Across the three HCRs, between 9 and 14 vessel accounts used more quota pounds (QP) in 2025 than the expected vessel limits in 2027 (i.e., “capped out”), assuming the PPA allocation and at-sea set aside (Table 1-6). There are a total of 120 vessel accounts each year. Compared to Alternative 1, both HCRs under Alternative 2 would result in 5 fewer vessel accounts being “capped out”. While there is no difference in the number of vessel accounts being capped out between Alternatives 2b and 2d, the additional quota availability under Alternative 2b is still expected to benefit individual vessel accounts who will have that much more flexibility in their operations. As seen with canary rockfish, having quota available in a vessel account, regardless of whether it gets used, can provide operational flexibility. Particularly for widow rockfish, shoreside whiting vessels catch widow rockfish as bycatch, and the more quota available in their account to cover any potential high bycatch events, the more flexibly they can harvest their target stock of Pacific whiting throughout the season. Later in the year, after shoreside whiting activity slows, midwater rockfish targeting vessels catch their largest proportion of widow rockfish once the additional quota becomes available that was unneeded by shoreside whiting vessels. It is likely that the widow rockfish QP market will become less fluid in 2027-28 due to the reduced availability of quota overall, similar to what has been seen in the canary rockfish QP market since 2025. Further discussion on the impacts to IFQ participants can be found in Appendix A, Chapter 12.

Table 1-6. 2027 widow rockfish IFQ annual vessel limits under each of the three HCR alternatives based on the non-trawl allocation of 300 mt and the PPA at-sea set aside of 300 mt. The number of IFQ vessel accounts for which 2025 QP usage was higher than the 2027 vessel limit (i.e., “capped out”) under each HCR alternative are also shown.

HCR Alternative	2027 IFQ Vessel Limit	Vessel Accounts “Capped Out”
Alternative 1	729,963	14
Alternative 2b	1,127,981	9
Alternative 2d	1,037,659	9

2. Action Item 2: Area Management

The Council is considering three modifications to area management for groundfish fisheries. The first modification would remove seven inactive Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas (YRCAs) that are described in Federal regulations but have never been used. The second modification would remove the 150-fathom Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundary line around Lasuen Knoll (also known as “Fourteen-mile Bank”) from Federal regulations. The third modification would change select coordinates on the 20-fm line off Washington.

2.1 *Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas*

The Council considered removing seven YRCAs from regulation off the coast of Oregon and California. YRCAs that are currently active, or were activated in the past but are not currently active were not considered. As noted in [Agenda Item D.10.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, March 2026](#), all inactive YRCAs off of Oregon overlap with YRCAs that are also listed in Pacific halibut regulations. The Council adopted area management modifications to remove all five YRCAs off of California (Point St. George, South Reef, Reading Rock, Point Delgada (North) and Southern Point Delgada) and both Stonewall Bank Expansion YRCAs from regulation as their PPA (Table 2-1). They noted during their discussions that in the instance that catch of yelloweye rockfish becomes a conservation concern, other management measures, including area closures, are available for implementation during routine inseason adjustments to groundfish management measures.

Table 2-1. PPA of Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas (YRCA) to be removed from the FMP

Name, Location	Status	Applicable sector	PPA
Stonewall Bank – Expansion 1, OR	Inactive; never active	Recreational	Remove from regulations
Stonewall Bank – Expansion 2, OR	Inactive; never active	Recreational	Remove from regulations
Point St. George, CA	Inactive; never active	Non-Trawl	Remove from regulations
South Reef, CA	Inactive; never active	Non-Trawl	Remove from regulations
Reading Rock, CA	Inactive; never active	Non-Trawl	Remove from regulations
Point Delgada (North), CA	Inactive; never active	Non-Trawl	Remove from regulations
Southern Point Delgada, CA	Inactive; never active	Non-Trawl	Remove from regulations

2.2 *Lausen Knoll*

The Council considered regulatory changes to the RCA boundary line surrounding Lausen Knoll (660.73(s)). The commercial Non-Trawl RCA boundaries south of 34°27' N. lat., the area where Lasuen Knoll is located, extend from the 100 fm bathymetric line to the 150 fm depth contour. However, there are no coordinates for the 100 fm and the 150 fm depth contours around Lasuen Knoll defined in Federal regulations because the area between the 100 fm and 150 fm depth contour is too narrow to be effectively enforced. Without a defined 100 fathom boundary line, the 100-150 fm closure around Lasuen Knoll is not enforceable. The Council adopted Alternative 1, Option 2, which includes the removal of this depth contour boundary as their PPA. Final regulatory language reflecting this change would be drafted by NMFS.

In addition, the Council adopted Option 2 text modifications to the RCA Regulatory Federal non-trawl trip limit tables text to reflect the proposed revision as shown below:

Option 2: “The Non-Trawl RCA is an area closed to fishing with particular non-trawl gear types, as defined at §660.11. Non-Trawl RCA boundaries apply in the EEZ only; see appropriate state regulations for state closures, however state regulations may implement RCA boundaries in state waters; see appropriate state regulations. Non-Trawl RCA boundaries may be revised via inseason action; therefore, users should refer back to this table throughout the year.

2.3 20 fathom June 1 – July 31 Depth Restriction in Marine Area 4

Under current regulations, anglers are not permitted to fish for or possess rockfish at Duntze and Duncan Rocks from June 1 to July 31 because the Rocks are just seaward of the existing 20-fathom depth restriction (Figure 14-6). The purpose of these coordinate changes is to address an enforcement concern regarding Duntze and Duncan Rocks. Law enforcement is currently frequently citing anglers in possession of rockfish at Duntze and Duncan Rocks in June and July. Extending the line so that the Rocks are no longer in the depth-restricted area is expected to have minimal impacts on species of concern while addressing the enforcement issue.

Option 1: Status Quo

Under Status Quo, the northernmost coordinate of the 20 fathom depth restriction in Marine Area 4A (west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line) would continue being 48°23.90' N. lat., 124°44.20' W. long. At that longitude, the line connects with the 120 ft depth restriction in Marine Area 4B (east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line; Figure 14-6). Under Status Quo, law enforcement would continue issuing frequent citations in June and July at Duntze and Duncan Rocks

Option 2: Modify the 20-fathom line depth restriction currently in place June–July to exclude Duntze and Duncan Rocks from the depth-restricted area.

Under Option 2, the coordinates defining the 20 fathom line ([50 CFR 660.71\(b\)](#)) would change as follows:

- (1) 48°25.00' N. lat., 124°44.06' W. long. (added)
- (2) 48°25.00' N. lat., 120°45.22' W. long. (added)
- ~~(1) 48°23.90' N. lat., 124°44.20' W. long. (removed)~~
- (3) 48°23.60' N. lat., 124°44.90' W. long. (unchanged except for number)

This change would result in Duncan and Duntze Rocks no longer being seaward of the 20 fathom line (Figure 14-6), thereby permitting anglers to fish for and possess rockfish at the Rocks year-round. This change will reduce the number of citations law enforcement has to issue at the Rocks while having minimal impact on species of concern. Anecdotally, canary and yelloweye rockfish are not usually encountered at that location.

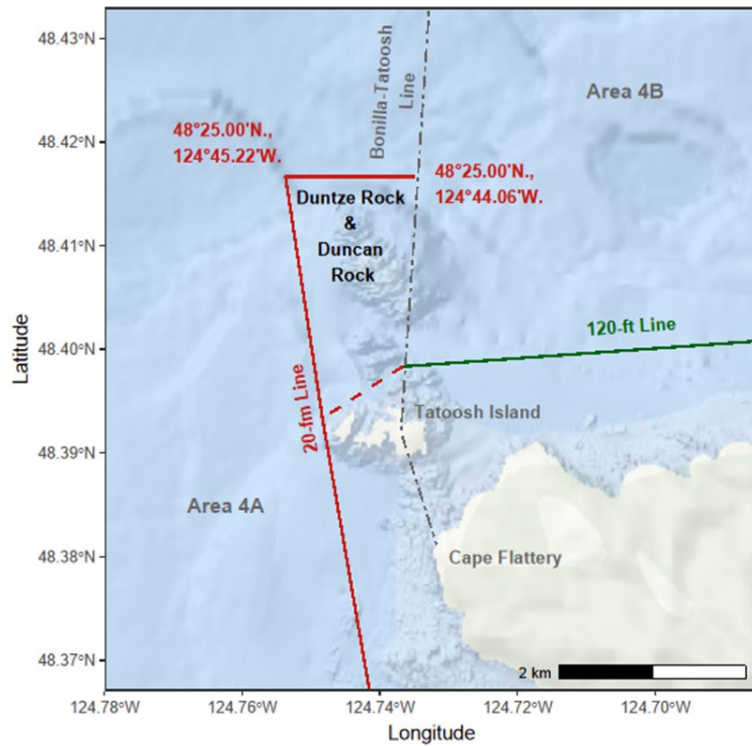


Figure 2-1. Proposed change to the 20 fathom depth restriction in Marine Area 4. The existing 20 fathom line is shown in the dashed red line and the proposed modification in the solid red line.

3. Action Item 3: Annual Catch Limit Deductions

3.1 *Off the Top Deductions/Set-asides*

The Council approved a new methodology to calculate research and incidental open access (IOA) set-asides as described and recommended in [Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025](#) and [Agenda Item C.7.a Supplemental GMT Report 1, April 2026](#), which is summarized in the text below. The Council adopted the preliminary draft 2027-28 off-the-top deductions shown in Table 3-2. The Council adopted the 5-year rolling median mortality for research and incidental open access set-asides for 2027-28 (see Appendix 1 in [Agenda Item C.7.a Supplemental GMT Report 1, April 2026](#)), with the exception of yelloweye rockfish and petrale sole, as recommended by the GMT.

Tribal Fishery: The Treaty Tribe 2027-28 set-asides ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 1, April 2026](#)) were adopted by the Council as PPA. Compared to the November 2025 set-aside values, the April 2026 set-aside values are the same for all species except for canary rockfish, petrale sole, shortspine thornyhead, widow rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish. For those select stocks, the Treaty Tribe set-asides were reduced to 35 mt, 290 mt, 40 mt, 100 mt, and 12 mt, respectively.

Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP): For the 2027-28 biennium, no EFP set-asides were requested for any stock or stock complex.

Research: The Council adopted a 5-year rolling median research mortality³ as the 2027-28 research set-aside for individual stocks and stock complexes as proposed and described in (Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Reports 1 and Report 4, November 2025). As their PPA, the Council adopted the GMT recommendation to use this methodology for stocks/stock complexes with the exception of yelloweye rockfish and petrale sole. The Council adopted custom research set-asides for yelloweye rockfish (2.92 mt) and petrale sole (24.1 mt). The yelloweye rockfish research set-aside is designed to accommodate specific research projects that catch yelloweye rockfish. The petrale sole research set aside increased relative to the November 2025 ROA as new information was made available showing an increase to the estimated 2025 year-end research mortality (see [Agenda Item C.6.a, GMT Report 1, April 2026](#)). The Council adopted a research set-aside of 24.1 mt for petrale sole in 2027-28, which is based on the long-term maximum of research mortality prior to 2025.

IOA: The Council adopted a 5-year rolling median research mortality, as reported in the GEMM, as the 2027-28 research set-aside for individual stocks and stock complexes ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)).

³ The research set-aside values were obtained from the most recent Groundfish Estimated Multiyear Mortality report (GEMM, [Agenda Item G.1.b, NWFSC Report 2, September 2025](#)) The GEMM product reports estimated mortality based on the most recently completed full year, i.e., 2024 is reported in 2025. These estimates are used as guidance for setting of the next biennium's off the top set asides.

Table 3-1. PPA: 2027-28 PPA off-the-top deduction set-asides in for tribal, exempted fishing permits (EFP), research, incidental open access (IOA) in metric tons (mt).

Stock	FMU	Tribal (mt)	EFP (mt)	Research (mt)	IOA (mt)	Sum (mt)
QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	California	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	12.0	0.0	2.92	1.4	16.3
Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	2,041.0	0.0	8.0	18.9	2,067.9
Big skate	Coastwide	15.0	0.0	2.6	31.6	49.2
Black rockfish	Washington	18.0	0.0	0.6	0	18.6
Black rockfish	California	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3
Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.6	3.3
Cabazon	S of 42° N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0	0.6	0.6
California scorpionfish	California	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.7
Canary rockfish	Coastwide	35.0	0.0	4.4	2.1	41.5
Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	5.4	0.3	5.7
Cowcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5
Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	5.0	0.0	2.5	13.7	21.2
Dover sole	Coastwide	1,497.0	0.0	44.6	4.9	1,546.5
English sole	Coastwide	200.0	0.0	4.8	7.2	212.0
Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	250.0	0.0	6.7	12.1	268.8
Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.4	2.2
Longnose skate	Coastwide	220.0	0.0	12.3	10.2	242.5
Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	30.0	0.0	14.4	0	44.4
Longspine thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.2	1.0
Pacific cod	Coastwide	500.0	0.0	0.1	0	500.1
Pacific Ocean perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	130.0	0.0	3.8	2.0	135.8
Pacific spiny dogfish	Coastwide	275.0	0.0	8.0	4.9	287.9
Pacific whiting b/	Coastwide	-	0.0	750	750	1,500.0
Petrale sole	Coastwide	290.0	0.0	24.1	3.2	317.3
<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>N of 36° N. lat.</i>	See § 9.1.1				
<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>S of 36° N. lat.</i>	See § 9.3.1				
Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	40.0	0.0	9.3	3.4	52.7
Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	4.1	0.0	4.1
Starry flounder	Coastwide	2.0	0.0	0.0	12.7	14.7
Widow rockfish	Coastwide	100.0	0.0	0.5	0.1	100.6
Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,000.0	0.0	4.9	2.0	1,006.9
Stock Complexes						
Nearshore rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.6	2.2
Nearshore rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.4	1.9
Shelf rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	30.0	0.0	8.9	9.7	48.6
Shelf rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	9.4	0.4	9.8
Slope rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	36.0	0.0	5.0	9.1	50.1
Slope rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.2	1.5

Stock	FMU	Tribal (mt)	EFP (mt)	Research (mt)	IOA (mt)	Sum (mt)
Other fish complex	Coastwide	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	4.0
Other flatfish complex	Coastwide	60.0	0.0	18.6	46.9	125.5
OR black/blue/deacon rockfish	Oregon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5
OR cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
WA cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0

b/Tribal amounts are based on the TAC, which is determined annually through the Treaty process and is thus not able to be provided for this table.

4. Action Item 4: Tribal Management Measures

The Treaty Tribe 2027-28 set-asides ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 1, April 2026](#)) were adopted by the Council as PPA (Table 4-2). Compared to the requested November 2025 set-aside values, the requested April 2026 set-aside values are the same for all species, except for canary rockfish, petrale sole, shortspine thornyhead, widow rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish. For those select stocks, the Treaty Tribe set-asides were reduced as shown in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1. Change in Tribal set-asides relative to November

Stock	November 2025 Request (mt)	April 2026 Request (mt)	Difference	Percent (%) decrease
Canary Rockfish	50	35	-15	-30%
Petrale Sole	322	290	-32	-10%
Shortspine Thornyhead	50	40	-10	-20%
Widow Rockfish	200	100	-100	-50%
Yelloweye Rockfish	16	12	-4	-25%

In November 2025, the Tribes initially requested that their set-aside for yelloweye rockfish be increased to 16 mt, with recognition of the projected rebuilding of this species. Additionally, the species-specific management measure for yelloweye rockfish increased the landing limit from 100 lbs for commercial sale and 100 lbs for Ceremonial and Subsistence use, to 400 lbs for commercial sale and 100 lbs for Ceremonial and Subsistence use. The Tribes support the Council's discussion and intent to reopen access to this species in a more precautionary manner, and have refined their set-aside request to 12 mt for 2027 and 2028. The species-specific management measure for yelloweye rockfish will remain at 400 lbs for commercial sale and 100 lbs for Ceremonial and Subsistence use.

For canary rockfish, petrale sole, shortspine thornyhead, and widow rockfish, the Tribes are reducing their set-aside requests for these species in recognition of recent and projected mortality trends in tribal fisheries. For those select stocks, the Treaty Tribe set-asides have been reduced to 35 mt, 290 mt, 40 mt, and 100 mt, respectively.

Under Alternative 1, all tribal fisheries will be managed not to exceed set-asides. Trip limits will be subject to inseason adjustments in order to utilize tribal allocations and harvest guidelines. Full rockfish retention programs, where all marketable rockfish are retained, as well as a Makah trawl observer program, will remain in place to provide catch accountability. For more information on the relation of tribal fisheries to the council process, consult sections 6.2.5 and 6.3.2.1 of the [Groundfish Fishery Management Plan](#).

Table 4-2. PPA. Requested Treaty set-asides for 2027-28.

Species	Treaty set-asides (mt)
Arrowtooth flounder	2,041
Black rockfish (WA) a/	18.14
Big Skate	15

Species	Treaty set-asides (mt)
Canary rockfish	35
Darkblotched rockfish	5
Dover sole	1,497
English sole	200
Lingcod	250
Longnose skate	220
Longspine thornyhead	30
Pacific cod	500
Pacific ocean perch	130
Pacific whiting	17.5% of TAC
Pacific spiny dogfish	275
Petrale sole	290
Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.	10% of ACL
Shortspine thornyhead	40
Starry flounder	2
Widow rockfish	100
Yellowtail rockfish	1,000
Yelloweye rockfish	12
Stock Complexes	
Nearshore rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat.	1.5
Slope rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat.	36
Shelf rockfish complex, north of 40°10' N. lat.	30
Other flatfish complex	60
Cabezon/kelp greenling complex (WA)	2

a/ The treaty harvest guideline of black rockfish is set at 30,000 lbs. north of Cape Alava and 10,000 lbs. between Destruction Island and Leadbetter Point ([50 CFR 660.50\(f\)\(1\)](#)).

b/ Treaty fisheries for yelloweye rockfish will be subject to a 500 lb. trip limit; 400 lbs for commercial sale and 100 lbs for Ceremonial and Subsistence use.

5. Action Item 5: Harvest Guidelines

The 2027-28 PPA harvest guidelines (HGs) for all non-sablefish stocks and stock complexes are shown Table 5-2. The ACL minus the off-the-top deductions (i.e., Tribal, estimated research catch, estimated IOA, and EFP catches) results in the fishery HG for the stock or complex. An HG is a specified numerical harvest objective and not a quota. Attainment of an HG does not require closure of a fishery. Sablefish information is detailed below in Chapter 9.

Table 5-1. PPA: 2027-28 annual catch limits (ACL) and fishery harvest guideline (HG) under default harvest control rules in metric tons (mt). All values are considered draft. ACL values rounded to nearest mt to reflect Table 1-3 above. HGs rounded to nearest tenth of a mt for improved accuracy.

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)	HG (mt)
2027	QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	California	12	11.6
2028	QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	California	12	11.9
2027	YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	113	96.7
2028	YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	113	96.7
2027	Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	7,947	5,879.5
2028	Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	7,131	5,062.8
2027	Big skate	Coastwide	1,155	1,105.8
2028	Big skate	Coastwide	1,122	1,072.8
2027	Black Rockfish	Washington	240	221.7
2028	Black Rockfish	Washington	249	248.8
2027	Black Rockfish	California	241	222.3
2028	Black Rockfish	California	261	260.7
2027	Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,288	2,284.9
2028	Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,185	2,182.1
2027	Cabazon	California	150	149.6
2028	Cabazon	California	146	145.4
2027	California Scorpionfish	California	233	232.5
2028	California Scorpionfish	California	229	228.6
2027	Canary Rockfish	Coastwide	643	601.5
2028	Canary Rockfish	Coastwide	664	622.5
2027	Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,986	2,980.6
2028	Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,870	2,864.1
2027	Cowcod	California	74	73.3
2028	Cowcod	California	73	72.0
2027	Darkblotched Rockfish	Coastwide	773	751.9
2028	Darkblotched Rockfish	Coastwide	754	733.2
2027	Dover Sole	Coastwide	38,573	37,026.2
2028	Dover Sole	Coastwide	35,616	34,069.6
2027	English Sole	Coastwide	3,168	2,956.0

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)	HG (mt)
2028	English Sole	Coastwide	3,168	2,956.0
2027	Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,482	3,212.9
2028	Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,439	3,170.1
2027	Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	789	786.8
2028	Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	796	793.8
2027	Longnose Skate	Coastwide	1,546	1,303.8
2028	Longnose Skate	Coastwide	1,515	1,272.4
2027	Longspine Thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,878	1,833.9
2028	Longspine Thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,834	1,789.3
2027	Longspine Thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	593	592.1
2028	Longspine Thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	579	578.1
2027	Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600	1,099.9
2028	Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600	1,099.9
2027	Pacific Ocean Perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,123	2,987.6
2028	Pacific Ocean Perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,036	2,900.3
2027	Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Coastwide	1,278	990.2
2028	Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Coastwide	1,240	952.5
2027	Pacific whiting a/	Coastwide	-	-
2028	Pacific whiting a/	Coastwide	-	-
2027	Petrale Sole	Coastwide	2,489	2,171.7
2028	Petrale Sole	Coastwide	2,489	2,171.7
	<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>N of 36° N. lat.</i>	See §9.1.2	
	<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>S of 36° N. lat.</i>	See §9.3.2	
2027	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	902	849.3
2028	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	902	849.3
2027	Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	620	615.9
2028	Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	620	615.9
2027	Starry flounder	Coastwide	393	377.8
2028	Starry flounder	Coastwide	393	377.8
2027	<i>Widow rockfish b/</i>	<i>Coastwide</i>		
2028	<i>Widow rockfish b/</i>	<i>Coastwide</i>		
2027	Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	5,050	4,043.1
2028	Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	4,730	3,723.1
Stock Complexes				
2027	Nearshore rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	85	82.3
2028	Nearshore rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	83	81.0
2027	Nearshore rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	928	925.6
2028	Nearshore rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	924	921.7
2027	Shelf rockfish complex north c/	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,342	1,293.3
2028	Shelf rockfish complex north c/	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,333	1,284.1
2027	Shelf rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,456	1,446.7

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)	HG (mt)
2028	Shelf rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,453	1,453.2
2027	Slope rockfish complex north d	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,090	1,039.4
2028	Slope rockfish complex north d/	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,086	1,036.2
2027	Slope rockfish complex south d/	S of 40°10' N. lat.	688	686.8
2028	Slope rockfish complex south d/	S of 40°10' N. lat.	686	684
2027	Other fish	Coastwide	223	218.5
2028	Other fish	Coastwide	223	218.5
2027	Other flatfish	Coastwide	6,577	6,451.7
2028	Other flatfish	Coastwide	6,193	6,067.7
2027	Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	Oregon	448	447.5
2028	Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	Oregon	452	451.7
2027	OR cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	174	173.5
2028	OR cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	173	172.9
2027	WA cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	15	12.4
2028	WA cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	14	12.5

a/ Pacific whiting harvest limits are set through an annual bilateral treaty process external to the Council

b/ Widow rockfish harvest specifications have not been adopted; thus ACLs are not shown

c/ Chilipepper north of 40°10' N. lat. is managed under the shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. and their individual contributions are not subject to set-asides, hence are not shown.

d/ Rougheye/blackspotted rockfishes are managed under the slope rockfish complexes and their individual contributions are not subject to set-asides, hence are not shown.

5.1 Widow Rockfish Harvest Guidelines

Widow rockfish is considered under three HCRs, as detailed above in Chapter 1. The sum of set-asides for widow rockfish is 101.6 mt, which is applied to the three ACLs to produce the HGs shown in Table 5-2.

Table 5-2. Widow rockfish annual catch limits (ACL) and harvest guidelines, which result from the off-the-top set-aside for all three alternatives.

	Alternative 1		Alternative 2b		Alternative 2d	
	ACL (mt)	HG (mt)	ACL (mt)	HG (mt)	ACL (mt)	HG (mt)
2027	4,596	4,495.4	6,720	6,618.4	6,238	6,136.4
2028	4,810	4,709.4	6,720	6,618.4	6,238	6,136.4

The HGs are compared against Alternative 1 in Table 5-3. Alternative 2b results in the highest HG increase relative to Alternative 1 and Alternative 2d (the new Alternative). The HG under Alternative 2b is approximately 500 mt higher than Alternative 2d.

Table 5-3. A Comparison of Alternative 1 to Alternative 2, sub-options 2b and 2d for widow rockfish showing the difference in metric tons (mt) and the percent (%) increase or decrease relative to Alternative 1.

Year	Alt 1 (mt)	Alt 2b (mt)	Alt 1 compared Alt 2b		Alt 2d (mt)	Alt 1 compared Alt 2d	
			Difference (mt)	% increase/ decrease		Difference (mt)	% increase/ decrease
2027	4,596	6,720	+2,124	+46%	6,238	1,642	+36%
2028	4,810	6,720	+1,910	+40%	6,238	1,428	+30%

6. Action Item 6: Annual Catch Target

The Council adopted the status quo recreational annual catch target (ACT) for copper rockfish south of 34° 27' N. lat. and the status quo non-trawl ACT for shortspine thornyhead north of 34° 27' N. lat. as PPA. The Council also considered, and adopted as PPA, recreational ACTs for California quillback rockfish (statewide), vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat., and lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat. as described in [C.7.a Supplemental GAP Report 1](#) and detailed in [C.7.a Supplemental GMT Report 2](#). Recreational ACTs for these stocks may facilitate management of these stocks to meet, but not exceed, ACLs/HGs while maintaining management flexibility.

6.1 Copper Rockfish south of 34° 27' N. lat.

The recreational ACT for copper rockfish south of 34° 27' N. lat. under the PPA are shown in Table 6-1. The status quo method to produce the ACT value is by setting the ACT equal to the “sub-ACL” produced by the 2023 copper rockfish stock assessment, which is proportional to the stock’s estimated biomass south of 34°27' N. lat. For 2027, the estimated biomass south of 34°27' N. lat. is 20.1 mt and for 2028 it is 22.0 mt. (Table 30, Wetzel et al, 2023)⁴.

Table 6-1. PPA: Draft copper rockfish south of 34°27' N. lat. California recreational annual catch target (ACT) with respect to the overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catches (ABC) for the nearshore rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat. Values in metric tons (mt).

Nearshore Rockfish Complex S. of 40°10' N. lat.	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
OFL	1,145	1,145
ABC	929	924
ACL	928	924
HG	925.6	921.7
<i>Copper rockfish ACL Contribution</i>	127.8	129.1
ACT south of 34°27' N. lat.	20.1	22.0

6.2 Shortspine Thornyhead

The Council adopted the non-trawl ACT for shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat. as PPA. The status quo method to produce the ACT value is by setting the ACT as 25 percent of the coastwide non-trawl allocation (Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2026), which equates to 61.6 mt for 2027 and 2028 (Table 6-2). The ACT was designed to align effort to estimated proportional biomass while still meeting coastwide harvest targets. Without the ACT, the majority of shortspine thornyhead mortality is likely to occur north of 34° 27' N. lat. The ACT is still appropriate to address the needs of the fishery north and south of that line.

⁴ Wetzel, C.R., M.H. Monk, J. Coates. 2023. Status of copper rockfish (*Sebastes caurinus*) along the U.S. California coast south of Point Conception in 2023. Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland, Oregon. 323 p.

Table 6-2. Alternative 1: 2027-28 shortspine thornyhead annual catch target (ACT) for the non-trawl sector north of 34°27' N. lat. Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a metric ton (mt).

Shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat.	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
Coastwide non-trawl allocation	246.3	246.3
Non-trawl ACT north of 34°27' N. lat.	61.6	61.6

6.3 Recreational ACTs off of California

The Council considered and adopted Alternative 1, Option 2 for recreational ACTs for California quillback rockfish (Table 6-3), vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. (Table 6-4), and lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat. (Table 6-5) as PPA, as shown below. These ACTs were recommended by the GAP ([C.7.a Supplemental GAP Report 1, April 2026](#)), CDFW ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1, April 2026](#)), and GMT ([C.7 Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2026](#)).

The accountability measures (AMs) tied to these ACTs is, if the ACTs were exceeded or projected to be exceeded, the expectation is that the Council would be notified at the relevant Council meeting under the groundfish inseason agenda item by the GMT and/or CDFW. These ACTs allow the Council to closely monitor recreational fishery mortality and consider inseason management responses, if necessary. The AM does not specify what, if any, inseason response will be taken in the instance the ACT is exceeded, or projected to be exceeded, but all routine inseason management measures would be available to the Council (i.e., bag and sub-bag limits, including no retention, RCA depth restrictions, season closure, etc.).

California quillback rockfish

The California quillback rockfish recreational ACT is set at 7.1 mt (for both 2027 and 2028) using the historical informal sharing arrangement between the recreational and commercial sectors off California.

Table 6-3. PPA: Recreational ACT for quillback rockfish off California for 2027-28.

Year	Fishery HG (mt)	Rec ACT (mt)
2027	11.6	7.1
2028	11.9	7.1

Vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.

For vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat., the recreational ACT is set as the ACL contribution to the complex, minus the anticipated 100 mt of non-trawl commercial mortality ([Section 6.4 of Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 1, April 2026](#)). Therefore, the ACT would be 168.0 mt in 2027 and 164.4 mt in 2028.

Table 6-4. PPA: Recreational ACT for Vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. based on the proposed vermilion/sunset rockfish ACL contribution to the shelf rockfish complex S. of 40°10' N. lat. minus 100 mt.

Year	ACL contribution	ACT (mt)
2027	268.0	168.0
2028	264.4	164.4

Lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat.

The non-trawl HGs for lingcod south of 40°10' N. lat. for 2027-28 are 472.1 mt and 476.3 mt, respectively. The lingcod south of 40°10' N. lat. recreational ACT is set as the non-trawl HG minus the anticipated 2027-28 commercial non-trawl mortality, which is approximated based on the historic high in mortality from that sector (85 mt). This results in an ACT of 387.1 mt for 2027 and 391.3 mt for 2028 (see Appendix A: Section 6.5), which includes minor corrections which clarify the method for calculating the ACT). Table 6-5 shows the ACTs compared to the non-trawl HG.

Table 6-5. PPA: Recreational Lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat. ACTs for 2027-28.

Year	Non-Trawl HG (mt)	Rec ACT (mt)
2027	472.1	387.1
2028	476.3	391.3

7. Action Item 7: Allocations

7.1 Amendment 21 and Biennial Allocations

The Council allocates the fishery HGs for most stocks and stock complexes to the trawl and non-trawl sectors via formal ([Amendment-21](#), A21) or biennial allocation structures, as detailed in Section 6.3 of the FMP. In general, the allocations are considered “hard caps;” if a sector’s allocation is projected to be exceeded or is exceeded, the Council may contemplate management actions to mitigate overages for that sector and species, which can include closing the sector. The Council adopted the Alternative 1 allocation methodology as PPA for allocated stocks and stock complexes, except for slope rockfish south of 40°10’ N. lat. (see Section 7.3), as recommended by the GMT ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2026](#)) and GAP ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, April 2026](#)). Table 7-1 shows the PPA trawl/non-trawl Amendment 21 and biennial allocations for 2027-28.

As an ACL for widow rockfish has not yet been adopted, Section 7.2 describes the potential allocations under the range of HCRs considered.

Table 7-1. PPA: Draft 2027-28 Amendment 21 and biennial trawl/non-trawl allocation percentages (%) and allocation amounts in metric tons (mt) derived from the Alternative 1 fishery harvest guidelines (HG). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Year	Stock/Stock Complex	Management Area	Fishery HG (mt)	Allocation Type	Trawl		Non-Trawl	
					%	mt	%	mt
2027	YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	96.6	Biennial	8	7.7	92	88.9
2028	YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	96.6	Biennial	8	7.7	92	88.9
2027	Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	5,879.5	A-21	95	5,585.5	5	294.0
2028	Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	5,062.8	A-21	95	4,809.7	5	253.1
2027	Big skate	Coastwide	1,105.8	Biennial	95	1,050.5	5	55.3
2028	Big skate	Coastwide	1,072.8	Biennial	95	1,019.2	5	53.6
2027	Bocaccio	south of 40°10’ N. lat.	2,284.9	Biennial	39	891.9	60	1,393.8
2028	Bocaccio	south of 40°10’ N. lat.	2,182.1	Biennial	39	851.0	60	1,331.1
2027	Canary rockfish	Coastwide	601.5	Biennial	72.3	434.9	27.7	166.6
2028	Canary rockfish	Coastwide	622.5	Biennial	72.3	450.1	27.7	172.4
2027	Chili pepper	south of 40°10’ N. lat.	2,980.6	A-21	75	2,235.5	25	745.2
2028	Chili pepper	south of 40°10’ N. lat.	2,864.1	A-21	75	2,148.1	25	716.0
2027	Cowcod	south of 40°10’ N. lat.	73.3	Biennial	36	26.4	64	46.9
2028	Cowcod	south of 40°10’ N. lat.	72.0	Biennial	36	25.9	64	46.1
2027	Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	751.9	A-21	95	714.3	5	37.6
2028	Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	733.2	A-21	95	696.6	5	36.7
2027	Dover sole	Coastwide	37,026.2	A-21	95	35,174.9	5	1,851.3
2028	Dover sole	Coastwide	34,069.6	A-21	95	32,366.1	5	1,703.5
2027	English sole	Coastwide	2,956.0	A-21	95	2,808.2	5	147.8
2028	English sole	Coastwide	2,956.0	A-21	95	2,808.2	5	147.8

Year	Stock/Stock Complex	Management Area	Fishery HG (mt)	Allocation Type	Trawl		Non-Trawl	
					%	mt	%	mt
2027	Lingcod	north of 40°10' N. lat.	3,212.9	A-21	45	1,445.8	55	1,767.1
2028	Lingcod	north of 40°10' N. lat.	3,170.1	A-21	45	1,426.6	55	1,743.6
2027	Lingcod	south of 40°10' N. lat.	786.8	Biennial	40	314.7	60	472.1
2028	Lingcod	south of 40°10' N. lat.	793.8	Biennial	40	317.5	60	476.3
2027	Longnose skate	Coastwide	1,303.8	Biennial	90	1,173.4	10	130.4
2028	Longnose skate	Coastwide	1,272.4	Biennial	90	1,145.2	10	127.2
2027	Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,833.9	A-21	95	1,742.2	5	91.7
2028	Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,789.3	A-21	95	1,699.9	5	89.5
2027	Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,099.9	A-21	95	1,044.9	5	55.0
2028	Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,099.9	A-21	95	1,044.9	5	55.0
2027	Pacific Ocean perch	north of 40°10' N. lat.	2,987.6	A-21	95	2,838.2	5	149.4
2028	Pacific Ocean perch	north of 40°10' N. lat.	2,900.3	A-21	95	2,755.3	5	145.0
2027	Pacific whiting a/	Coastwide	-	A-21	100	-	0	-
2028	Pacific whiting a/	Coastwide	-	A-21	100	-	0	-
2027	Petrale sole b/	Coastwide	2,171.7	Biennial	-	2,141.7	-	30
2028	Petrale sole b/	Coastwide	2,171.7	Biennial	-	2,141.7	-	30
	<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>north of 36° N. lat.</i>	See §9.1.2					
	<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>south of 36° N. lat.</i>	See § 9.3.2					
2027	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	849.3	Biennial	71	603.0	29	246.3
2028	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	849.3	Biennial	71	603.0	29	246.3
2027	Splitnose rockfish	south of 40°10' N. lat.	615.9	A-21	95	585.1	5	30.8
2028	Splitnose rockfish	south of 40°10' N. lat.	615.9	A-21	95	585.1	5	30.8
2027	Starry flounder	Coastwide	377.8	A-21	50	188.9	50	188.9
2028	Starry flounder	Coastwide	377.8	A-21	50	188.9	50	188.9
2027	Widow rockfish b/ c/	Coastwide	4,595.4	Biennial	-	-	-	300.0
2028	Widow rockfish b/ c/	Coastwide	4,709.4	Biennial	-	-	-	300.0
2027	Yellowtail rockfish	north of 40°10' N. lat.	4,043.1	A-21	88	3,557.9	12	485.2
2028	Yellowtail rockfish	north of 40°10' N. lat.	3,723.1	A-21	88	3,276.3	12	446.8
Stock Complexes								
2027	Shelf rockfish north	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,293.3	Biennial	60.2	778.6	39.8	514.7
2028	Shelf rockfish north	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,284.1	Biennial	60.2	773.0	39.8	511.1
2027	Shelf rockfish south	south of 40°10' N. lat.	1,446.7	Biennial	12.2	176.5	87.8	1,270.2
2028	Shelf rockfish south	south of 40°10' N. lat.	1,453.2	Biennial	12.2	176.1	87.8	1,267.3
2027	Slope rockfish north	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,039.4	A-21	81	841.9	19	197.5
2028	Slope rockfish north	north of 40°10' N. lat..	1,036.2	A-21	81	839.3	19	196.9
2027	Slope rockfish south d/	south of 40°10' N. lat.	686.8	Biennial	-	397.4	-	289.3
2028	Slope rockfish south d/	south of 40°10' N. lat.	684.0	Biennial	-	396.0	-	288.0
2027	Other flatfish	Coastwide	6,451.7	A-21	90	5,806.5	10	645.2
2028	Other flatfish	Coastwide	1,293.3	A-21	90	5,460.9	10	606.8

a/ Pacific whiting harvest limits are set through an annual bilateral treaty process external to the Council.

- b/ Petrale sole and widow rockfish are allocated at 30mt and 300 mt, respectively, to the non-trawl sector and the remainder to the trawl sector
c/ Widow rockfish harvest specifications have not been adopted; thus a trawl allocation amount cannot be calculated
d/ Slope rockfish allocation process shown in Section 3.5.2

7.2 Widow Rockfish Allocations

Widow rockfish is considered under three HCRs (i.e., the default HCR under Alternative 1 and two alternative HCRs under Alternative 2), resulting in three potential ACLs and three fishery HGs. The Council adopted a biennial allocation of 300 mt of the fishery HG to non-trawl and the remainder of the fishery HG to trawl as the PPA. This allocation approach was recommended by the GAP ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, April 2026](#)) and detailed in [Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2026](#). The GMT, in [Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2026](#), stated “[The 300 mt allocation] will provide opportunity for growth within the non-trawl fisheries and act as a de facto buffer between the OFL and ACL [since the non-trawl mortality is projected to be under 300 mt]...” The impacts to the non-trawl fisheries are not affected by the choice of HCR because the non-trawl allocation is a fixed amount. The full description of tradeoffs and impacts to the non-trawl fisheries based on the trawl/non-trawl allocation option selected is provided in Appendix A(see Section 7.2).

The following table shows a comparison of trawl/non-trawl allocations for widow rockfish under Alternatives 1, 2b, and 2d with the PPA allocation highlighted in bold (Table 7-2). As shown in Table 7-2, regardless of the allocation option, both Alternative 2b and 2d offer substantially higher trawl allocations compared to Alternative 1 due to the higher overall yields available to the fishery. Yet, the PPA allocation (Option 1) provides 150 mt less than Option 2 to trawl. While Alternative 2b provides, on average, 47 percent higher trawl allocations to the fleet than Alternative 1, the highest allocation is still a decrease of 44-45 percent from the No Action trawl allocation in 2025 (Table 7-3). The impacts of Alternatives 1, 2b, and 2d on the trawl sector are described in Section 1.4.

Table 7-2. A comparison of two-year trawl/non-trawl allocation options for widow rockfish in 2027 and 2028 under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, sub-options 2b (Alt 2b) and 2d (Alt 2d). Values are rounded to the nearest whole number for clarity. PPA and table headers are shown in bold.

		HG (mt)	Trawl Alloc. (mt)	Non-Trawl Alloc. (mt)	HG (mt)	Trawl Alloc. (mt)	Non-Trawl Alloc. (mt)	HG (mt)	Trawl Alloc. (mt)	Non-Trawl Alloc. (mt)
No Action (2025)		11,019	10,719	300						
		Alt 1			Alt 2b			Alt 2d		
2027	Option 1 (SQ; PPA)	4,495	4,195	300	6,619	6,319	300	6,137	5,837	300
	Option 2		4,345	150		6,469	150		5,987	150
2028	Option 1 (SQ; PPA)	4,709	4,409	300	6,619	6,319	300	6,137	5,837	300
	Option 2		4,559	150		6,469	150		5,987	150

Table 7-3. A comparison of widow rockfish trawl allocations under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, sub-options 2b (Alt 2b) and 2d (Alt 2d) based on the non-trawl allocation of 300 mt. The No Action (2025) trawl allocation is shown for reference. The difference in metric tons (mt) and the percent (%) increase or decrease relative to Alternative 1 are also shown. Values are rounded to the nearest whole number for clarity.

No Action (2025) Trawl Alloc.	Year	Alt 1 Trawl Alloc. (mt)	Alt 2b Trawl Alloc. (mt)	Alt 2b compared to Alt 1		Alt 2d Trawl Alloc. (mt)	Alt 2d compared to Alt 1	
				Difference (mt)	% increase/decrease		Difference (mt)	% increase/decrease
10,719	2027	4,195	6,319	+2,124	+51%	5,837	1,642	+39%
	2028	4,409	6,319	+1,910	+43%	5,837	1,428	+32%

7.3 Allocation of Slope rockfish Complex South of 40° 10' N. lat. and Informal Sharing Agreement for Blackgill Rockfish.

The Council considered four Options to adopt as the biennial allocation methodology for Slope Rockfish Complex south of 40° 10' N. lat. (hereinafter “SRCS”). This consideration was also affected by the decision to adopt Alternative 2 as the interim FPA for rougheye/blackspotted rockfish. The Alternative 2 biennial trawl/non-trawl allocation method is the same as No Action. The alternative HCR for rougheye/blackspotted rockfish would reduce the overall ACL for the complex and thus change the allocation to the sectors (Appendix A, see Table 7-15)

The Council adopted Alternative 2 Option 4⁵ as PPA, which was recommended by the GAP ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, April 2026](#)) and detailed in [Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2026](#). This Option uses the status quo ‘blackgill math’ method for determining the allocation structure as presented in Option 2, but modifies the allocation of blackgill rockfish and the allocation of other rockfish in the SRCS using a rolling five-year average mortality by sector to update the proportions for blackgill rockfish and the “other slope” rockfish complex.. (see rows 11 and 12 in Table 7-4). Note that the rolling average is based on the most recent five years from the GEMM since this includes the best estimate of total mortality (landings/catch and discard mortality). This means the most recent year is one year prior to the No Action year (e.g., 2024 for this harvest specifications and management measures cycle).

The ‘blackgill math’ approach best meets the needs of each sector by allocating most of the “other slope” rockfish complex to the trawl sector and most of the blackgill rockfish to the non-trawl sector. Option 4 changes the fixed allocation value to a rolling allocation. These changes under Option 4 likely reflect increased non-trawl access on the shelf for both recreational and commercial fisheries, along with a shift in trawl effort north of 40°10' N. lat. ([Agenda Item F.7, Attachment 1, November 2025](#)).

In brief, the end-point trawl/non-trawl allocation for SRCS is 57.1 percent trawl and 42.9 percent non-trawl. Blackgill rockfish allocations, under Option 4, are 35 percent trawl and 65 percent non-trawl. The other slope rockfish in the SRCS are 65 percent trawl and 35 percent non-trawl.

⁵ The process to derive the overall trawl/non-trawl allocations for SRCS is detailed in Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 1, April 2026, though summarized in Table 7-4.

Table 7-4. Alternative 2: 2027-28 draft trawl and non-trawl blackgill rockfish and slope rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. biennial allocations and estimated blackgill rockfish and 'other rockfish' slope complex shares in metric tons (mt) using methods described at Appendix A, Section 2.5.1.

Step	Category	2027		2028	
1	SRCS ACL (mt)	688.3		685.5	
2	Blackgill Rockfish (RF) ACL contribution (mt)	163.6		162.2	
3	SRCS ACL - Blackgill RF ACL contribution (mt)	524.7		523.3	
4	Percent of blackgill RF in SRCS (%)	23.8%		23.7%	
5	Percent of other slope RF in SRCS (%)	76.2%		76.3%	
6	SRCS set-aside (mt)	1.5		1.5	
7	Estimated blackgill RF set-aside (mt)	0.36		0.36	
8	Estimated other slope RF in the SRCS complex set-aside (mt)	1.1		1.2	
9	Blackgill RF share (mt) "HG"	163.2		161.9	
10	Other slope RF complex share (mt) "HG"	523.6		522.2	
		T	NT	T	NT
11	Blackgill RF allocation of HG: 35% T, 65% NT (mt)	57.1	106.1	56.6	105.2
12	Slope RF allocation of HG: 65% T, 35% NT (mt)	340.3	183.2	339.4	182.8
13	Allocation of the SRCS (mt)	397.4	289.3	396	288
14	Allocation of the SRCS (%)	57.9%	42.1%	57.9%	42.1%

Recent mortality of the SRCS as a whole is shown in Table 7-5. However, the allocation methodology, i.e., 'blackgill math,' is designed to address the concerns of the non-trawl sector regarding blackgill rockfish. When this allocation methodology was developed, non-trawl targeted blackgill rockfish more so than the other species in the SRCS. Therefore, Table 7-6 shows the estimated mortality of blackgill rockfish and the other species in the SRCS for 2020-25. The 2025 data are provisional, so the 2020-2024 average will be used for the 'blackgill math' allocation approach.

Table 7-5. Recent total mortality of the slope complex (blackgill rockfish and other slope combined) south of 40°10' N. lat. by sector. A provisional 2025 total mortality estimate using commercial landings, recreational catch, and a 5-year-average discard mortality estimate is shown for comparison (Data: GEMM, 2025; PacFIN [accessed 4/21/2026]).

Year	Trawl (mt)	Non-trawl (mt)
2020	44	23
2021	48	33
2022	66	34
2023	29	55
2024	46	79
2025	52	78
5-yr ave.	47	45

Table 7-6. Recent mortality of blackgill rockfish and other species excluding blackgill rockfish in the slope complex (other slope) south of 40°10' N. lat. by sector. Provisional 2025 total mortality estimates are provided for comparison using commercial landings, recreational catch, and a 5-year-average discard mortality estimate (Data: GEMM, 2025; PacFIN and RecFIN [accessed 4/21/2026])

Year	Blackgill Rockfish				Other Slope Rockfish			
	Trawl (mt)	Trawl % of total	Non-Trawl (mt)	Non-Trawl % of total	Trawl (mt)	Trawl % of total	Non-Trawl (mt)	Non-Trawl % of total
2020	9	32%	18	68%	35	87%	5	13%
2021	6	19%	28	81%	42	89%	5	11%
2022	38	60%	25	40%	28	75%	9	25%
2023	18	41%	25	59%	11	28%	30	72%
2024	13	24%	42	76%	33	47%	37	53%
5-yr ave.	17	35%	28	65%	30	65%	17	35%
2025	20	27%	54	73%	32	57%	24	43%

Table 7-7 shows the blackgill rockfish and other slope rockfish shares attributed to each sector relative to the estimated five-year-average mortality. This comparison reveals that mortality for both sectors has been well under the allocation amounts projected under Alternative 2 Option 4.

Table 7-7. Estimated allocation amounts in metric tons of blackgill rockfish shares and ‘other’ slope rockfish shares for Option 4 compared to the five-year-average sector-specific mortality.

	Alternative 2			
	2027		2028	
	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)
<i>Blackgill rockfish ‘shares’</i>				
Opt 4	57.1	106.1	56.6	105.2
5-yr-ave. mort.	17	28	17	28
<i>Other slope rockfish ‘shares’</i>				
Opt 4	340.3	183.2	339.4	182.8
5-yr-ave. mort.	30	17	30	17

8. Action Item 8: Further Allocations

8.1 Cowcod South of 40° 10' N. lat. Non-trawl Sharing Agreement

The Council adopted Alternative 1, i.e., status quo, as PPA, for the within non-trawl allocation sharing agreement for cowcod south of 40°10' N. lat. as neither the commercial nor recreational non-trawl sectors are fully attaining their allocation. The sharing agreement is a 50:50 commercial/recreational sharing agreement (Table 8-1). There is no need to adjust these proportions, which was noted by the GMT in [Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2026](#). -

Table 8-1. PPA: Draft 2027-28 cowcod south of 40°10' N. lat. within non-trawl harvest guideline (HG), and within non-trawl sector allocations in metric tons (mt) to the commercial and recreational fisheries using the status quo sharing agreement percentages (%). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Sector	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
Non-Trawl HG (64%)	46.9	46.1
Commercial (50%)	23.5	23.1
Recreational (50%)	23.5	23.1

8.2 Bocaccio South of 40° 10' N. lat. Non-trawl Sharing Agreement

The Council adopted Alternative 1, i.e., status quo, as PPA for the within non-trawl allocation sharing agreement for bocaccio south of 40°10' N. lat., as neither the commercial nor recreational non-trawl sectors are fully attaining their allocation. The sharing agreement is 69.1 percent to California recreational fisheries and 30.9 percent to commercial fixed gear fisheries (Table 8-2. There is no need to adjust these proportions, which was noted by the GMT in [Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2026](#).

Table 8-2. PPA: 2027-28 bocaccio south of 40° 10' N. lat. within non-trawl harvest guideline (HG) in metric tons (mt) for the commercial non-trawl and recreational sectors south of 40°10' N. lat. using the status quo sharing agreement percentages (%). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Sector	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
Non-trawl HG	1,393.8	1,331.1
Commercial (30.9%)	430.7	411.3
Recreational (69.1%)	963.1	919.8

9. Action Item 9: Sablefish

Sablefish is managed north and south of 36° N. lat. The dispersal of the harvest specifications for this stock is presented here for clarity due to the importance of this stock and the complexity of its allocation structure

9.1 *Sablefish North of 36° N. lat.*

Sablefish north of 36° N. lat. has tribal, EFP, research, and recreational set-asides per the [Amendment 6 \(A6\)](#) allocation framework as described in [Section 6.3.2.1](#) of the FMP. Within this framework, Tribal set-asides are set at 10 percent of the sablefish north of 36° N. lat. ACL. The Council adopted Alternative 1 ACLs and off-the-top deductions for sablefish north of 36° N. lat as PPA, per the recommendations of the GAP ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, April 2026](#)) and GMT ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2026](#)). (Table 9-1). The research set-side was calculated via the 5-year rolling median research mortality process described above in Section 3.1. The 2027-28 research set-aside for this stock under that method is 40.7 mt. The Council adopted a 50 mt recreational set-aside as PPA

The Council considered the GMT recommendation ([Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, November 2025](#)) to analyze whether the 30 mt recreational set-aside for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. should be increased for the 2027-28 biennium. The analysis in [Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 2, April 2026](#) indicated that an increase was necessary to accommodate increases in mortality to the stock from the recreational fishery. The Council considered three options and adopted Option 3 as PPA, per the recommendations of GMT in [Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2026](#). Option 3 increases the recreational set-aside from 30 mt to 50 mt. This increase reduces the non-tribal commercial HG by 0.2 percent when compared against the 30 mt set-aside.

This change is not anticipated to directly provide additional opportunities to recreational fisheries, as this set-aside is intended to accommodate the anticipated mortality of the existing recreational fishery structures. However, as interest in sablefish grows within the recreational sector, this set-aside increase reduces the risk to the ACL of this highly attained species. Additionally, the minor reduction in non-tribal commercial HG that results from this set-aside change is not anticipated to constrain existing commercial fisheries. This change, therefore, provides continued room for growth within the recreational sector at minimal impact to commercial sectors.

Table 9-1. PPA Draft 2027-28 sablefish north of 36° N. lat. annual catch limit (ACL); status quo tribal, exempted fishing permits (EFP), and research set-aside values; Option 3 recreational (Rec) set-aside value; and the resulting non-tribal commercial harvest guideline in metric tons (mt).

Year	ACL (mt)	Tribal (mt)	EFP (mt)	Research (mt)	Rec. (mt)	Set-Aside Sum (mt)	Non-Tribal Commercial HG (mt)
2027	10,962	1,096	0.0	40.7	50	90.7	9,774.8
2028	11,856	1,186	0.0	40.7	50	90.7	10,578.6

Table 9-2 shows the allocations of the Alternative 1 non-tribal commercial HG to the limited entry (LE) fisheries (trawl and non-trawl) and the open access (OA) fishery allocations for the non-tribal commercial sablefish north of 36° N. lat.

Table 9-2. PPA: Draft 2027-28 non-tribal sablefish north of 36° N. lat. commercial harvest shares guidelines (HG) and limited entry (LE) fisheries– LE trawl and LE fixed gear (LEFG) – primary tier, LEFG trip limit, and open access (OA) fishery allocations as percentages (%) and metric tons (mt). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

	Percent	2027 Allocation (mt)	2028 Allocation (mt)
Non-Tribal Commercial HG	-	9,774.8	10,578.6
LE Share	90.6%	8,856	9,584.2
LE Trawl a/	58%	5,136.5	5,558.8
At-Sea Set-aside	-	305	305
SB IFQ	-	4,831.5	5,253.8
LEFG	42%	3,719.5	4,025.4
Primary Share	85%	3,161.6	3,421.6
LEFG Daily Trip limit Share	15%	557.9	603.8
OA Share	9.4%	918.8	994.4

a/ At-sea set-asides for sablefish are unknown at this point and thus IFQ amounts are not shown

Table 9-3 shows the draft tier amounts for 2027-28 under the PPA. The primary share is divided into three tiers via a ratio, where the ratio of limits between the tiers is approximately 1 to 1.75 to 3.85 for Tier 3:Tier 2:Tier 1, respectively

Table 9-3. PPA: Draft 2027-28 Tier amounts in whole pounds (lbs).

	2027 (lbs)	2028 (lbs)
Tier 1	93,770	101,480
Tier 2	42,623	46,128
Tier 3	24,356	26,359

9.2 Sablefish South of 36° N. lat

The Council adopted Alternative 1 ACLs and status quo off-the-top deductions and LE/OA shares for sablefish south of 36° N. lat as PPA (Table 9-4), per the recommendations of the GAP ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, April 2026](#)) and GMT ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2026](#)). Sablefish south of 36° N. lat. is currently managed with biennial allocations that allocate 42 percent of the fishery HG to the trawl sector and 58 percent to the non-trawl sector. Within the non-trawl allocation, a 10 mt recreational fishery set-aside is deducted from the non-trawl HG. The non-trawl sector HG is allocated at 70 percent to the LEFG fishery and 30 percent to the OA fishery. As low attainment south of 36° N. lat. is expected to continue in 2027-28, the GMT recommended adopting the status quo biennial allocation, within non-trawl recreational set-aside, and within non-trawl shares for sablefish 36° N. lat as PPA.

Table 9-4. PPA: Draft 2027-28 sablefish south of 36° N. lat. annual catch limit (ACL) and estimated exempted fishing permits (EFP), research, incidental open access (IOA) set-aside values, and the resulting fishery harvest guideline in metric tons (mt).

Year	ACL	EFP	Research	IOA	Sum	Fishery HG
2027	3,002	0.0	1.5	10.5	12.0	2,990.3
2028	3,247	0.0	1.5	10.5	12.0	3,235.2

Table 9-5 shows the draft 2027-28 sablefish south of 36° N. lat. commercial allocations between trawl and non-trawl under Alternative 1.

Table 9-5. PPA: Draft 2027-28 sablefish south of 36° N. lat. commercial harvest shares guidelines (HG) and limited entry (LE) fisheries– trawl, LE fixed gear (LEFG)– and open access (OA) fishery allocations as percentages (%) and metric tons (mt). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

	Percent	2027 Allocation (mt)	2028 Allocation (mt)
Fishery HG	-	2,990.3	3,235.2
Trawl	42%	1,255.9	1,358.8
Non Trawl	58%	1,734.4	1,876.4
Rec set-aside	-	10	10
Non-Trawl HG	-	1,724.4	1,866.4
LEFG Share	70%	1,207.1	1,306.5
OA Share	30%	517.3	559.9

10. Action Item: 10 Yelloweye Rockfish

10.1 Allocation

The Council adopted the Alternative 1 HCR for yelloweye rockfish as interim FPA and the status quo trawl/non-trawl allocation structure for yelloweye rockfish shown in Table 10-1, per the recommendations of the GAP ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, April 2026](#)) and GMT ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2026](#)). The biennial allocation structure is 92 percent non-trawl and 8 percent trawl. The non-trawl sector, including commercial and recreational fisheries, are subject to ACTs of 78.4 percent of the HG. Additionally, the non-trawl HG is divided between the commercial non-trawl and state-specific recreational sectors through a percentage-based informal sharing arrangement. The commercial non-trawl sector is allocated 29 percent of the total non-trawl HG and the Washington, Oregon, and California recreational sectors are allocated 25.6 percent, 23.3 percent, and 30.2 percent of the non-trawl HG, respectively. The HG for these fisheries are also subject to the 78.4 percent ACT. The GMT indicated that the ACTs provide a precautionary approach to any harvesting of yelloweye rockfish that is appropriate following the [update assessment of yelloweye rockfish in 2025](#) that indicated the relative spawning output narrowly surpasses the management target of 40 percent (40.1 percent in 2025).

Table 10-1. PPA: Draft 2027-28 status quo yelloweye rockfish calculated annual catch limit (ACL), trawl and non-trawl allocations under status quo biennial allocation methodology, harvest guideline (HG), and annual catch target (ACT), including the within non-trawl HGs and ACTs, in metric tons (mt). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Year	2027 (mt)		2028 (mt)	
ACL	113.0		113.0	
Off-the-Top Deduction	16.3		16.3	
Fishery HG	96.7		96.7	
Trawl (8%)	7.7		7.7	
At-Sea	-		-	
IFQ	7.7		7.7	
	HG	ACT	HG	ACT
Non-trawl (92%)	89.0	69.7	89.0	69.7
Commercial (20.9%)	18.6	14.6	18.6	14.6
WA Rec (25.6%)	22.8	17.9	22.8	17.9
OR Rec (23.3%)	20.7	16.3	20.7	16.3
CA Rec (30.2%)	26.9	21.1	26.9	21.1

11. Action Item 11: Canary Rockfish

11.1 Allocation

The Council adopted the Alternative 2 HCR for canary rockfish as interim FPA and the status quo trawl/non-trawl allocation structure for canary rockfish shown in Table 11-1 as PPA, per the recommendations of the GAP ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, April 2026](#)) and GMT([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2026](#)). Canary rockfish is a biennial allocation, with 72.3 percent of the HG allocated to trawl and 27.7 percent of the HG allocated to non-trawl (Table 11-1). The non-trawl HG is divided between the commercial non-trawl and state-specific recreational sectors through a percentage-based informal sharing agreement. The non-trawl sharing agreement is 36 percent commercial, 12.3 percent Washington recreational, 18.5 percent Oregon recreational, and 33.2 percent California recreational.

Table 11-1. PPA: Draft 2027-28 canary rockfish within non-trawl sector commercial non-trawl and recreational status quo share percentages in metric tons (mt). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Sector	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
Non-Trawl allocation	166.6	172.4
<i>Commercial (36%)</i>	60.0	62.1
<i>WA Recreational (12.3%)</i>	20.5	21.2
<i>OR Recreational (18.5%)</i>	30.8	31.9
<i>CA Recreational (33.2%)</i>	55.3	57.2

12. Action Items 12-13: Groundfish Trawl, including At-Sea Pacific Whiting Fishery Sectors

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12.1 At-Sea Set-Asides

The Council adopted at-sea set-asides as described in the GAP report ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, April 2026](#)) and detailed in the GMT report ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3, April 2026](#)) as PPA. . In brief, the Council adopted status quo, Option 1, set-aside amounts for all stocks/stock complexes except: canary rockfish, yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat., petrale and Dover soles, lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat., and longnose skate (Table 12-1).

The Council increased the at-sea set-asides for canary rockfish and shortspine thornyhead relative to status quo as PPA; however, these amounts reflect the Council-adopted at-sea set-asides for 2026 as part of the Emergency Rule ([91 FR 2714](#)). The Council removed at-sea set-asides for Dover sole, lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat., longnose skate, and petrale sole as PPA. These stocks have zero or near-zero risks of exceeding their status quo at-sea set-asides. Historical mortality of these stocks in the at-sea fishery is very low and is not expected to pose a risk to the trawl allocation, even if the recent 10-year maximum was caught in the at-sea fishery. Removing all four of these at-sea set-asides would reduce management complexity and lower the number of set-asides the Council needs to reconsider each biennial cycle. The Council adopted Option 2 at-sea set-asides for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. and yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. as PPA, which reflect relatively proportional changes to those stocks' ACLs and trawl allocations. Expected impacts to the at-sea fishery under these PPA set-asides are described in Chapter 12 of the Appendix and have not changed following the April Council meeting.

Table 12-1. PPA. At-sea set-aside (mt) for the 2027-28 biennium by stock or stock complex.

Stock/Stock Complex	PPA At-Sea Set-Aside (mt)
Arrowtooth flounder	100
Canary rockfish	21.9
Darkblotched rockfish	100
Dover sole	remove
Lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat.	remove
Longnose skate	remove
Other flatfish	100
Pacific halibut	10
Pacific ocean perch	300
Petrable sole	remove
Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.	305
Shelf rockfish complex north of 40° 10' N. lat.	35
Slope rockfish complex north of 40° 10' N. lat.	300
Shortspine thornyhead	76.3
Widow rockfish	300
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.	320

After deducting at-sea set-asides, the remainder of the trawl allocation is distributed to the IFQ fishery. The Council's interim FPA decision for HCRs and PPA decision for management measures (i.e., allocations and at-sea set-asides) results in the 2027-28 IFQ allocations shown in Table 12-2

for all stocks except widow rockfish. Pending the Council's PPA/FPA decision in June on the widow rockfish HCR, the potential 2027-28 widow rockfish IFQ allocations are shown in Table 12-5, which are based on the status quo PPA trawl/non-trawl allocation and at-sea set-aside. The largest degree of change in IFQ allocations from 2025 to 2027 (PPA) are for widow rockfish, yelloweye rockfish, English sole, sablefish north and south of 36° N. lat., and splitnose rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.

Table 12-2. PPA. 2027-28 Shorebased IFQ allocations based on the FPA HCRs and PPA management measures (i.e., trawl/non-trawl allocations and at-sea set-aside), compared to the 2025 No Action allocation. Changes shown as zero percent are in fact non-zero increases of <1 percent. Dashes indicate zero percent change.

Stock or Stock Complex	2025 No Action	2027 PPA	2028 PPA	2027 PPA Percent Change from 2025
Arrowtooth flounder	8,543	5,486	4,710	-36%
Bocaccio rockfish south of 40°10' N.	653	891	851	+36%
Canary rockfish	348	413	428	+19%
Chilipepper rockfish south of 40°10' N.	2,091	2,235	2,148	+7%
Cowcod south of 40°10' N.	24	26	26	+10%
Darkblotched rockfish	593	614	597	+4%
Dover sole	43,538	35,175	32,366	-19%
English sole	8,236	2,808	2,808	-66%
Lingcod north of 40°10' N.	1,492	1,446	1,427	-3%
Lingcod south of 40°10' N.	295	315	318	+7%
Longspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N.	1,901	1,742	1,700	-8%
Minor shelf rockfish north of 40°10' N.	726	744	738	+2%
Minor shelf rockfish south of 40°10' N.	175	176	176	+1%
Minor slope rockfish north of 40°10' N.	858	542	539	-37%
Minor slope rockfish south of 40°10' N.	425	397	395	-7%
Other flatfish	6,923	5,707	5,361	-18%
Pacific cod	1,044	1,045	1,045	+0%
Pacific halibut (IBQ) north of 40°10' N. a/	91	91	91	-
Pacific ocean perch north of 40°10' N.	2,723	2,538	2,455	-7%
Pacific whiting a/	119,603	119,603	119,603	-
Petrable sole	2,001	2,142	2,142	+7%
Sablefish north of 36° N.	13,091	4,832	5,254	-63%
Sablefish south of 36° N.	3,288	1,256	1,359	-62%
Shortspine thornyhead	406	527	527	+30%
Splitnose rockfish south of 40°10' N.	1,419	585	585	-59%
Starry flounder	188	189	189	+1%
Widow rockfish	See Table 12-6 below			
Yelloweye rockfish	3.2	7.7	7.7	+141%
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N.	4,230	3,238	2,956	-23%

a/ The IBQ/IFQ allocations for Pacific halibut and Pacific whiting reflect those stocks' 2025 IFQ allocations as proxies for the 2027-28 allocations, because harvest limits for those stocks are decided in separate, annual processes.

New IFQ projections were modeled following the Council’s PPA decision in April. Table 12-3 and Table 12-4 below provide the IFQ catch and attainment projections for 2027 and 2028, respectively, under the Council’s PPA trawl/non-trawl allocations and at-sea set-asides for all stocks and stock complexes except widow rockfish. Widow rockfish IFQ allocations and catch projections are shown separately in Table 12-5. See Section 1.4 for further analysis of the different widow rockfish HCR alternatives being considered for June and their impact on IFQ allocations. The IFQ model projects that the PPA petrale sole allocation will be exceeded by 6 mt in both 2027 and 2028. Any overage of the IFQ allocation is required to be covered with quota the following year, as further discussed in [Agenda Item C.6.a, GMT Report 1, April 2026](#).

Table 12-3. PPA. 2027 PPA IFQ allocations along with projected catch and projected attainment. Allocations are rounded to the nearest whole number, except for yelloweye rockfish for which the allocation is rounded to the nearest tenth. Projected catches are rounded to the nearest tenth, and projected attainments are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Stock or Stock Complex	Allocation	Projected Catch	Projected Attainment
Arrowtooth flounder	5,486	980.9	18%
Bocaccio rockfish south of 40°10' N.	891	417.5	47%
Canary rockfish	413	242.9	59%
Chilipepper rockfish south of 40°10' N.	2,235	932.4	42%
Cowcod south of 40°10' N.	26	5.6	22%
Darkblotched rockfish	614	189.5	31%
Dover sole	35,175	3,352.3	10%
English sole	2,808	150.6	5%
Lingcod north of 40°10' N.	1,446	367.8	25%
Lingcod south of 40°10' N.	315	61.3	19%
Longspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N.	1,742	23.6	1%
Minor shelf rockfish north of 40°10' N.	744	282.2	38%
Minor shelf rockfish south of 40°10' N.	176	55.2	31%
Minor slope rockfish north of 40°10' N.	542	161.0	30%
Minor slope rockfish south of 40°10' N.	397	51.8	13%
Other flatfish	5,707	325.6	6%
Pacific cod	1,045	4.1	<1%
Pacific halibut (IBQ) north of 40°10' N.	91	10.7	12%
Pacific ocean perch north of 40°10' N.	2,538	273.2	11%
Pacific whiting	119,603	108,038.3	90%
Petrale sole	2,142	2,148.4	100%
Sablefish north of 36° N.	4,832	2,818.8	58%
Sablefish south of 36° N.	1,256	73.8	6%
Shortspine thornyhead	527	265.4	50%
Splitnose rockfish south of 40°10' N.	585	14.5	2%
Starry flounder	189	0.3	<1%

Stock or Stock Complex	Allocation	Projected Catch	Projected Attainment
Widow rockfish	See Table 12-5		
Yelloweye rockfish	7.7	1.8	23%
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N.	3,238	1,711.5	53%

Table 12-4.. PPA. 2028 PPA IFQ allocations along with projected catch and projected attainment. Allocations are rounded to the nearest whole number, except for yelloweye rockfish for which the allocation is rounded to the nearest tenth. Projected catches are rounded to the nearest tenth, and projected attainments are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Stock or Stock Complex	Allocation	Projected Catch	Projected Attainment
Arrowtooth flounder	4,710	918.5	20%
Bocaccio rockfish south of 40°10' N.	851	412.2	48%
Canary rockfish	428	247.7	58%
Chilipepper rockfish south of 40°10' N.	2,148	930.4	43%
Cowcod south of 40°10' N.	26	5.5	21%
Darkblotched rockfish	597	188.8	32%
Dover sole	32,366	3,234.0	10%
English sole	2,808	150.6	5%
Lingcod north of 40°10' N.	1,427	363.4	25%
Lingcod south of 40°10' N.	318	61.6	19%
Longspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N.	1,700	23.6	1%
Minor shelf rockfish north of 40°10' N.	738	280.6	38%
Minor shelf rockfish south of 40°10' N.	176	55.1	31%
Minor slope rockfish north of 40°10' N.	539	160.8	30%
Minor slope rockfish south of 40°10' N.	395	51.6	13%
Other flatfish	5,361	321.5	6%
Pacific cod	1,045	4.1	<1%
Pacific halibut (IBQ) north of 40°10' N.	91	10.8	12%
Pacific ocean perch north of 40°10' N.	2,455	269.7	11%
Pacific whiting	119,603	108,038.3	90%
Petrable sole	2,142	2,148.4	100%
Sablefish north of 36° N.	5,254	3,016.8	57%
Sablefish south of 36° N.	1,359	79.8	6%
Shortspine thornyhead	527	265.4	50%
Splitnose rockfish south of 40°10' N.	585	14.5	2%
Starry flounder	189	0.3	<1%
Widow rockfish	See Table 12-5		
Yelloweye rockfish	7.7	1.8	23%
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N.	2,956	1,663.3	56%

Table 12-5. PPA. 2027-28 widow rockfish IFQ allocations and catch projections, based on the Council’s PPA decision to adopt status quo trawl/non-trawl allocations and at-sea set-aside. No Action (2025) is provided for reference only.

	2027			2028		
	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Projected Attain.	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Projected Attain.
No Action (2025)	10,419	10,021	96%	-	-	-
Alternative 1*	3,895	4,260	109%	4,109	4,441	108%
Alternative 2d	5,537	5,642	102%	5,537	5,642	102%
Alternative 2b	6,019	6,074	101%	6,019	6,074	101%

*Projected catches for Alternative 1 in this table are based on the October version of the widow rockfish stock assessment, which resulted in IFQ allocations of 3,995 mt in 2027 and 4,197 mt in 2028. Those are slightly different from the current Alternative 1 IFQ allocations shown in this table, which are based on the January version of the widow rockfish stock assessment. New projections were not modeled for the revised Alternative 1 IFQ allocations, because the values are similar.

Since the initial IFQ model run in January 2026, the range of potential IFQ allocations has changed for several stocks and stock complexes. This is due to several factors, including inadvertent errors in the original range, changes to the management options proposed, and the Tribal off-the-top deduction request being lowered in April from the original November values. Table 12-6 shows a comparison between the original range used in the January 2026 IFQ model run and the updated range used for the FPA IFQ model run to inform June decision-making. These “ranges” encompass all possible IFQ allocations across both years of the biennium. The Council’s PPA IFQ allocation is also shown for reference, and except for the slope rockfish complex north of 40° 10' N. lat., the PPA allocations are either very close to, or within, the range initially modeled. Therefore, impacts described in Chapter 12 of the Appendix are still applicable to the PPA for those stocks. For slope rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat., the Alternative 1 IFQ allocations were inadvertently used for the Alternative 2 model run in January, resulting in a revised range that extends 418 mt lower than the original range. However, projected attainment is so low for this stock complex that the difference between Alternatives 1 and 2 has very little impact on catches, and the impacts are expected to remain relatively the same as those that were analyzed prior to the PPA decision.

Table 12-6. Comparison between the original IFQ model range in January 2026 to the new range as of April 30, which will be used to inform the Council’s FPA decision in June. The Council’s PPA IFQ allocation from April is also shown for reference.

Stock or Stock Complex	Original Range in January	New Range as of April 30	April PPA 2027/28
Slope rockfish north	957 – 974	539 – 974	542 / 539
Slope rockfish south	301 – 440	355 – 554	397 / 395
Petrale sole	2,047 – 2,118	2,071 – 2,142	2,142 / 2,142
Sablefish north	4,718 – 5,265	4,708 – 5,265	4,832 / 5,254
Shortspine thornyhead	481 – 526	488 – 533	527 / 527
Widow rockfish	3,995 – 9,204	3,895 – 6,269	-
Yelloweye rockfish	5.8 – 7.4	5.5 – 7.7	7.7 / 7.7
Yellowtail rockfish north	2,749 – 3,198	2,749 – 3,238	3,238 / 2,956

Non-IFQ Stock and Stock Complex Trip Limits

The Council adopted status quo IFQ trip limits for non-IFQ stocks/stock complexes as PPA (Table 12-7).

Table 12-7. PPA. Trip limits for non-IFQ species.

Species, Species Group, or Stock Complex	Trip Limit
Big skate	Unlimited
Cabazon (California)	50 lb./month
Cabazon/kelp greenling (Oregon)	50 lb./month
California scorpionfish	Unlimited
Longnose skate	Unlimited
Nearshore rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat., Washington black rockfish, and black/blue/deacon rockfish (Oregon)	300 lb./month
Other fish	Unlimited
Pacific spiny dogfish	60,000 lb./month

12.2 Socioeconomic Impacts

Chilipepper

The 2027-28 management measures may provide opportunity for continued growth in chilipepper targeting by bottom trawl vessels in the IFQ fishery, which has been steadily increasing since around 2020 (Figure 12-1). 2024 saw the highest number of bottom trawl hauls targeting chilipepper, as well as the largest amount of bottom trawl landings, since the start of the IFQ program. Catch per unit effort of chilipepper south has also been steadily increasing since 2016, with a small drop in 2025. Although landings and targeting of chilipepper has been increasing, ex-vessel revenue from bottom trawl landed chilipepper has not increased by the same scale, because price per pound has been declining during that time.

While a lower Alternative 2 HCR was considered for chilipepper, the Council adopted Alternative 1 as the interim FPA, which sets the 2027 and 2028 IFQ allocations for chilipepper south of 40° 10' N. lat. at 2,236 mt and 2,148 mt, respectively, which are both higher than any historical year since the start of the IFQ program (Figure 12-2). These increases would provide additional opportunity for bottom trawl vessels to target chilipepper, particularly for vessels operating in northern California. 98 percent of the chilipepper landings made since 2020 have occurred in the ports of (in order of most to least landings) Fort Bragg, Monterey, San Francisco, and Eureka.

The IFQ model projects that the fishery will catch 932 mt of chilipepper in 2027 (42 percent attainment), compared to 930 mt in 2025, despite a 144 mt increase in the IFQ chilipepper allocation. The model does not account for the ongoing rate of growth in chilipepper targeting that may continue into the next biennium, and therefore, could be underpredicting chilipepper attainment in 2027-28. In 2025, the IFQ fishery received just over \$1 million in ex-vessel revenue from chilipepper landings, making it the seventh highest revenue-earning IFQ stock.

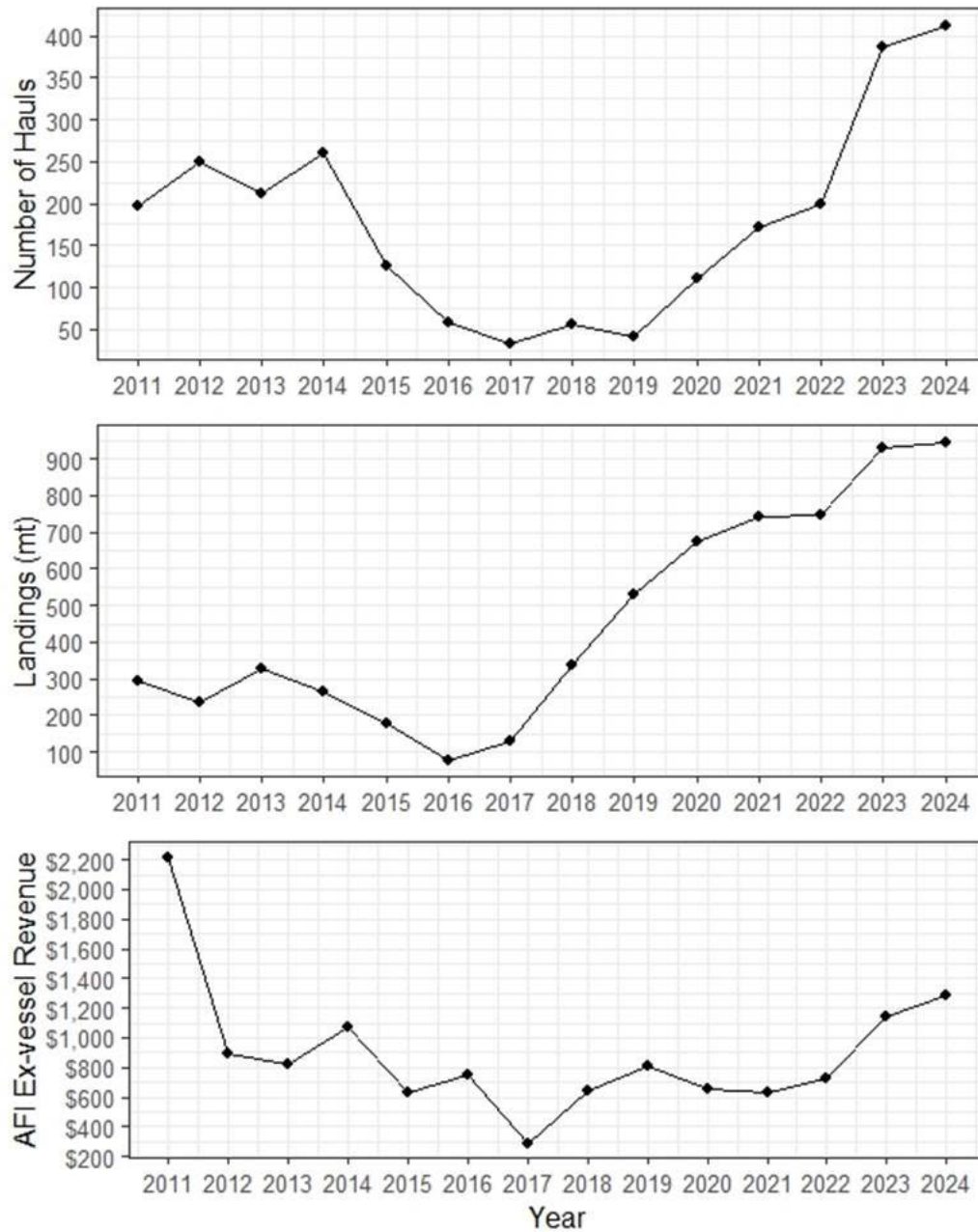


Figure 12-1. Number of bottom trawl hauls that targeted chilipepper rockfish, as well as chilipepper rockfish landings and revenue by bottom trawl vessels since the start of the IFQ program. Source: WCGOP (hauls) and PacFIN Comprehensive Fish Tickets (landings and revenue)

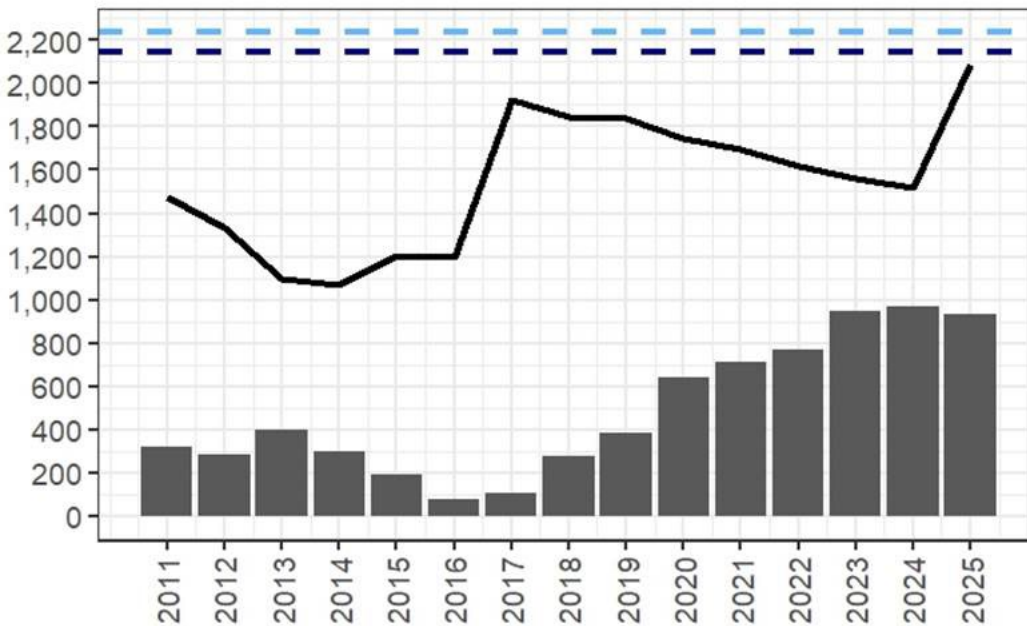


Figure 12-2. PPA IFQ allocations for chilipepper rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. in 2027 (dashed light blue) and 2028 (dashed dark blue), compared to the historical IFQ allocation (solid black line) and mortality (columns).

Canary rockfish

The Council's interim FPA/PPA from the April meeting would set the 2027 and 2028 canary rockfish IFQ allocations at 413 mt and 428 mt, respectively, which are 19 percent and 23 percent higher than the 2025 IFQ allocation. Low canary rockfish allocations in 2025 negatively impacted the IFQ fishery's ability to utilize target stocks, as it became more difficult for trawl vessels to acquire enough quota to continue fishing through the end of the year. Discussions with the GAP indicated that some vessels opted to cease fishing earlier than they would have otherwise, because they were limited by their canary rockfish quota and could not find additional quota to lease. Trawl vessels will often hold onto their quota for much of the year to insure themselves against a potential lightning strike, which, if large enough, could require a vessel to cease fishing for the remainder of the year. This effectively freezes the market and results in under-attainment of canary rockfish along with other target stocks. Higher canary rockfish IFQ allocations in 2027-28 would benefit all IFQ participants, as it would allow the quota market to become slightly more fluid. Port communities in both Washington and Oregon are expected to benefit the most from the canary rockfish IFQ allocation increases, as 74 percent of canary rockfish landings since 2020 were made in Washington and Oregon ports. Out of California ports, Eureka and Fort Bragg landed the most canary rockfish since 2020.

Shortspine thornyhead

Based on the interim FPA/PPA decisions in April, the shortspine thornyhead IFQ allocations for 2027 and 2028 would be set at 527 mt in both years, which is 30 percent higher than the 2025 allocation. Since shortspine thornyhead is targeted by bottom trawl vessels alongside sablefish, Dover sole, and longspine thornyhead in the Dover-Thornyhead-Sablefish (DTS) complex, the

higher shortspine thornyhead allocations would benefit bottom trawl vessels targeting all four of those species and allow for more flexibility when targeting the entire complex. Attainment of the other DTS stocks may increase in 2027-28 as a result of higher shortspine thornyhead allocations. The IFQ model does not currently account for the impact that one species has on another in terms of allocation attainment. While bottom trawl-caught shortspine thornyhead is landed in nearly all ports north of 36° N. lat., Oregon port communities are expected to benefit the most from shortspine thornyhead increases in 2027-28. 40 percent of shortspine thornyhead bottom trawl landings since 2020 were landed into Astoria, OR where 30 vessels have made at least one shortspine thornyhead landing since 2020. Newport, OR had the second-most landings and 15 vessels with one landing since 2020, followed by Eureka, CA.

12.2.1 Constraints

The IFQ fishery is expected to experience several negative socioeconomic impacts from the 2027-28 harvest specifications package, driven by substantial reductions in allocations from 2025 to 2027. The most severe constraints are likely to be felt from the widow rockfish and sablefish allocation reductions, along with yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. The widow rockfish IFQ allocation will be reduced by roughly half. The potential 2027-28 widow rockfish IFQ allocations across the three alternative HCRs span from ~4,000 mt to ~6,000 mt, compared to a 10,419 mt IFQ allocation in 2025 which was fully attained (96 percent).

Table 2-1 of the Socioeconomic Impact Analysis provided at the April Council meeting estimates a ~\$2 million difference between Alternatives 1 and 2. That difference of \$2 million is largely attributed to the very wide range in widow rockfish ACLs that the GMT analyzed prior to the April Council meeting (i.e., 4,796 – 10,731 mt). GMT analysis in Chapter 12, Appendix B of the April Council Analytical Document also estimates a roughly \$2-3 million difference in IFQ ex-vessel revenue across that widow rockfish range of ACLs in 2027 and 2028 (Table B-24). That analysis was based on a \$0.27 widow rockfish price per pound in the IFQ fishery in 2025, calculated as fleetwide ex-vessel revenue divided by fleetwide landings. However, the widow rockfish ACL range is much narrower going into the June FPA decision, following the Council's April motion to analyze Alternatives 1, 2d, and 2b. Using the same methodology to estimate ex-vessel revenues under different IFQ allocations, Table 12-8 below projects a difference of ~\$1 million between the smallest and largest potential IFQ allocations. For comparison, in 2025, the IFQ fishery generated \$5.6 million in ex-vessel revenue from widow rockfish landings alone. The revenue projections shown in Table 12-8 may overestimate ex-vessel revenues from widow rockfish, because IFQ attainment may be less than 100 percent given that vessels are still limited by widow rockfish quota availability.

Table 12-8. Projected widow rockfish IFQ allocations, attainments, and ex-vessel revenues under each of the three Alternative HCRs.

	Alternative 1 (Default)	Alternative 2d	Alternative 2b
2027			
IFQ Allocation (mt)	3,895	5,537	6,019
IFQ Projected Catch (mt)	4,260	5,642	6,074
IFQ Projected Attainment	109%	102%	101%
IFQ Projected Ex-vessel Revenue	\$2,530,500	\$3,351,427	\$3,608,041
Difference from Alternative 1	-	+ \$820,927	+ \$1,077,542

	Alternative 1 (Default)	Alternative 2d	Alternative 2b
2028			
IFQ Allocation	4,109	5,537	6,019
IFQ Projected Catch (mt)	4,441	5,642	6,074
IFQ Projected Attainment	108%	102%	101%
IFQ Projected Ex-vessel Revenue	\$2,638,016	\$3,351,427	\$3,608,041
Difference from Alternative 1		+ \$713,411	+ \$970,025

Table 2-1 of the Socioeconomic Impact Analysis from April estimates a roughly \$7-10 million reduction in “non-whiting trawl + non-trawl IFQ” ex-vessel revenues from 2025 (No Action) to either of the Alternatives. Despite the 10,731 mt ACL for widow rockfish under Alternative 2 at the time, the Alternative 2 IFQ allocation would still not generate sector-wide ex-vessel revenues at the level of those in 2025 (\$30.9 million) for the non-whiting and non-trawl IFQ sectors. This is most likely driven by the sablefish allocation reductions in 2027-28 compared to 2025-26. There is no Alternative 2 HCR for sablefish in 2027-28, and the PPA IFQ allocations for sablefish north and south of 36° N. lat. are reducing by 63 and 62 percent, respectively. In 2025, sablefish north of 36° N. lat. generated \$10.1 million for the IFQ fishery as a whole, the second highest ex-vessel revenue amount for any IFQ stock.

Therefore, IFQ ex-vessel revenue in 2027-28 is estimated to experience a greater impact from the sablefish allocation reductions, compared to widow rockfish, given the scale of landings and revenue that sablefish contributes. However, the widow rockfish allocation reductions will still have an impact on IFQ vessels that target Pacific whiting and catch widow rockfish as bycatch, as well as non-whiting vessels that target midwater rockfish stocks. Table 2-1 holds the whiting sector’s estimated ex-vessel revenue constant across 2025 and the two Alternative HCRs, because the IFQ model uses the 2025 Pacific whiting catches as a proxy for 2027-28 catches. It is likely that shoreside whiting vessels will need to operate more cautiously to avoid exceeding their vessel-level widow rockfish quota limits. That could result in lower Pacific whiting ex-vessel revenues in 2027-28. It could also impact yellowtail rockfish attainment and revenues to an uncertain degree, given the association between widow and yellowtail rockfishes.

Widow dependence can be measured in terms of share of ex-vessel revenue or in terms of reliance on widow quota when targeting other midwater species. Most vessels in the IFQ fishery are not dependent directly on widow rockfish for ex-vessel revenue. Even the 75th percentile of vessels earned only 12-13 percent of their total ex-vessel revenue from widow rockfish landings (Table 12-9. Additionally, a cursory look at the data indicates that the proportion of revenue a widow-dependent vessel earns from widow rockfish landings does not predict overall non-whiting financial performance (i.e., operating net revenue) for that vessel (Figure 12-3).

Table 12-9. Percent of total ex-vessel revenue from widow rockfish within the IFQ fishery for the 25th, 50th, and 75th percentile of IFQ vessels.

Year	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
2021	0%	0%	13%
2022	0%	1%	12%
2023	0%	0%	12%
2024	0%	0%	12%

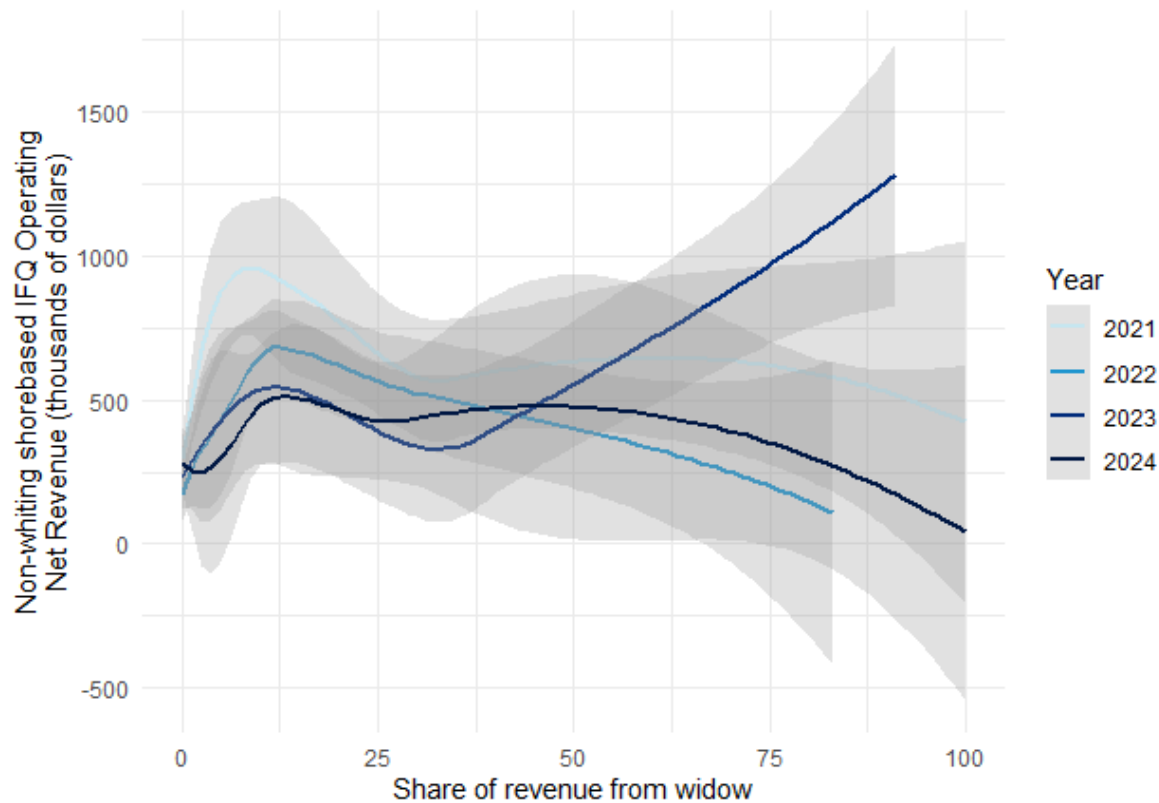


Figure 12-3. Non-whiting shorebased IFQ operating net revenue (thousands of dollars) from non-whiting shorebased IFQ operations versus share of vessel-level ex-vessel revenue from landings of widow rockfish.

If shoreside whiting vessels are constrained by lower widow rockfish quota in their accounts in 2027-28, they are likely to retain that quota as long as possible in the season to insure themselves against high bycatch events that could require them to cease fishing. Historically, there is a spike in widow rockfish quota trades in late Fall (around November), which coincides with a second uptick in widow rockfish catch by non-whiting midwater IFQ vessels late in the season (Figures Figure 12-4, Figure 12-5, and Figure 12-6). Conversations with IFQ industry members suggests that widow rockfish quota is traded from shoreside whiting vessels to non-whiting vessels late in the season when the whiting vessels are largely done prosecuting that fishery. There is some amount of trading that occurs prior to Fall, but in 2027-28, there is likely to be even less trading earlier in the season as whiting vessels hold onto their bycatch quota. Shoreside whiting activity typically ends in late October or early November, so it is possible that some widow rockfish quota trading may still occur at that time, and midwater rockfish vessels may still be able to lease additional quota before the end of the season.

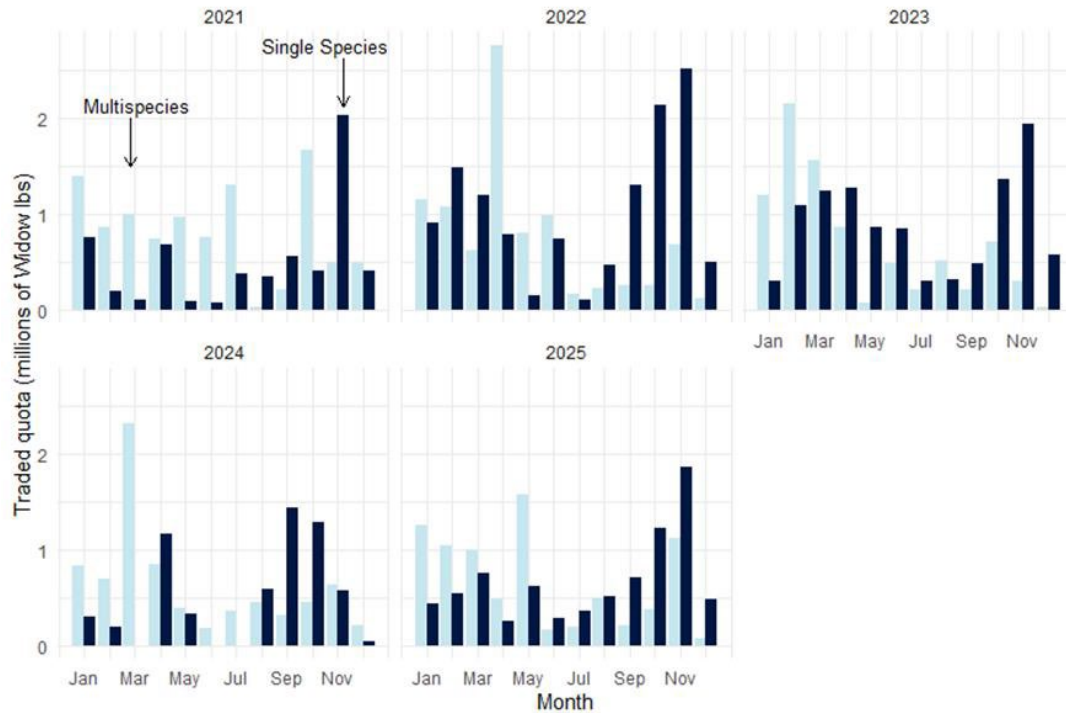


Figure 12-4. Total volume (lbs.) of widow rockfish quota traded by month, 2021-2025, separated into multispecies trades and single species trades.

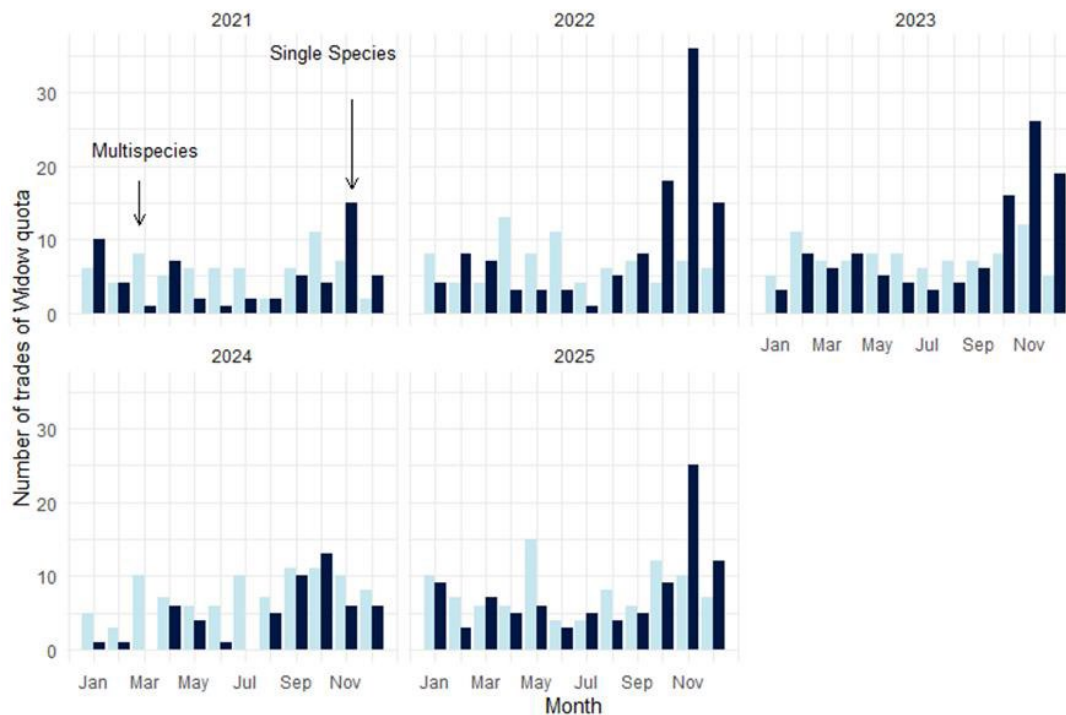


Figure 12-5. Number of trades of widow rockfish quota by month, 2021-2025, separated into multispecies trades and single species trades.

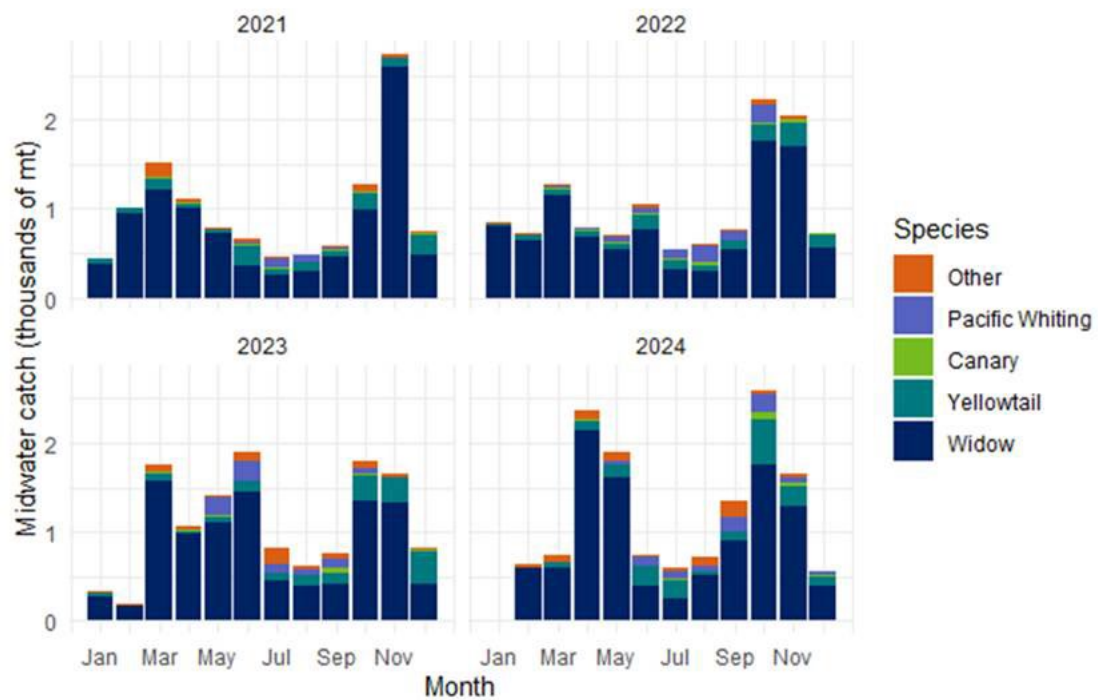


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13. Action Items 14-17: Groundfish Commercial Non-trawl Fishery

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13.1 Non-Trawl Trip Limits

The Council considered trip-limit modifications for sablefish, shortspine thornyhead, canary rockfish, chilipepper south of 40°10' N. lat., widow rockfish, yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat., shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat., nearshore rockfish complex, California quillback, yelloweye rockfish, and cowcod. They adopted the commercial LE and OA trip limits as recommended by the GMT in [Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3, April 2026](#) as PPA for the aforementioned stocks. All other LE/OA trip limits for managed stocks and stock complexes will remain as status quo, i.e., what is in place in 2026 (see the Appendix to this section). The stocks and stock complexes with trip limits modified by the PPA under this action are shown below.

Sablefish

The Council considered two LE and three OA trip-limit options for both sablefish north and three trip-limit options each for LE and OA south of 36° N. lat. The Council adopted Option 1, status quo, as PPA (Table 13-1). The GMT projection models indicate that few vessels will reach the current status quo trip limits; therefore, the Council did not deem it necessary to adjust the trip limits at this time.

Table 13-1. PPA 2027-28 limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) trip limits for sablefish north (N) and south (S) of 36° N. lat.

Stock	Fishery	Trip Limit
Sablefish North of 36° N. lat.	LEN	5,500 lbs. per week, not to exceed 11,000 lbs. bimonthly
	OAN	4,000 lbs. per week, not to exceed 8,000 lbs. bimonthly
Sablefish South of 36° N. lat.	LES	3,000 lbs. per week
	OAS	2,500 lbs. per week, not to exceed 7,500 lbs. bimonthly

Shortspine Thornyhead

The Council considered four LE/OA trip-limit options for both shortspine thornyhead north (N) and south (S) of 34°27' N. lat. The Council adopted status quo for shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat. and Option 1 for shortspine thornyhead south of 34°27' N. lat., as PPA (Table 13-2).

Table 13-2. PPA 2027-28 limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) trip limits for shortspine thornyhead north (N) and south (S) of 34°27' N. lat.

Stock	Fishery	Trip Limit
Shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat.	LEN	3,000 lbs./2 months
	OAN	100 lbs./2 months
Shortspine thornyhead south of 34°27' N. lat.	LES	5,000 lbs./2 months
	OAS	100 lbs./2 months

Canary Rockfish

The Council considered three LE/OA trip-limit options for canary rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat. and one LE/OA trip limit for canary rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat. The Council adopted Option

2 trip limits for LE/OA fisheries north of 40°10' N. lat. and status quo trip limits for fisheries south of 40°10' N. lat. as PPA (Table 13-3).

Table 13-3. PPA 2027-28 limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) trip limits for canary rockfish north (N) and south (S) of 40°10' N. lat.

Stock	Fishery	Trip Limit
Canary Rockfish	LEN	4,000 lbs. /2 months
	OAN	2,000 lbs. /2 months
Canary Rockfish	LES	4,000 lbs. /2 months
	OAS	2,000 lbs. /2 months

Chilipepper south of 40°10' N. lat.

The Council considered four LE/OA trip-limit options each for chilipepper south of 40°10' N. lat. This area is split in to sub areas: Central – 40°10' N. lat. and 34° 27' N. lat. and South – south of 34° 27' N. lat. The Council adopted Option 2 LE/OA trip limits for chilipepper south of 40°10' N. lat. for the Central and South sub-areas. lat. as PPA (Table 13-4).

Table 13-4. PPA 2027-28 limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) trip limits for chilipepper south of 40°10' N. lat. Central (C) = between 40°10' N. lat. and 34°27' N. lat. S = south of 34°27' N. lat.

Stock	Fishery	Trip Limit
Chilipepper south of 40°10' N. lat.	LEC + S	15,000 lbs./2 months
	OAC + S	9,000 lbs./2 months

Widow rockfish

The Council considered four LE/OA trip-limit modifications for widow rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat., between 40°10' N. lat. and 34°27' N. lat. and south of 34°27' N. lat. The Council adopted Option 3 as their PPA (Table 13-5).

Table 13-5. PPA 2027-28 limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) trip limits for widow rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat. (N), between 40°10' N. lat. and 34°27' N. lat. (C), and south of 34°27' N. lat. (S)

Stock	Fishery	Trip Limit
Widow rockfish	LEN	12,000 lbs./2 months
	OAN	8,000 lbs./2 months
	LEC + S	24,000 lbs./2 months
	OAC + S	16,000 lbs./2 months

Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat.

The Council considered four LE/OA trip-limit options for yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat. The Council adopted Option 2 as PPA (Table 13-6).

Table 13-6. PPA 2027-28 limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) trip limits for yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat.

Stock	Fishery	Trip Limit
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat.	LEN	7,000 lbs./2 months
	OAN	5,000 lbs./2 months

Shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat.

The Council considered four LE/OA trip limit modifications for the Shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. The Council adopted Option 2 as their PPA (Table 13-7).

Table 13-7. PPA 2027-28 limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) trip limits for shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat.

Stock	Fishery	Trip Limit
Shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat.	LEN	8,000 lbs./2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermillion/sunset rockfish
	OAN	6,400 lbs./2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermillion/sunset rockfish

Nearshore Rockfish Off California:

Black rockfish 42° to 40° 10' N lat., Nearshore rockfish 42° to 40° 10' N lat., Shallow Nearshore rockfish south of 40° 10' N lat., Deeper Nearshore rockfish 40° 10' to 34° 27' N lat., Deeper Nearshore rockfish south of 34° 27' N lat., and California quillback rockfish

The Council considered four LE/OA trip-limit modifications for black rockfish 42° to 40° 10' N lat., nearshore rockfish complex 42° to 40° 10' N lat., shallow nearshore rockfish south of 40° 10' N lat., deeper nearshore rockfish 40° 10' to 34° 27' N lat., deeper nearshore rockfish south of 34° 27' N lat., and California quillback rockfish off California. LE and OA trip limits for nearshore species are set equal. In recent years, attainment of the nearshore complex both north and south of 40° 10' N lat. has been low. The Council deemed the moderate increase, including the removal of the copper rockfish sub trip limit north of 34° 27' N lat., would balance opportunity for fishing participants and the uncertainty around these projections. The Council adopted Option 2a for black rockfish 42° to 40° 10' N. lat., nearshore rockfish complex 42° to 40° 10' N. lat., shallow nearshore rockfish south of 40° 10' N lat., deeper nearshore rockfish 40° 10' to 34° 27' N lat., deeper nearshore rockfish south of 34° 27' N lat. and Option 2 for California quillback rockfish as their PPA (Table 13-8). Retention of California quillback rockfish was prohibited in 2023. However, since the 2025 California quillback rockfish stock assessment estimated the stock to have never been overfished (Langseth et al, 2025), the GMT analyzed reinstating trip limits to allow retention in the commercial OA and LE sectors. The GMT analyzed a 75 lb. trip limit per two months in section 13.2.6 of the [Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 2, April 2026](#). The GAP requested that the GMT analyze additional options to provide more flexibility to fishery participants while remaining under the shared commercial and recreational ACL. The analysis was provided at the April Council meeting ([Agenda Item C.7.a Supplement GMT Report 3, April 2026](#)).

Table 13-8. PPA 2027-28 limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) trip limits for Black rockfish, nearshore rockfish, and California quillback rockfish

Stock/Stock Complex	Fishery	Per Period (2 mos.)
Black rockfish 42° to 40° 10' N. lat.	LEN/OAN	8,000lbs
Nearshore (NS) rockfish 42° to 40° 10' N lat.	LEN/OAN	3,000lbs
Shallow NS rockfish south of 40° 10' N lat.	LES/OAS	3,000lbs
Deeper NS rockfish 40° 10' to 34° 27' N lat.	LEC/OAC	3,000lbs;
Deeper NS rockfish south of 34° 27' N lat.	LES/OAS	3,000; 75lbs copper rockfish
Quillback rockfish south of 42° N lat.	LE/OA	300 lbs

Yelloweye rockfish

The Council considered three LE/OA trip limits for yelloweye rockfish north and south of 40°10' N. lat. Yelloweye rockfish was declared overfished in 2002, and the 2025 update assessment estimated stock status to be at 40.1 percent of unfished biomass. Although the stock is now estimated to be rebuilt, the GMT, GAP, and Council have discussed the preference for precautionary management measures. The Council adopted the modest trip limit provided by Option 1 as PPA. This limited retention will provide data for future stock assessments, thus reducing the uncertainty around the status of the stock (Table 13-9).

Table 13-9. PPA 2027-28 limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) trip limits north (N) and south (S) of 40°10' N. lat. for yelloweye rockfish

Stock	Fishery	Trip Limit
Yelloweye rockfish	LEN	75 lbs./2 months
	OAN	50 lbs./2 months
	LES	75 lbs./2 months
	OAS	50 lbs./2 months

Cowcod

The Council considered three LE/OA trip limits for cowcod south of 40°10' N. lat. Cowcod was declared overfished in 2000. After nearly two decades of being under a rebuilding plan, NMFS declared the stock rebuilt in September 2019. Since that time, management has proceeded cautiously, employing a stepwise approach to gradually increase fishing access where most cowcod are encountered. In 2024, the cowcod conservation areas were removed for recreational and commercial non-trawl fisheries. Mortality in 2024 and 2025 indicates that the allocation could support the next step in the Council's cautious approach in optimizing yield. Therefore, similar to yelloweye rockfish, the modest trip limit provided by Option 1 will allow for discards to be converted into landings. This limited retention will provide data for future stock assessments. The Council adopted Option 1 as PPA (Table 13-10).

Table 13-10. PPA 2027-28 limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) trip limits cowcod south of 40°10' N lat.

Stock	Fishery	Trip Limit
Cowcod	LES	75 lbs./2 months
	OAS	50 lbs./2 months

13.2 Socioeconomic Summary

13.2.1 Changes in regulations

The commercial non-trawl fishery will be experiencing a stepwise relaxation of regulations in the upcoming biennium (2027-28), which will provide new and expanded opportunities for growth. One way the fleet is adapting to these changes is by utilizing fishing strategies that are either entirely new or that have been employed very infrequently in the past (e.g., non-bottom contact gear). Additionally, the seaward boundary of the Non-Trawl RCA was moved from 100 fm to 75 fm off Oregon and California in 2024 via Amendment 32 to the Groundfish FMP ([88 FR 83830](#)), which opened up approximately 2,600 square miles of fishing area (see Appendix A. Section 13.1, Table 1). There is limited data from fishing in this newly opened area and from vessels using these

non-bottom contact gears. Therefore, it is difficult to use historical data to predict future behaviors; thus, most of the socioeconomic analysis provided below is qualitative.

The LEFG sablefish primary fishery north of 36° (“primary fishery” hereinafter) will be allowed to use any legal non-trawl gear (other than entangling nets) with any of their tier permits in the upcoming biennium with the publication of FMP [Amendment 36](#). This will allow for more flexibility to target sablefish with either pots or bottom longline regardless of what gear endorsement their permits had prior to this amendment. It will also allow participants in this fishery to target other non-sablefish species on the LE trip limit tables using groundfish troll and vertical longline regardless of where they are fishing (i.e., inside or outside of the non-trawl RCA). This added flexibility will likely provide more opportunities for primary fishery participants. The Council’s PPA trip limits for canary, shelf complex, widow, yelloweye, and yellowtail rockfishes north of 40° 10’ N. Lat., and trip limits for black, nearshore complex, and quillback rockfishes off California, will allow limited entry participants to have higher limits of non-sablefish species to target with this newly acquired gear flexibility. However, the extent to which this will positively impact the ex-vessel revenue for these vessels and the amount of targeting non-sablefish species is difficult to predict.

13.2.2 Opportunities

Chilipepper

Under the interim FPA HCR (Alternative 1), the non-trawl allocation for chilipepper south of 40°10’ N lat. will increase by 48 and 19 mt from No Action (2027 and 2028, respectively). This higher allocation, combined with trip limit increases under the PPA, is expected to enable participants to more effectively target this healthy midwater stock, resulting in increased landings and potentially encouraging increased participation as effort shifts from other target species. In addition, the expanding use of non-bottom contact gear within the Non-Trawl RCA by both LEFG and OA sectors may further support increased landings and participation. This gear type is specifically designed to target midwater rockfish species such as chilipepper. The non-trawl allocation under Alternative 2 is 255 and 226 mt (2027 and 2028, respectively) lower than under Alternative 1, and therefore, may not provide the same benefits to the fishery as the interim FPA HCR (Alternative 1).

Shelf rockfish species other than vermillion/sunset rockfish

The PPA trip limit increases for canary, yellowtail, widow, and the shelf rockfish complex should provide expanded harvesting opportunities and allow fishers more flexibility in their targeting strategies compared to No Action. These expanded opportunities may also incentivize new OA entrants into the fishery. The PPA is to increase these trip limits under either Alternative 1 or 2 since there is low attainment among current participants. However, the non-trawl allocation will be monitored inseason and inseason action may be taken if necessary. Alternative 2 for canary, yellowtail north of 40° 10’ N. lat., and widow rockfishes provides a higher non-trawl allocation than Alternative 1, and thus, allows for higher trip limits for more fishery participants (i.e., it is less likely that inseason action may be necessary with the higher trip limits). Alternative 1 for chilipepper rockfish north and south of N of 40° 10’ N. lat. provides a higher non-trawl allocation for the respective shelf complexes than Alternative 2. For the shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10’ N lat., the trip limit increase paired with a sub-limit on vermillion and sunset rockfish will

provide greater flexibility, allowing participants to land target species such as bocaccio and chilipepper that were previously constrained by vermilion/sunset limits. As noted for chilipepper, the expanded use of non-bottom contact gear within the Non-Trawl RCA may further support increased landings of these midwater rockfish species. Management measures would not change from Alternative 1 to Alternative 2. Under the interim FPA, Alternative 2, for yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat., canary rockfish, and widow rockfish (with FPA trawl/non-trawl allocation Option 1), an additional buffer is added between projected stock mortality and the associated harvest limit, but this buffer does not support an additional trip limit increase.

Yelloweye rockfish and Cowcod

Allowing limited retention of previously prohibited species is a great opportunity for the fishery, primarily for allowing access to areas and other species that were previously avoided due to high bycatch of these prohibited species. However, we have limited historical data to predict catch and landings since these species have been prohibited for over two decades. The limited data that we have is observer data, which is not available for all non-trawl trips. Trip limits have been set in such a way as to deter targeting these species. However, the price per pound, market desirability, and extent to which these species will be limitedly targeted is unknown. Therefore, the PPA trip limits will allow new opportunities for the fishery, but the extent of socioeconomic benefit is difficult to predict.

13.2.3 Constraints

Sablefish

The sablefish allocations will be lowering to levels closer to the 2023-24 biennium. Trip limits for LEFG and OA north and south of 36° are not projected to be negatively impacted by this reduction since the landings targets for these sectors have not been fully attained between 2023-2025 (Figure 13-1 and Figure 13-2; see also Appendix, Chapter 9, Tables 9-2 and 9-11). The PPA is to keep these trip limits at status quo (Table 13-1).

Conversely, the primary fishery will see a reduction in tier permit limits, and this fishery's landing target has been highly attained in recent biennia (Table 13-11, Figure 13-1). The primary fishery caught 4,525 mt in 2025 (58 percent of the landing target), and the 2027-28 landing targets under Alternative 1 are 3,041 and 3,292 mt (Figure 13-1). Therefore, if the 2027-28 landing targets are fully attained, there will be a decrease from 2025 landings by 27-33 percent, and there will be a loss for the fishery under Alternative 1, relative to No Action. Some of this loss in ex-vessel revenue due to this reduction in the primary fishery tier limits could be offset by vessels switching to the LE DTL fishery after their permit limits are reached.

The number of trips taken by the primary fishery doubled between 2024 and 2025. (Figure 13-1). The number of trips will likely decrease under Alternative 1 in 2027-28 relative to No Action as the sablefish catch is projected to be lower under Alternative 1 than for No Action. This could lead to effort shifting to other non-sablefish species. Thus, the PPA increase in trip limits for other non-sablefish species could help offset some of the employment loss associated with fewer trips if markets are available for these other species.

Table 13-11.. Primary tier limits from 2023-2026 compared to Alternative 1 tier limits for 2027-28.

	2023 (lbs)	2024 (lbs)	2025 (lbs)	2026 (lbs)	2027 (lbs)	2028 (lbs)
Tier 1	72,446	66,377	246,822	234,310	93,962	101,682
Tier 2	32,930	30,171	112,192	106,504	42,710	46,219
Tier 3	18,817	17,240	64,110	60,859	24,406	26,411

Table 13-12. No Action: 2025 non-tribal sablefish north of 36° N. lat. LE fixed gear (LEFG) – primary tier, LEFG trip limit – fishery allocations as percentages (%) and metric tons (mt). PacFIN 2/06/2026

	2025 Allocation (mt)	2025 Total Mortality (mt)	2025 Attainment %
LEFG	9,791	4,989.4	51.0%
Primary Share	8,322	4,792.9	57.6%
LEFG Daily Trip limit Share	1,469	196.4	13.4%

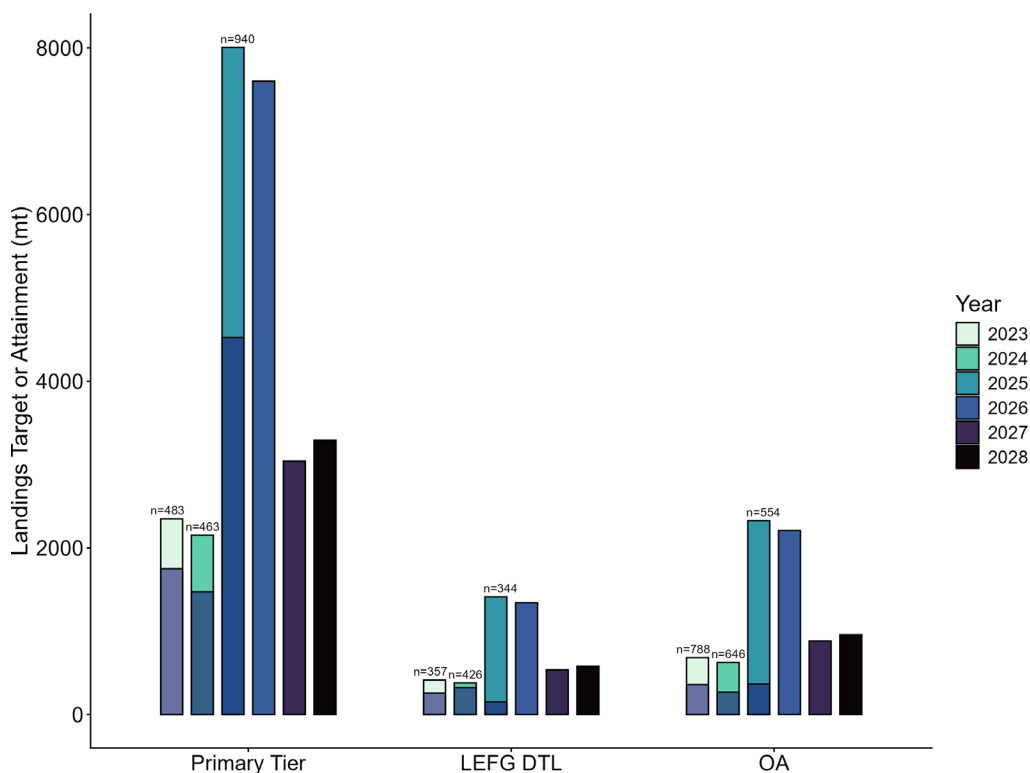


Figure 13-1. Landing targets for the Primary Tier, Limited Entry Fixed Gear Daily Trip Limit (LEFG DTL) and Open Access (OA) sablefish north of 36° sectors with the amount landed overlaid (mt) in the darker shades of the bars and the number of trips displayed above each bar for 2023-2025. Landings targets for 2026 and 2027-2028 (under Alt. 1) are shown for comparison. Data: PacFIN, accessed 4/21/2026.

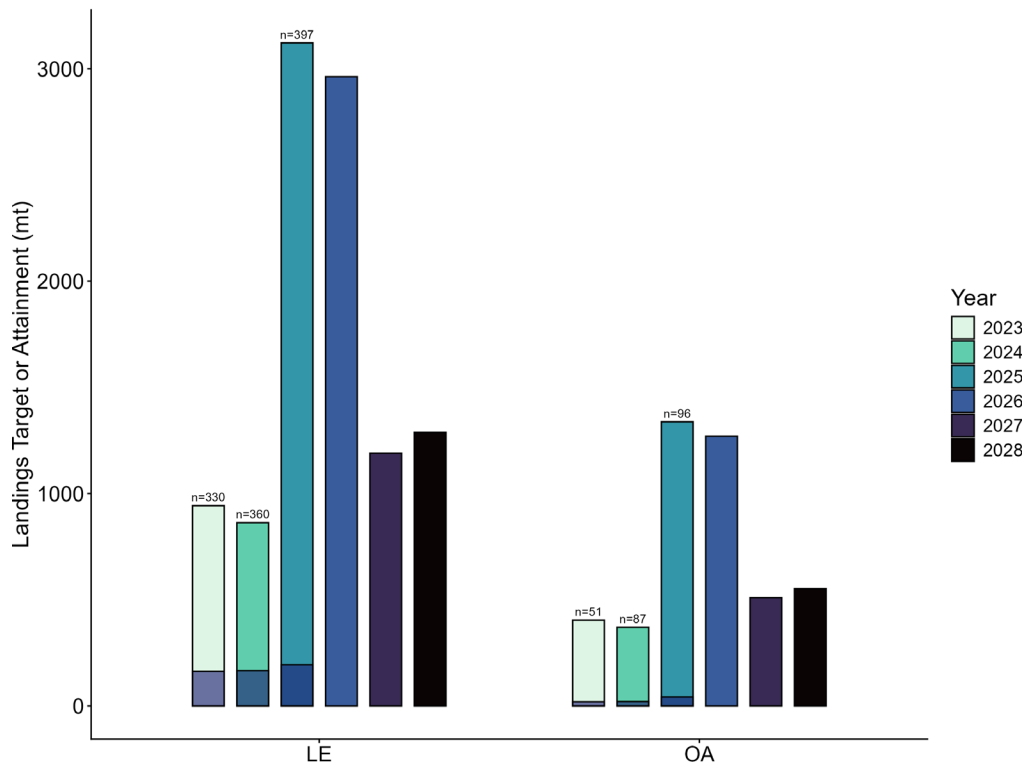


Figure 13-2. Landing targets for the Limited Entry (LE) and Open Access (OA) sablefish south of 36° sectors with the amount landed overlaid (mt) in the darker shades of the bars and the number of trips displayed above each bar for 2023-2025. Landings targets for 2026 and 2027-2028 (under Alt. 1) are shown for comparison. Data: PacFIN, accessed 4/21/2026.

13.2.4 Socioeconomic modeling limitations

Non-sablefish targeting

Historically, sablefish landings have been the driver for most other non-nearshore landings. However, the non-nearshore non-sablefish sector has been expanding in effort, area, and landings in the last few years, as participants have found direct consumer markets after the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, commercial non-trawl landings have increased for lingcod and shelf species, including canary and widow rockfishes. In California, bocaccio, chilipepper, widow rockfish, and other shelf rockfish species exhibit a similar trajectory that is likely to increase with the removal of the Cowcod Conservation Area and the ability for LEFG and OA vessels to fish inside the Non-Trawl RCA with non-bottom contact gear (Table 13-14). The 2025 estimated non-trawl ex-vessel revenue for sablefish and each species with an Alternative HCR this cycle – broken down by IOPAC port group – can be seen in Table 13-13 and Table 13-14.

As a result of directed, non-sablefish markets expanding south of 40°10' N. lat., minor nearshore and minor shelf rockfish are now a major contributor to ex-vessel revenue. In 2025, both complexes brought in over \$1 million in ex-vessel revenue (see Appendix A SEction 13.1, Table 13-6). Individual shelf species broken out on the trip limit table south of 40° 10' N. lat., like lingcod, canary rockfish, chilipepper, and bocaccio, collectively brought an additional \$1 million dollars in ex-vessel revenue to the non-sablefish directed groundfish sectors. All these non-sablefish trends are likely to persist with the continued relaxation of management measures mentioned above.

The catch projection model for the commercial non-trawl fishery implicitly assumes that all non-sablefish catch is marketable bycatch encountered in the targeting of sablefish. Since this model does not have a mechanism to consider direct targeting of non-sablefish species, it may be underestimating landings of valuable species such as chilipepper, bocaccio, and shortspine thornyhead in the non-trawl fishery. An additional tool to project total non-nearshore non-sablefish catch could be helpful to increase certainty around these inputs for the economic analysis. Currently, the GMT uses species/stock-based projection tools for trip limit adjustments but does not have the capacity to evaluate the sector as a whole.

Predicting future behavior/participation

As highlighted in the Opportunities section above, the non-trawl sector is experiencing a relaxation of management measures following the rebuilding of all groundfish stocks after nearly three decades. These changes, including access to previously closed areas, the ability to retain formerly prohibited species, increased gear flexibility, and higher trip limits may incentivize greater participation and shifts in gear use or targeting strategies. However, the GMT projection tools are exclusively focused on forecasting sablefish catch based on recent vessel effort. Currently, opportunities to target newly rebuilt species or other marketable non-sablefish species are not considered. Additionally, the opening of new areas, increased gear flexibility, and higher trip limits for co-occurring species, may enhance the efficiency of sablefish effort, lower operational costs, and provide economic benefits to sablefish harvesters that the current models cannot address.

Fishery employment changes

The socioeconomic model predicts changes in employment that are derived from changes in projected ex-vessel revenue changes associated with the No Action, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2 scenarios ([Agenda Item C.7, Supplemental Attachment 5, April 2026](#), Tables B-9 through B-11). Employment impacts are estimated at the IOPAC Port Group level by allocating projected ex-vessel revenue to port areas and using the IO-PAC model to evaluate the employment impacts of port area ex-vessel revenue changes. Figure 13-1 shows that the number of trips doubled within the primary fishery between 2024 and 2025. This likely led to an expansion of days at sea and number of hours worked by crew. For the 2027-2028 period, days at sea (and crew hours worked) are likely to decrease in 2027-28 with the reduction in the non-trawl landing targets under Alternative 1.

Ultimately, since the Council is choosing between Alternative 1 and 2, the difference in impacts between these two alternatives are the most beneficial for informing decision making. However, without the effects of changes in species with only a default HCR (e.g., sablefish) accounted for, it is difficult to disentangle how much of the change in employment is due to a decision by the Council (e.g., change in chilipepper or shortspine ACL alternatives) versus a change in the default HCR compared to No Action (e.g., sablefish).

Table 13-13. Ex-vessel revenue in whole dollars from 2025 Non-trawl landings of species with alternative HCRs and sablefish in Washington and Oregon IOPAC port groups. The “—” indicates no landings for that species in that port group, and “*” indicates confidential data. Data: PacFIN, accessed 4/21/2026

	North WA Coast	Puget Sound	South and Central WA Coast	Astoria	Tillamook	Newport	Coos Bay	Brookings
Canary rockfish	--	*	\$392	\$66	\$1,152	\$23,690	\$5,037	\$5,072
Chilipepper north of 40°10' N. lat.	--	--	\$5	--	--	--	--	\$164
Petrable sole	\$255	\$1,906	\$11,543	\$4,149	--	\$565	\$91	\$1,101
Rougheye/blackspotted north of 40°10' N. lat.	*	\$964	\$6,343	\$1,720	--	\$10,413	\$419	\$1,102
Sablefish north of 36°	\$553,678	\$3,648,286	\$1,496,640	\$1,768,358	*	\$3,411,857	\$1,351,436	\$352,634
Shortspine thornyhead	\$737	\$5,412	\$3,237	\$961	--	\$435	\$866	\$494
Widow rockfish	--	*	*	--	\$368	\$78	\$1,973	\$982
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat.	*	*	\$105	\$88	\$2,450	\$389	\$20,021	\$1,776

Table 13-14. : Ex-vessel revenue in whole dollars from 2025 Non-trawl landings of species with alternative HCRs and sablefish in California IOPAC port groups. The “—” indicates no landings for that species in that port group, and “*” indicates confidential data. Data: PacFIN, accessed 4/21/2026

	Crescent City	Eureka	Fort Bragg	Bodega Bay	San Francisco	Monterey	Morro Bay	Santa Barbara	Los Angeles	San Diego
Canary rockfish	\$3,580	\$53,403	\$29,589	\$1,121	\$2,674	\$14,056	\$14,883	\$15,226	*	\$143
Chilipepper north of 40°10' N. lat.	*	\$2,414	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Chilipepper south of 40°10' N. lat.	--	*	\$33,295	\$132,475	\$4,058	\$110,623	\$32,420	\$5,677	\$2,065	\$8,118
Petrable sole	*	*	\$757	\$1,267	*	\$1,898	\$1,111	\$257	--	--
Rougheye/blackspotted north of 40°10' N. lat.	--	\$464	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rougheye/blackspotted south of 40°10' N. lat.	--	--	\$1,430	--	--	*	--	--	--	--
Sablefish north of 36	\$813,876	\$448,385	\$920,221	\$204,590	\$722,817	\$1,473,273	--	--	--	--
Sablefish south of 36	--	--	--	--	--	--	\$527,007	\$569,294	\$20,517	\$40,380

	Crescent City	Eureka	Fort Bragg	Bodega Bay	San Francisco	Monterey	Morro Bay	Santa Barbara	Los Angeles	San Diego
Shortspine thornyhead	--	\$20,806	\$16,422	--	\$2,771	\$562,078	\$637,070	\$1,060,568	\$55,610	*
Widow rockfish	\$1,542	\$40,817	\$1,462	\$6,004	\$2,271	\$1,746	\$367	\$548	\$10,696	\$332
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat.	\$5,018	\$10,496	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yellowtail rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat.	--	*	\$35,607	*	\$17,446	\$5,460	\$4,261	\$2,961	--	--

Appendix to Chapter 13: Non-Trawl Trip Limits

Table A-1. PPA 2027-28 Table 2b (North) to Part 660, Subpart E—Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 40°10' N Lat. Green indicates (and a “+” symbol) an increase and grey indicates the status quo trip limit.

Species	Trip Limit	Change
Big skate	Unlimited.	
Black rockfish (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	8,000 lb/2 months.	+
Cabezon (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	Unlimited.	
Cabezon/kelp greenling complex (Oregon)	Unlimited.	
Canary rockfish	4,000 lb/2 months.	
Flatfish (includes dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder)	20,000 lb/2 months.	
Lingcod (north of 42°00' N lat.)	11,000 lb/2 months.	
Lingcod (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	2,000 lb/2 months.	
Longnose skate	Unlimited.	
Longspine thornyheads	10,000 lb/2 months.	
Nearshore rockfish complex, Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish, & Washington black rockfish (north of 42°00' N lat.)	5,000 lb/2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue/deacon rockfish.	
	See § 660.230(e) for additional trip limits for Washington black rockfish.	
Nearshore rockfish complex (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months.	+
Other fish	Unlimited.	
Other flatfish complex	20,000 lb/2 months.	
Pacific cod	1,000 lb/2 months.	
Pacific ocean perch	3,600 lb/2 months.	
Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Periods 1-2: 200,000 lb/2 months.	
	Period 3: 150,000 lb/2 months.	
	Periods 4-6: 100,000 lb/2 months.	
Pacific whiting	10,000 lb per trip.	
Quillback rockfish (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	300 lb/ 2 months.	+
Sablefish	5,500 lb/week not to exceed 11,000 lb/2 months.	
Shelf rockfish complex	8,000 lbs./2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish	+
Shortspine thornyhead	3,000 lb/2 months.	
Slope rockfish complex & darkblotched rockfish	8,000 lb/2 months.	
Widow rockfish	12,000 lb/2 months.	+
Yelloweye rockfish	75 lb/2 months.	+
Yellowtail rockfish	7,000 lb/2 months.	+

Table A-2. PPA 2027-28 Table 2b (South) to Part 660, Subpart E—Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 40°10' N. Lat. Green indicates an increase and grey indicates the status quo trip limit.

Species	Trip Limit	Change
Big skate	Unlimited.	
Bocaccio	8,000 lb/2 months.	
Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED.	
Cabezon	Unlimited.	
California scorpionfish	3,500 lb/2 months.	
Canary rockfish	4,000 lb/2 months.	
Chilipepper rockfish	15,000 lb/2 months.	+
Cowcod	75 lb/2 months.	+
Flatfish (includes dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder)	20,000 lb/2 months.	
Lingcod	1,600 lb/2 months.	
Longnose skate	Unlimited.	
Longspine thornyhead	10,000 lb/2 months.	
Nearshore rockfish complexes		
Shallow nearshore rockfish (south of 40°10' N lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months.	+
Deeper nearshore rockfish complex (40°10' N lat.-36° N lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months.	+
Deeper nearshore rockfish complex (south of 36° N lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 75 lb may be copper rockfish.	+
Other fish	Unlimited.	
Other flatfish complex	20,000 lb/2 months.	
Pacific cod	1,000 lb/2 months.	
Pacific spiny dogfish	Periods 1-2: 200,000 lb/2 months	
	Period 3: 150,000 lb/2 months	
	Periods 4-6: 100,000 lb/2 months.	
Pacific whiting	10,000 lb per trip.	
Quillback rockfish	300 lb/ 2 months.	+
Sablefish (40°10' N lat.-36° N lat.)	5,500 lb/week not to exceed 11,000 lb/2 months.	
Sablefish (south of 36° N lat.)	3,000 lb/week.	
Shelf rockfish complex (40°10' N lat.-34° 27' N lat.); excludes bronzespotted rockfish	8,000 lb per 2 months, of which no more than 500 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish.	
Shelf rockfish complex (south of 34° 27' N lat.); excludes bronzespotted rockfish	5,000 lb per 2 months, of which no more than 3,000 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish.	
Shortspine thornyhead (40° 10' N. lat.-34° 27' N. lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months.	
Shortspine thornyhead (south of 34°27' N lat.)	5,000 lb/2 months.	+
Slope rockfish complex & darkblotched rockfish	40,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 6,000 lb may be blackgill rockfish.	
Splitnose rockfish	40,000 lb/2 months.	
Widow rockfish	24,000 lb/2 months.	+
Yelloweye rockfish	75 lb/2 months.	+

Table A-3. PPA 2027-28 Table 3b (North) to Part 660, Subpart F—Trip Limits for Open Access North of 40°10' N. lat. Green indicates an increase and grey indicates the status quo trip limit.

Species	Trip Limit	Change
Big skate	Unlimited.	
Black rockfish (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	8,000 lb/2 months.	+
Cabezon (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	Unlimited.	
Cabezon/kelp greenling complex (Oregon)	Unlimited.	
Canary rockfish	2,000 lb/2 months.	
Flatfish (includes dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder)	10,000 lb/2 months.	
Lingcod (north of 42°00' N. lat.)	9,000 lb/2 months.	
Lingcod (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	2,000 lb/2 months.	
Longnose skate	Unlimited.	
Longspine thornyheads	100 lb/2 months.	
Nearshore rockfish complex, Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish, & Washington black rockfish (north of 42°00' N. lat.)	5,000 lb/2 months no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue/deacon rockfish.	
	See § 660.330(e) for additional trip limits for Washington black rockfish.	
Nearshore rockfish complex (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months.	+
Other fish	Unlimited.	
Other flatfish complex	10,000 lb/2 months.	
Pacific cod	1,000 lb/2 months.	
Pacific ocean perch	200 lb/2 months.	
Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Periods 1-2: 200,000 lb/2 months.	
	Period 3: 150,000 lb/2 months.	
	Periods 4-6: 100,000 lb/2 months.	
Pacific whiting	600 lb/2 months.	
Quillback rockfish (42°00' N lat.-40°10' N lat.)	300 lb/ 2 months.	+
Sablefish	4,000 lb/week not to exceed 8,000 lb/2 months.	
Shelf rockfish complex	6,400 lbs./2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish	+
Shortspine thornyhead	100 lb/2 months.	
Slope rockfish complex & darkblotched rockfish	4,000 lb/2 months.	
Widow rockfish	8,000 lb/2 months.	+
Yelloweye rockfish	50 lb/2 months.	+
Yellowtail rockfish	5,000 lb/2 months.	+
Salmon Troll	See § 660.334(b)(1).	
Pink Shrimp non-groundfish trawl	See § 660.333(g) and (h).	

Table A-4. PPA 2027-28 Table 3b (South) to Part 660, Subpart F—Trip Limits for Open Access South of 40°10' N. lat. Green indicates an increase and grey indicates the status quo trip limit.

Species	Trip Limit	Change
Big skate	Unlimited.	
Bocaccio	6,000 lb/2 months.	

Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED.	
Cabezon	Unlimited.	
California scorpionfish	3,500 lb/2 months.	
Canary rockfish	2,000 lb/2 months.	
Chilipepper rockfish	9,000 lb/2 months.	+
Cowcod	50 lb/2 months.	+
Flatfish (includes Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder)	10,000 lb/2 months.	
Lingcod (south of 40°10' N lat.)	1,400 lb/2 months.	
Longnose skate	Unlimited.	
Longspine thornyhead (40° 10' to 34° 27' N lat.)	100 lb/2 months.	
Nearshore rockfish complexes:		
Shallow nearshore rockfish (south of 40°10' N lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months.	+
Deeper nearshore rockfish complex (40°10' N lat.-36° N lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months.	+
Deeper nearshore rockfish complex (south of 36° N lat.)	3,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 75 lb may be copper rockfish.	+
Other fish (defined at § 660.11)	Unlimited.	
Other flatfish complex (defined at § 660.11)	10,000 lb/2 months.	
Pacific cod	1,000 lb/2 months.	
Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Periods 1-2: 200,000 lb/2 months.	
	Period 3: 150,000 lb/2 months.	
	Periods 4-6: 100,000 lb/2 months.	
Pacific whiting	600 lb/2 months.	
Quillback rockfish	300 lb/ 2 months.	+
Sablefish (40°10' N lat.-36° N lat.)	4,000 lb/week not to exceed 8,000 lb/2 months.	
Sablefish (south of 36° N lat.)	2,500 lb/week not to exceed 7,500 lb/2 months.	
Shelf rockfish complex (40°10' N lat.-34°27' N lat.); excludes bronzespotted rockfish	4,000 lb per 2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish.	
Shelf rockfish complex (south of 34° 27' N lat.); excludes bronzespotted rockfish	3,000 lb per 2 months, of which no more than 900 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish.	
Shortspine thornyhead (40° 10' N. lat.-34° 27' N. lat.)	100 lb/2 months.	
Shortspine thornyhead and longspine thornyhead (south of 34° 27' N. lat.)	100 lb/day, no more than 1,000 lb/2 months for all periods.	+
Slope rockfish complex & darkblotched rockfish	10,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 2,500 lb may be blackgill rockfish.	
Splitnose rockfish	400 lb/2 months.	
Widow rockfish	16,000 lb/2 months.	+
Yelloweye rockfish	50 lb/2 months.	+
Salmon Troll	See § 660.334(b)(2).	
Ridgeback Prawn, California halibut, and sea cucumber	See § 660.333(e) and (f).	

14. Action Item 18: Washington Recreational Groundfish Fishery

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Outcome of April 2026 Council Meeting

The Council did not adopt a PPA for the Washington recreational fishery. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) plans to continue analysis of the range of alternatives detailed in [C.7.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 2, April 2026](#), which will include a stand-alone consideration for yelloweye retention. The updated version of Chapter 14 from Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 1, April 2026 is replicated below as a decision has not been made.

14.1 No Action

The Washington recreational fishery consists of a vessel-based private and charter sector and a smaller shore-based sector. Primary target species include rockfish, mainly black rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and lingcod. Pacific halibut anglers also impact recreational groundfish species, including yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish. Primary catch controls include season dates, depth closures, daily limits, and Groundfish Conservation Areas (GCAs), including YRCAs. The purpose of the YRCA depth restrictions on the recreational fishery has been to direct fishing effort to shallower areas where yelloweye rockfish encounters and mortality of discarded fish are lower. YRCAs are the main management measures for reducing catches of this stock. YRCAs are discussed in more detail in Chapter 2.

14.1.1 Fishing Season

The Washington recreational season for groundfish is currently open from the second Saturday in March through the third Saturday in October in all marine areas, but region-specific species/area/depth restrictions also exist ([50 CFR 660.360\(c\)\(1\)](#)).

14.1.2 Area Management

WDFW manages the Washington recreational fishery by four areas as shown in Figure 14-1

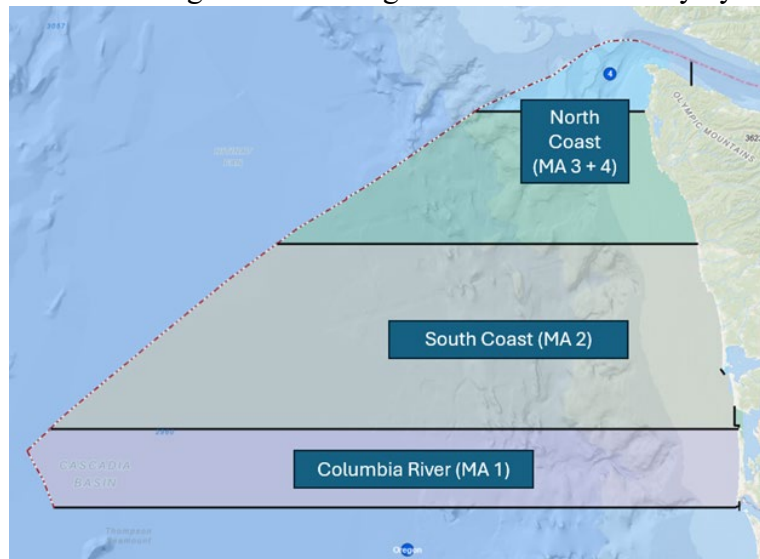


Figure 14-1. Washington Recreational Fishery Marine Areas

North Coast (Marine Areas 3 and 4)

Yelloweye rockfish abundance and encounters are higher on the north coast (Marine Areas 3 and 4A) compared to the south coast (Marine Area 2) and Columbia River (Marine Area 1). Thus,

restrictions on the north coast constrain anglers to shallower water whereas on the south coast, where incidental catch of yelloweye rockfish is lower, fishing deeper is allowed. On the North Coast, the retention of groundfish is prohibited seaward of a line approximating 20 fathoms from June 1 through July 31, with the exception that lingcod, Pacific cod, sablefish, bocaccio, silvergray rockfish, canary rockfish, widow rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish, may be retained seaward of 20 fathoms on days that Pacific halibut fishing is open. In addition, retention of yellowtail rockfish and widow rockfish is allowed seaward of 20 fathoms in July. Furthermore, fishing for, retention, or possession of groundfish and Pacific halibut is prohibited in the C-shaped YRCA to protect yelloweye rockfish (Figure 14-2).([50 CFR 660.360\(c\)\(1\)\(i\)\(A\)](#))

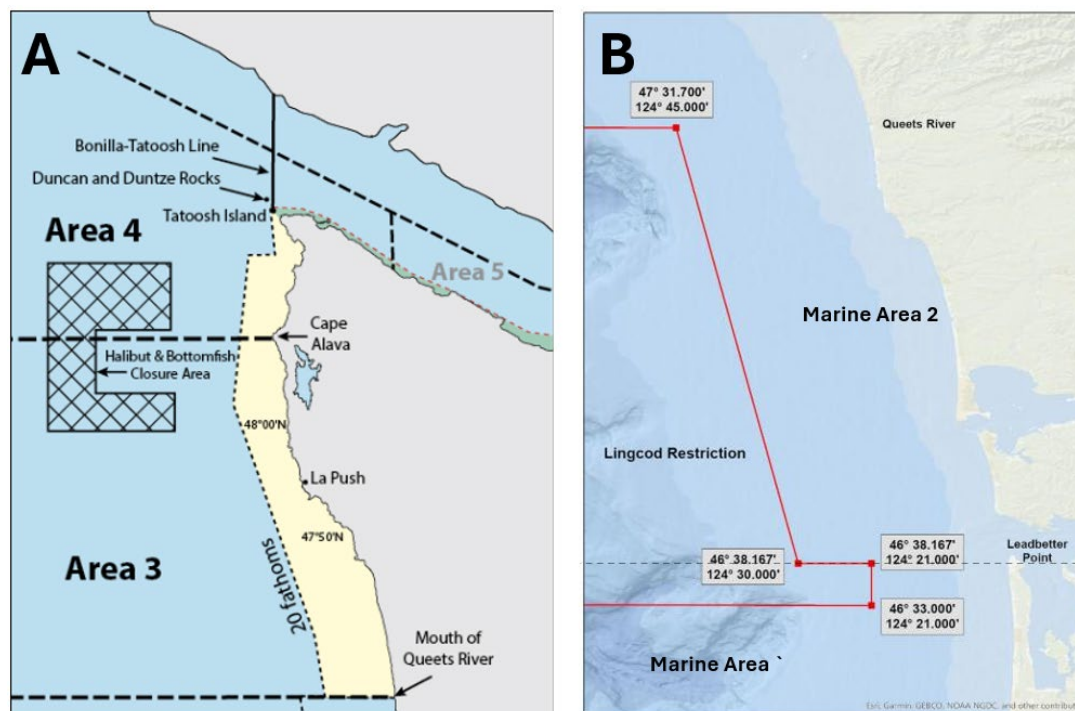


Figure 14-2. Panel A: North Coast YRCA, Panel B: Deepwater Lingcod restriction on the South Coast and Columbia River.

South Coast (Marine Area 2)

The retention of lingcod is prohibited seaward of 30 fathoms from May 1 through May 31, with the exception that lingcod retention is allowed on days open to the all-depth Pacific halibut fishery. Fishing for, retention, or possession of lingcod is prohibited in deepwater areas seaward of a line extending from 47° 31.70' N. lat., 124° 45.00' W. long. to 46° 38.17' N. lat., 124° 30.00' W. long. except on days open to the Pacific halibut fishery and from June 1 through 15 and September 1 through 30.

Columbia River (Marine Area 1)

Retention of sablefish, flatfish other than Pacific halibut, Pacific cod, yellowtail rockfish, widow rockfish, canary rockfish, redstripe rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, silvergray rockfish, chilipepper rockfish, bocaccio, blue/deacon rockfish, and lingcod north of the Washington – Oregon border

is allowed with Pacific halibut onboard during the Pacific halibut fishery. Additionally, fishing for, retention, or possession of lingcod in deepwater areas seaward of a line extending from 46° 38.17' N. lat., 124° 21.00' W. long. to 46° 33.00' N. lat., 124° 21.00' W. long. is prohibited except from June 1 through June 15 and September 1 through September 30.

Table 14-1. Washington Recreational seasons and groundfish retention restrictions. hd = halibut days.

Management Area	Depth/Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
North Coast (MA3 & MA4A)	<= 20 fm	closed		open		open except group c			open			closed	
	> 20 fm	closed		open			group a only and only on hd	group a only on hd and group b	open			closed	
South Coast (MA2)	all depths	closed		open		open except group c			open			closed	
	30 - 50 fm: lingcod	closed		open		lingcod closed except hd	open					closed	
	deepwater: lincod	closed		lingcod closed except hd			lingcod open	lingcod closed except hd		lingcod open	lingcod closed except hd	closed	
Columbia River (MA1)	all depths	closed		open*		open* except group c			open*			closed	
	deepwater: lingcod	closed		lingcod closed			lingcod open	lingcod closed		lingcod open	lingcod closed	closed	

- * during the all-depth halibut fishery, cannot retain bottomfish if halibut on board, except: sablefish, Pacific cod, flatfish species, yellowtail rockfish, widow rockfish, canary rockfish, redstripe rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, silvergray rockfish, chilipepper, bocaccio, blue/deacon rockfish, and lingcod caught north of the Washington-Oregon border (46°16.00' N lat.)

- group a: lingcod, Pacific cod, sablefish, bocaccio, silvergray, canary, widow and yellowtail

- group b: yellowtail and widow

- group c: copper, quillback, vermilion

- see text and Figure 2B for exact location of deepwater lingcod restriction in areas 1 and 2

- yelloweye rockfish prohibited

14.1.3 Bag Limits

The Washington recreational groundfish bag limit is nine fish per day. Of the nine recreational groundfish allowed to be landed per day, sub-bag limits of seven rockfish, two lingcod, and one cabezon apply in Marine Areas 1-4. Of the seven rockfish, only five may be canary rockfish. Five flatfish, not including Pacific halibut, can be retained in addition to the nine groundfish daily limit. Retention of yelloweye rockfish is prohibited, year-round. Retention of copper, quillback, and vermilion rockfishes is prohibited May 1 through July 31.

14.1.4 Inseason Management

The precision of recreational groundfish catch estimates or projections based on previous seasons are influenced by factors such as the duration and success of salmon, Pacific halibut, and albacore seasons, weather, and any other unforeseen factors. However, WDFW has an effective and thorough monitoring system through the Washington Ocean Sampling Program (OSP) which produces bottomfish catch estimates by marine area monthly with a one-month lag time. Further, Washington's management and regulatory processes can react quickly to the need for additional depth restrictions, area closures, groundfish retention restrictions, or changes to seasons through

emergency changes to state regulations. Inseason action can be used if inseason catch reports indicate that recreational harvests of overfished species or non-overfished species are exceeding pre-season projections to the point where HGs, ACTs, or ACLs are at risk of being exceeded.

In 2025, no inseason action was taken to keep catch within state-specific HGs.

14.1.5 Mortality and Effort

The harvest guidelines under No Action along with total mortality in 2024 and 2025 are shown in Table 14-2. In addition, Table 14-2 shows attainment in the Washington Recreational Fishery for the stocks with harvest guidelines and other species of importance to the sector. Table 14-3 shows effort by mode (Private vs. Charter) over the past 10 years and Figure 14-4 shows effort by mode, region, and trip type.

The West Coast states coordinate to track and manage catches of nearshore rockfish north of 40°10'N. lat. If harvest levels in Washington approach 75 percent of the state-specific HG the state of Washington will consult with the other West Coast states and determine if inseason action is needed. If inseason action is needed, WDFW will make changes through state regulation.

Table 14-2. No Action (2025) – Harvest Guidelines (HG) in metric tons (mt) for the Washington recreational fisheries in 2025 and total mortality in 2024 and 2025. Mortality Source: RecFIN (Jan 2026).

Species	2025 HG	Total Mortality (2024)	Total Mortality (2025)
Canary Rockfish	17.3	26.8	22.7
Yelloweye Rockfish	9.6	3.1	2.0
Black Rockfish	226.0	146.0	152.0
Nearshore Rockfish	16.1	8.8	7.4
Cabazon/Kelp Greenling	12.2	8.8	8.5

Table 14-3. Effort in angler trips by mode (private vs. charter) and total angler trips over the past 10 years for recreational trips targeting bottomfish or halibut. Source: OSP (Feb 2026).

Year	Charter	Private	Total
2016	23,148	21,726	44,874
2017	21,404	21,238	42,642
2018	23,687	24,862	48,549
2019	21,241	28,832	50,073
2020	14,969	18,059	33,028
2021	21,965	22,162	44,127
2022	16,939	23,956	40,895
2023	15,450	27,807	43,257
2024	16,637	29,440	46,077
2025	13,284	25,872	39,156

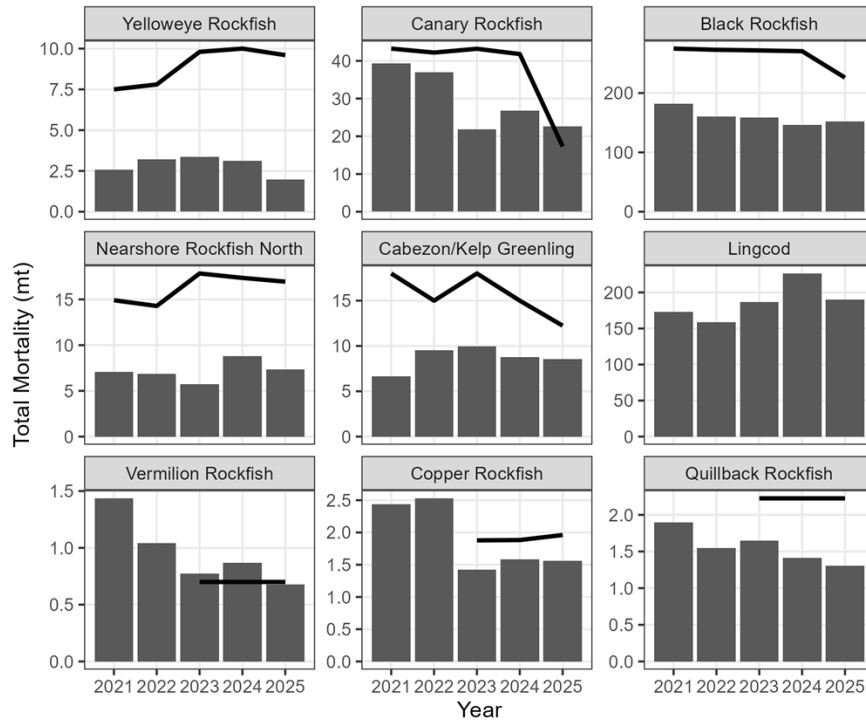


Figure 14-3. Total mortality for select species and stocks for the Washington Recreational Fishery over the past five years. Where stock-specific harvest guidelines exist, they are indicated as black lines. Note that copper and quillback rockfish are part of the Nearshore Rockfish North Complex but are also shown separately in this figure. Mortality Source: RecFIN (Jan 2026).

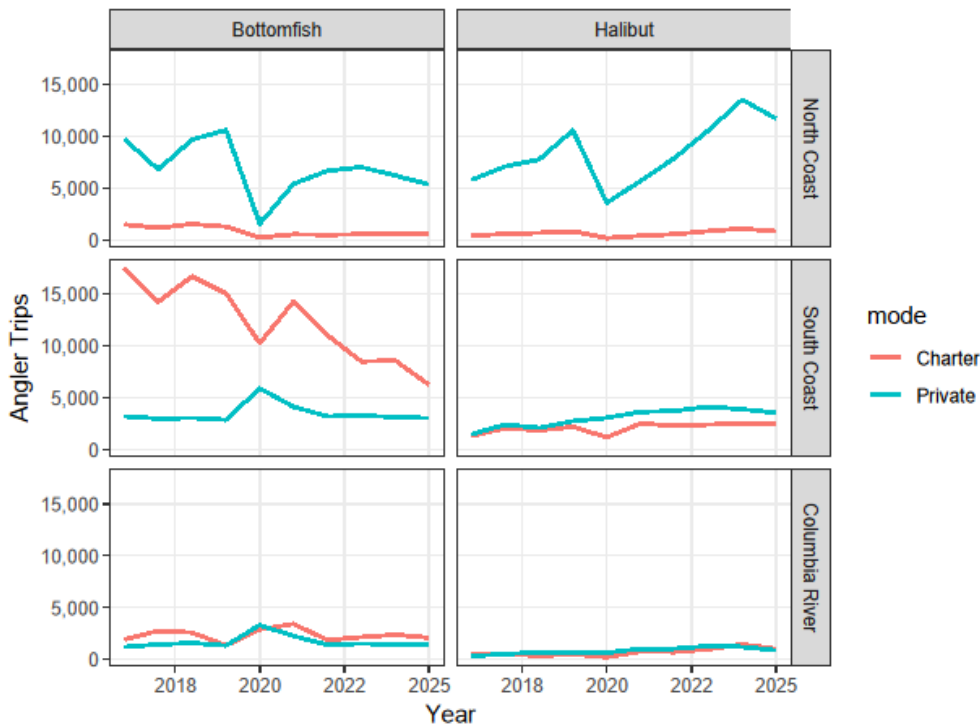


Figure 14-4. Effort in the private and charter fleets of the Washington Recreational Fishery for bottomfish and halibut-directed trips. Source: OSP (Feb 2026).

14.1.6 Impact Analysis

Total bottomfish and halibut fishing effort has been stable over the past five years (Table 3), but region, mode, and trip type-specific trends do exist: charter effort has been decreasing, especially in bottomfish trips on the South Coast, and private angler-trips have been increasing, especially on the North Coast for trips targeting halibut (Figure 14-3). In 2025, the number of private angler trips targeting bottomfish or halibut was almost double that of charter angler trips (Table 14-3), and there were more angler trips targeting halibut than bottomfish. This trend has implications for canary and yelloweye rockfish management, as most yelloweye rockfish are currently caught by the private sector on the North Coast and most canary rockfish are caught by the charter sector on the South Coast.

The 2025 HG for canary rockfish (17.3 mt) was exceeded by 5.4 mt in 2025. Under No Action, similar overages are expected in the future. Anglers are targeting canary rockfish, especially on the South Coast. Total mortality in 2021 and 2022 was particularly high (Figure 14-4) following the re-opening of two YRCAs on the South Coast. Since then, total mortality for the South Coast charter fleet has been stable, despite declining angler-trips on the South Coast charter fleet because the average number of canary caught per trip increased. The five-fish daily bag limit implemented in 2025 has had limited effect on reducing canary mortality, but there can be a lag between rule implementation and compliance, and OSP sampling data show a higher rate of non-compliance with the bag limit in 2025 than in previous years.

One of the primary tools used to limit yelloweye and canary rockfish mortalities is fishing depth restrictions. By prohibiting lingcod retention in deeper waters, recreational fishing effort in those waters, where encounters with yelloweye and canary rockfish are highest, is discouraged. However, Washington state rules currently allow accessing depth-restricted areas during the all-depth halibut fishery in Marine Area 2, where most of the canary rockfish total mortality occurs. The Washington recreational fishery for Pacific halibut has not been catching its quota, and consequently, the Pacific halibut season has been extending and more fishing days have been added within open months. This has resulted in more fishing effort in deeper waters and more fishing trips that encounter canary and yelloweye rockfishes. Consequently, a higher proportion of the total mortality for both species is occurring on halibut trip types (Figure 14-5)

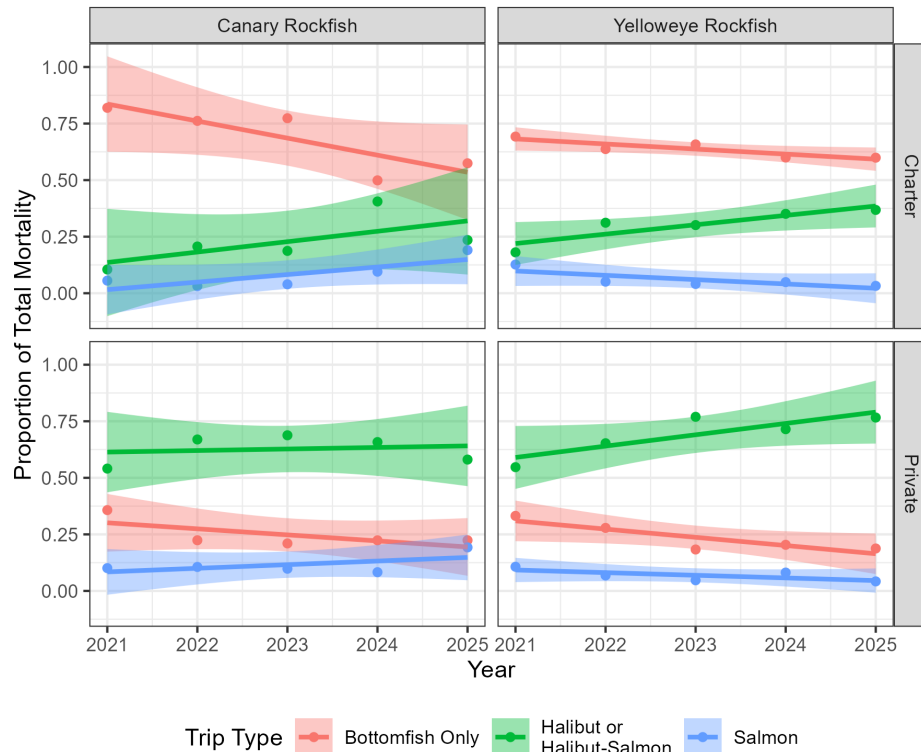


Figure 14-5. Proportion of total mortality by trip type over time for Canary and Yelloweye Rockfish for each fishing mode (Charter and Private). The proportion of total mortality occurring in bottomfish-only trips is showing a downward trend for all species-mode combinations, and the proportion of total mortality occurring in halibut/halibut-salmon trips is showing an increasing trend for all but the private mode for Canary Rockfish (bottom left panel).

The Washington recreational fishery has been below its HG for all species for the past few years, except canary and vermilion rockfishes (Figure 14-3). The HG for vermilion rockfish (0.7 mt) was exceeded in 2023 and 2024 (total mortality was 0.77 and 0.87, respectively). In 2025, however, the fishery stayed below its HG (total mortality = 0.68 mt). Management measures have been successful at preventing HG overages for nearshore rockfish of concern (i.e., copper rockfish and quillback rockfish Figure 14-3).

14.1.7 Socio-economic Impact Analysis

The Socio-economic Analysis for the recreational sectors uses projected recreational fishing effort as input, as highlighted in [Agenda Item C.7.a Supplemental GMT Report 4, April 2026](#). Since the projected effort for Washington was based on recent averages, there is no difference in projected effort and, therefore, the Socio-economic Analysis between No Action and other Alternatives. This would suggest recreational fisheries are insensitive to harvest specifications, which is not the case. Recreational fishing effort is not responsive to the ACL or HG *per se* but rather the management measures (e.g., fishing season, bag limits, area restrictions) designed to achieve the HG. Groundfish management measures, however, are not the only thing affecting effort – regulations and fishing opportunities for other species (primarily salmon), the weather, and fuel costs also play an important role. Synthesizing all these factors into meaningful recreational effort projections is

challenging and requires data on, among other things, costs and trip demand. The effort projection itself is the heart of the socio-economic analysis for recreational fisheries, but whether the benefit of having accurate and precise effort estimates under various combinations of management measures is worth the (not insignificant) cost of obtaining said estimates remains to be seen.

14.2 Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, fishery HGs are similar to No Action, except for different HGs for yelloweye and canary rockfishes (See 14.2.2.1 and 14.2.2.2 below, respectively). Proposed changes to routine management measures would allow limited yelloweye rockfish retention, after over 20 years of prohibition, and would further relax depth restrictions in Marine Areas 1 and 2 to allow increased fishing opportunities there. Additionally, options for reducing the canary rockfish bag limit are provided.

14.2.1 Projected Mortality and Effort

In the absence of changes to groundfish fishing regulations (such as changing bag limits, or spatio-temporal retention restrictions), prior years' total mortality has been a good predictor of next years' total mortality in the Washington recreational fishery. Table 14-4 below uses the 2023-2024 mean total mortality for projected mortality, except for yelloweye and canary rockfishes (See 14.2.2.1 and 14.2.2.2 below, respectively).

Total effort in the Washington recreational fishery for trips targeting bottomfish or halibut is expected to stay at recent levels. Recent trends of increasing angler-trips in the private sector and decreasing angler-trips in the charter sector may continue. If the number of halibut fishing days keeps increasing, recent trends of an increasing share of effort targeting halibut and a decreasing share of bottomfish-only trips may also continue. Conversely, there is a chance that the recent average may stabilize, or trends in trip types may reverse. Using the 2023-2025 average, the expected future effort is shown in Table 14-5.

Table 14-4. Alternative 1: Projected total mortality for black rockfish, Washington cabezon/kelp greenling complex, and the nearshore rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat.. off of Washington.

Species/ Stock	Al. 1 2027 (2028) (mt)	Projected Total Mortality (mt)
Black Rockfish	221.7 (222.3)	151
Cabezon/Kelp Greenling	12.5 (12.42)	8.9
Nearshore Rockfish	16.1 (15.8)	7.3

Table 14-5. Projected effort in angler-trips in the Washington Recreational Fishery by mode and trip type, based on 2023-2025 averages.

Trip Type/ Mode	Charter	Private	Total
Bottomfish	10,600	10,800	21,400
Halibut	4,600	16,900	21,500
Total	15,200	27,700	42,900

14.2.2 Proposed Updates to Routine Management Measures

14.2.2.1 Yelloweye Rockfish Sub-bag limit

The 2025 yelloweye rockfish stock assessment estimates that the stock's spawning output is now 40.1 percent of unfished levels and exceeds management target of 40 percent (Johnston et al.,

2025). Under Alternative 1, the Washington recreational HG is 22.8 mt in 2027 with an ACT of 17.9 mt. This amount may allow for some limited harvesting in the recreational fishery.

Option 1: Status quo

Under Option 1, yelloweye rockfish would remain a prohibited species and could not be retained, i.e., as under No Action management measures. Modeling indicates mortality to be similar to that of No Action, at approximately 2.9 - 6.4 mt annually.

Option 2: 1 fish sub-bag limit year-round

There is a large amount of uncertainty in projected yelloweye rockfish mortality because the species has been prohibited for over 20 years and anglers have been actively avoiding them. If yelloweye are no longer prohibited, anglers may stop avoiding and start actively targeting yelloweye. The extent to which fishing behavior changes has a large impact on projections. In addition to the substantial uncertainty due to angler behavior change, there is also uncertainty in the average weight of fish that will be retained. Existing data suggest average weights of 5 to 6 lbs, but WDFW has received angler feedback that this might be too low. WDFW estimates that total mortality under a year-round 1 fish sub-bag limit would range between 9.0 and 19.5 mt (Table 14-6). The upper range of this estimate is lower than the HG under Alternative 1 but higher than the ACT of 17.9 mt. For reference, the highest ever estimated total mortality for the WA recreational sector was 17.7 mt in 1989 when the yelloweye population was estimated to be at 0.33 fraction unfished (so only slightly lower than current estimated population status), there were no yelloweye sub-bag limit or depth restrictions, and total halibut and bottomfish effort was about 80% of what it is today. WDFW did not receive stakeholder support for this option due to concerns that mortality under year-round retention would be too high.

Option 3: 1 fish sub-bag limit only in May

May has been the month with the highest proportion of yelloweye rockfish mortality over the past three years (38%). WDFW estimates that under this option, total yelloweye rockfish mortality would be between 6.3 and 13.4 mt (Table 14-6). Again, this number must be considered highly uncertain. For reference, the largest May total mortality since 1990 for yelloweye rockfish was 4.1 mt in 1993, when there were no sub-bag limit or depth restrictions. This Option has only a very low probability of exceeding the HG under Alternative 1.

Option 4: 1 fish sub-bag limit only on halibut days in May

Allowing yelloweye rockfish take only on halibut days in May would result in lower total mortality compared to a one-fish bag limit for the entire month. The expected total mortality depends not only on angler behavior and average weight but also on the number of halibut fishing days in May. It is unknown at this point how many halibut fishing days there will be in May of 2027 and 2028; however, number of days has been steadily increasing over the past years, from between 7 or 8 per marine area in 2022 to between 14 and 18 per area in 2026. WDFW estimates that total mortality for this option would be between 5.9 and 12.6 mt (Table 14-6). Like option 3, this option has a very low probability of exceeding the HG under Alternative 1.

Option 5: 1 fish sub-bag limit only on halibut days in June

June has been the month with the second-highest proportion of yelloweye rockfish mortality over the past three years (25%). WDFW estimates that total mortality for this option would range

between 4.8 and 10.5 mt (Table 14-6). This option would, therefore, have the lowest total mortality, other than Status Quo, of the options considered.

Table 14-6. Projected mortality estimated for yelloweye rockfish. Estimates should be considered highly uncertain, and that for canary rockfish uncertain (see text for details).

Alt. 1 2027 (2028) (mt)	Projected Total Mortality (mt)	
16.2 (16.2)	Option 1 (SQ)	2.9 - 6.4
	Option 2	9.0 - 19.5
	Option 3	6.3 - 13.4
	Option 4	5.9 - 12.6
	Option 5	4.8 - 10.5

14.2.2.2 Canary Rockfish Sub-bag limit

The WA HG for canary rockfish in 2025 was exceeded by 5.4 mt under a 5-fish bag limit. Under Alternative 1, the WA canary rockfish HG would increase by about 2 mt, but the WA HG could still be exceeded under Status Quo management measures.

Option 1: Status Quo

Under Option 1, management of canary rockfish would be the same as under No Action, a sub-bag limit of five canary rockfish. Total mortality is expected to be between 19.7 and 23.6 mt (Table 14-7). Sources of uncertainty in these estimates include angler behavior, average weight, fishing effort, and discard mortality rate. The Washington HG under Alternative 1 (19.2 mt in 2027 and 19.8 mt in 2028) would likely be exceeded under Status Quo.

Option 2: 4 fish sub-bag limit year-round

Under Option 2, the canary rockfish sub-bag limit would be reduced to 4 fish year-round. Total mortality estimates for this option range between 17.6 and 21.5 mt (Table 14-7). The Washington HG under Alternative 1 could be exceeded under this Option.

Option 3: 4 fish sub-bag limit only in May

Under Option 3, the sub-bag limit would be as under Status Quo, except it would be reduced to 4 fish in May. Estimated mortality under this option is almost identical to Status Quo (19.1 - 23.4 mt; Table 14-7).

Table 14-7. Estimated total mortality for canary rockfish under different sub-bag limit options. Sources of uncertainty include angler behavior, fishing effort, average weight, and discard mortality rate.

Daily Bag	Projected Mortality (mt)
4	17.6 - 21.5
5 (Status Quo)	19.7 - 23.6
4 in May, 5 otherwise	19.1 - 23.4

14.2.2.3 20 fathom June 1 – July 31 Depth Restriction in Marine Area 4

Under current regulations, anglers are not permitted to fish for or possess rockfish at Duntze and Duncan Rocks from June 1 to July 31 because the Rocks are just seaward of the existing 20-fathom depth restriction (Figure 14-6). Law enforcement is currently frequently citing anglers in possession of rockfish at Duntze and Duncan Rocks in June and July. Extending the line so that the Rocks are no longer in the depth-restricted area is expected to have minimal impacts on species of concern while addressing the enforcement issue.

Option 1: Status Quo

Under Status Quo, the northernmost coordinate of the 20 fathom depth restriction in Marine Area 4A (west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line) would continue being 48°23.90' N. lat., 124°44.20' W. long. At that longitude, the line connects with the 120 ft depth restriction in Marine Area 4B (east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line; Figure 14-6). Under Status Quo, law enforcement would continue issuing frequent citations in June and July at Duntze and Duncan Rocks

Option 2: Modify the 20-fathom line depth restriction currently in place June–July to exclude Duntze and Duncan Rocks from the depth-restricted area.

Under Option 2, the coordinates defining the 20 fathom line ([50 CFR 660.71\(b\)](#)) would change as follows:

- (1) 48°25.00' N. lat., 124°44.06' W. long. (added)
- (2) 48°25.00' N. lat., 120°45.22' W. long. (added)
- ~~(1) 48°23.90' N. lat., 124°44.20' W. long. (removed)~~
- (3) 48°23.60' N. lat., 124°44.90' W. long. (unchanged except for number)

This change would result in Duncan and Duntze Rocks no longer being seaward of the 20 fathom line (Figure 14-6), thereby permitting anglers to fish for and possess rockfish at the Rocks year-round. This change will reduce the number of citations law enforcement has to issue at the Rocks while having minimal impact on species of concern. Anecdotally, canary and yelloweye rockfish are not usually encountered at that location.

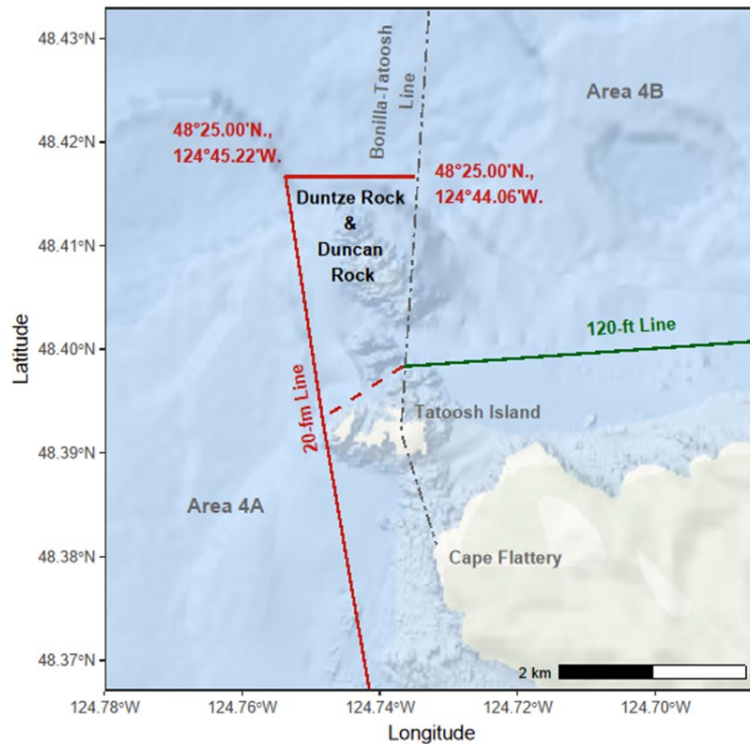


Figure 14-6. Proposed change to the 20 fathom depth restriction in Marine Area 4. The existing 20 fathom line is shown in the dashed red line and the proposed modification in the solid red line.

14.2.2.4 30 fm lingcod restriction in May in Marine Area 2

The 30-fm lingcod restriction was enacted to help reduce discard mortality for canary and yelloweye rockfish while they were rebuilding. With both species now being rebuilt, the restriction can be removed to allow increased fishing opportunities on the South Coast.

Option 1: Status Quo

Under Status Quo, lingcod retention and possession seaward of the 30 fathom line would continue being prohibited in Marine Area 2 in May.

Option 2: Remove the 30-fathom May lingcod restriction

Under Option 2, the 30 fm lingcod restriction currently in effect in Marine Area 2 from May 1 to 31 would be removed. This would increase fishing opportunities in waters between 30 fathoms and ~50 fm (where the deepwater lingcod closure starts) in May in Marine Area 2. The expected impact of this action is increased canary rockfish and yelloweye rockfish encounters in May in Marine Area 2. Based on the proportion of estimated angler-trips in waters deeper vs shallower than 30 fathoms in the months other than May and when the deepwater lingcod closure is in effect, it is reasonable to expect that about ten percent of trips targeting bottomfish could shift into deeper waters. Such a shift would add an estimated 0.7 mt of total mortality for canary rockfish compared to Option 1. The effect of a five or twenty percent shift instead would be an added 0.4 and 1.4 mt of mortality, respectively. -This option is also expected to increase yelloweye rockfish mortality over Status Quo but given the large amount of uncertainty around yelloweye projections under

limited retention (See Section 14.2.2.1), the exact impact cannot be reliably quantified but is expected to be relatively small.

14.2.2.5 Timing of the deepwater lingcod depth restriction in Marine Areas 1 and 2

The purpose of this action is to shorten the time period during which anglers retain lingcod in waters deeper than ~50 fathoms in order to reduce canary rockfish mortality to counter the increase in canary rockfish mortality expected from the previous action (14.2.2.4).

Option 1: Status Quo

Under Status Quo, the deepwater lingcod depth restriction would continue being in effect all year except from June 1 through 15 and September 1 through 30.

Option 2: Modify the open dates for deepwater lingcod from September 1–30 to September 1–15

Under Option 2, the time during which the deepwater lingcod depth restriction is lifted in September would shorten by 15 days. Anglers would be allowed to fish for and retain lingcod seaward of the deepwater lingcod line from September 1 through 15 instead of September 1 through 30. The proportion of canary rockfish total mortality occurring in September on bottomfish-only charter trips on the South Coast has been highly variable over the last five years, but it can be substantial; mortality ranged from a high of 30 percent in 2021 to a low of five percent in 2025, and typically over 90% of it is from deep areas. If the trend of decreasing proportion of total canary rockfish mortality in September continues, or if the proportion stays at current low levels, the amount of canary rockfish mortality that would be reduced from restricting deepwater access in the second half of September will be small, on the order of 0.5 mt. The mean total annual mortality in deep waters in Marine Areas 1 and 2 in September for bottomfish-only trips over the past three years is 2.4 mt, so this management action could reduce total canary rockfish mortality by about 1 mt, depending on future trends in the fishery. -Yelloweye rockfish mortality would also be reduced, but as for section 14.2.2.4, the exact amount cannot reliably be quantified.

14.2.2.6 Spatial extend of the deepwater lingcod restriction in Marine Area 1

This action addresses the discontinuity in the deepwater lingcod restriction between Marine Areas 1 and 2.

Option 1: Status Quo

Under Status Quo, the deepwater lingcod restriction in Marine Area 1 would continue being defined by a line drawn from 46°38.17' N. lat., 124°21.00' W long., to 46°33.00' N lat., 124°21.00' W long., resulting in a discontinuity of the depth restriction between Marine Areas 1 and 2 (Figure 14-7).

Option 2: Modify the deepwater lingcod restriction in Marine Area 1, so that the closure in both Marine Areas 1 and 2 would be described by a line extending from 47°31.70'N. lat., 124°45.00'W. long to 46° 33.00' N. lat., 124° 28.55' W. long

Option 2 modifies the existing deepwater lingcod restriction in Marine Area 2 to remove the discontinuity in the shape of the closed area between Marine Areas 1 and 2. The new restriction spanning MA1 and MA2 would be seaward of a single line extending from 47° 31.70' N. lat., 124°

45.00' W. long. to 46° 33.00' N. lat., 124° 28.55' W. long. (Figure 14-7). The new closed area would simplify the regulations and make it easier for anglers to comply with the restrictions. It would also increase deepwater fishing opportunities in the area proposed for removal from the closure. The impacts from this change on canary rockfish total mortality are expected to be minimal. The share of canary rockfish annual total mortality from bottomfish-only trips in Marine Area 1 has been low, ranging from 0.6 mt to 1 mt per year over the last three years. Additionally, no appreciable increase in mortality has been observed in June or September since 2021, when the deepwater lingcod closure was first lifted from June 1 through 15 and September 1 through 30 (prior to 2021, the closure was in effect year-round). Specifically, canary rockfish total mortality in Marine Area 2 on bottomfish-only trips increased on average by 50% from 2021 to 2025 compared to 2016 to 2020 for the months of June and September combined. This was the same amount of increase observed for all other months combined over the same period, when the deepwater closure was in effect. Thus, no additional mortality for canary rockfish is expected from this action-. Expected impacts on yelloweye rockfish are similar to canary rockfish.

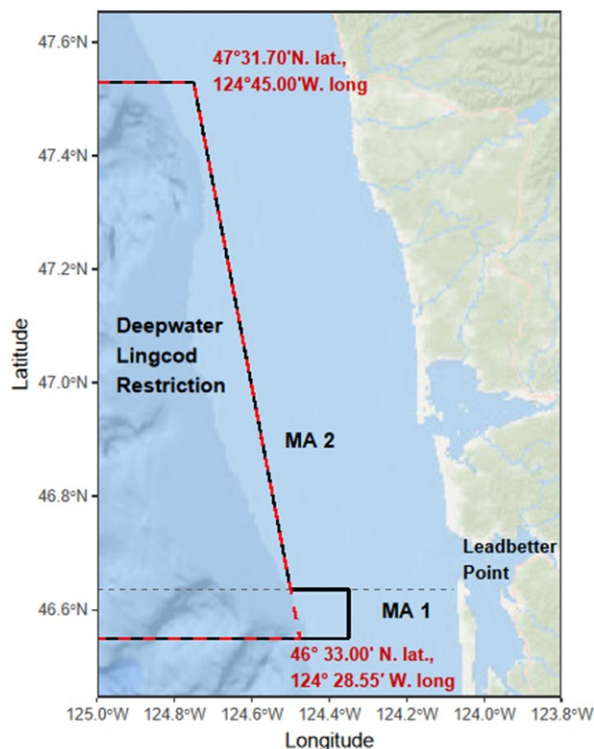


Figure 14-7. Shape of the new deepwater lingcod closure (dashed red lines) under Option 2 on top of the existing closure (black lines).

14.2.3 Impact Analysis

Yelloweye Rockfish Sub-bag limit

The goal of allowing limited retention of yelloweye rockfish is not to incentivize targeting but rather to convert what would otherwise be dead discards to retained landings (discard mortality in deeper waters where yelloweye are encountered is high) and additionally to provide data from the Washington recreational fishery for the next stock assessment. If the fishery remained closed, there would be little opportunity for biological data collection from the Washington recreational fishery,

which would be to the detriment of future stock assessments. On the other hand, opening the fishery up too quickly could result in excessive mortality necessitating future fishery restrictions. A key point to consider is the uncertainty in projecting impacts due to known changes in fishing behavior affecting yelloweye encounters and retention.

Despite the projection uncertainty, all projection estimates for a one-fish bag limit are well below the HG under Alternative 1; therefore, it is unlikely that the Washington recreational fishery would exceed its harvest specifications under any of these options, and in-season action is available to course-correct, if in-season mortality tracking indicates it is needed. It should be noted that some charter operators oppose a one-fish sub-bag limit per angler pay day for the entire bottomfish season because they feel it is not precautionary enough, given the large amount of uncertainty in targeting behavior that might result from reopening. These anglers would feel more comfortable with something much more restrictive, like a one-fish sub bag limit per person for day only during halibut days and only during the month of May. The projections do indicate there is a possibility of exceeding the ACT under a year-round 1-fish bag limit. Observing angler behavior change for a couple of years under management measures with a low chance of exceeding the HG (Options 3-5) would also generate data that could be used to produce better projections for yelloweye rockfish mortality under different management options for the entire year in the future.

Canary rockfish sub-bag limit

Canary rockfish mortality reductions of about 3 mt would be needed for the Washington recreational fishery to remain below its 19.2/19.8 mt HG under Alternative 1 for 2027/2028. While lowering the bag limit would reduce Washington recreational mortality, the conservation benefit at the stock level would be minimal. Coastwide canary rockfish mortality has remained well below the ACL in recent years, including more than 150 mt below the ACL in 2025, indicating substantial conservation buffer. In addition, the 2023 canary rockfish stock assessment estimated that 49% of the canary rockfish population occurred in Washington waters during 2017–2022. Given this large estimated stock biomass and the relatively small magnitude of Washington recreational removals, the Washington recreational fishery represents a small component of total coastwide fishing mortality. As a result, additional restrictions would have negligible impact on coastwide stock status, though they would reduce Washington recreational catch to meet HG targets and harm charter businesses.

Change to the 20 fathom line in Marine Area 4

Changing the northernmost coordinate of the 20 fathom line in Marine Area 4A (Section 14.2.2.3) would address an enforcement concern while having minimal impact on species of concern. Anecdotal evidence suggests yelloweye and canary rockfish are not encountered at Duntze and Duncan Rocks, the small area which would be open to rockfish retention year-round under the proposed Action.

Changes to the deepwater lingcod restriction in Marine Areas 1 and 2

Management actions affecting the spatial and temporal extent of existing lingcod depth restrictions in Marine Areas 1 and 2 would simplify the regulations and provide improved fishing opportunities, while limiting or preventing increases to canary rockfish total mortality. Changes in

Marine Area 1 are expected to have minimal impacts on yelloweye and canary rockfish mortality as only small proportions of total mortality come from this area (less than 6% for canary rockfish and less than 11% for yelloweye rockfish over the past three years). Removing the 30 fm May lingcod restriction in Marine Area 2 (Section 14.2.2.4) is expected to increase canary rockfish mortality by less than 1 mt while shortening the time window during which the (roughly 50 fm) deepwater lingcod restriction is lifted in September (Section 14.2.2.5) could reduce canary rockfish mortality by 0.5 to 1 mt, but this is highly dependent on effort distribution in September. The latter half of the month, during which time the restriction would newly apply, likely has less effort due to worsening weather than the first half of the month.

Table 14-8. Comparison of Management Options under No Action (2025) and Alternative 1.

Management Issue	No Action (2025)	Alternative 1
	Second Saturday in March through third Saturday in October in all Marine Areas	Same as No Action
<i>Area/ Species/ Depth Restrictions</i>		
<u>Marine Area 1</u> Deepwater Lingcod Restriction	<i>Rule:</i> Retention of lingcod is prohibited seaward of the deepwater lingcod line <i>Deepwater Lingcod Line Definition:</i> From Leadbetter Point (46° 38.17' N. Lat., 124°21.00' W. Lon.) to 46° 33.00' N. Lat., 124°21.00' W. Lon. <i>Period when restriction in effect:</i> Year round except June 1 - June 15 and Sept 1 - Sept 30	<i>Deepwater Lingcod Line Definition:</i> From Leadbetter Point (46° 38.17' N. Lat., 124°30.00' W. Lon.) to 46° 33.00' N. Lat., 124° 28.55' W. Lon
	<i>Period when restriction in effect:</i> Year round except June 1 - June 15 and Sept 1 - Sept 30	<i>Period when restriction in effect:</i> Year round except June 1 - June 15 and Sept 1 - Sept 15
<u>Marine Area 1</u> Bottomfish restrictions during all-depth halibut fishery	Cannot retain bottomfish if halibut on board, except: sablefish, Pacific cod, flatfish species, yellowtail rockfish, widow rockfish, canary rockfish, redstriped rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, silvergray rockfish, chilipepper, bocaccio, blue/deacon rockfish, and lingcod caught north of the Washington-Oregon border	Same as No Action
<u>Marine Area 2</u> 30 fm lingcod restriction	Cannot retain lingcod seaward of 30 fathoms from May 1 through May 31, except during all-depth halibut fishery	Remove the 30 fm lingcod restriction in Marine Area 2

Area/ Species/ Depth Restrictions		
<u>Marine Area 2</u> Deepwater Lingcod Restriction	Rule: Retention of lingcod is prohibited seaward of a line extending from 47° 31.70' N. lat., 124° 45.00' W. lon. to 46° 38.17' N. lat., 124° 30.00' W. lon.	Same as No Action
	Period when restriction in effect: Year round except on days open to the all-depth halibut fishery and June 1 - June 15 and Sept 1 - Sept 30	Period when restriction in effect: Year round except on days open to the all-depth halibut fishery and June 1 - June 15 and Sept 1 - Sept 15
<u>Marine Area 3 & 4A</u> Copper, quillback and vermillion rockfishes restriction	No retention from May - July	Same as No Action
<u>Marine Area 3 & 4A</u> 20 fm restriction	June 1 - July 31: Cannot retain groundfish seaward of 20 fm except on days open to the halibut fishery can retain the following: lingcod, sablefish, bocaccio, silvergray rockfish, canary rockfish, widow rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and Pacific cod. Can retain yellowtail and widow rockfish seaward of 20 fm in July	Same as No Action, except modify the coordinates of the 20 fm line in Area 4A so Duntze and Duncan Rocks are no longer seaward of the line
<u>Marine Area 3 & 4A</u> YRCA	Fishing for, retention, or possession of groundfish and Pacific halibut is prohibited in the C-shaped YRCA	Same as No Action
Daily Bag Limits, Size Limits		
Groundfish	9-fish per angler, no size limit	Same as No Action
Rockfish	7-fish sub-bag limit	Same as No Action
Canary rockfish	5-fish sub-bag limit (within rockfish)	5 fish sub-bag limit (Status Quo) 4 fish sub-bag limit in May, 5 fish otherwise 4 fish sub-bag limit
Lingcod	2-fish sub-bag limit	Same as No Action
Cabezon	1-fish sub-bag limit	Same as No Action
Yelloweye rockfish	Prohibited, 0 fish	Prohibited (Status Quo) 1 fish sub-bag limit 1 fish sub-bag limit only in May 1 fish sub-bag limit only on halibut days in May 1 fish sub-bag limit only on halibut days in June
Flatfish (not including halibut)	5-fish per day	Same as No Action

14.2.4 Socio-economic Impact Analysis

The changes to management measures considered under Alternative 1 for the 2027-28 biennium seek to primarily address canary rockfish mortality while also providing increased fishing opportunities. Of particular concern is the health of the charter industry. WDFW has received feedback from some charter operators that it has been hard to sustain charter businesses.

Corroborating this, the number of registered charters has been declining, from around 60 per year ten years ago to around 40 per year today. The number of charter angler trips has also been declining (Table 14-3), particularly on the South Coast⁶. Charter operators feel that a 5-fish canary rockfish sub-bag limit helps attract customers and provides satisfying fishing experiences for halibut and deepwater lingcod trips. Given the cost of charter trips (especially deeper water), it is important for customer satisfaction that customers be able to take home the bag limit of fish. Canary rockfish provides a relatively easy means to this end, since they are a schooling fish, meaning where there is one, there are more. Charter operators can fish the same spot for canary rockfish under a more permissive bag limit rather than having to move to a new spot looking for other species (such as yellowtail rockfish) after the bag limit of lingcod or halibut has been caught. This saves fuel costs, directly affecting charter revenues and business viability. It also reduces the risk of an unsuccessful trip (few fish caught), affecting the likelihood of future charter trips booked by the same customers or by others influenced by past customer reviews.

The ability to retain yelloweye rockfish could help attract customers for charter trips, and one yelloweye rockfish could be a substitute for one canary rockfish. Given the substantial uncertainty around yelloweye rockfish mortality under limited retention, erring on the side of caution ensures management measures will not subsequently need to be tightened again to address excessive yelloweye mortality, which would inflict further economic harm on the charter industry.

14.3 Alternative 2

Under Alternative 2, alternative HCRs are considered for canary and yelloweye rockfishes.

14.3.1 Projected Mortality and Effort

Table 14-9 below shows projected mortality against the Alternative 2 HGs. Projected effort is the same as for Alternative 1, but see Section 14.1.7 for a brief discussion on recreational effort projections and harvest specifications.

Table 14-9. Projected mortality impacts compared to the Washington HG under Alternative 2. Canary and yelloweye rockfish projected mortality under various sub-bag options include uncertainty due to angler behavior, total effort, average fish weight, and discard mortality rate. Projections for black rockfish, cabezon/ kelp greenling, and the nearshore rockfish complex are based on recent average mortality.

Species/ Stock	Alt. 2 2027 (2028)	Projected Total Mortality (mt)	
Yelloweye Rockfish	16.2 (16.2)	<i>Prohibited (Status Quo)</i>	2.9 - 6.4
		<i>1 fish sub-bag</i>	9.0 - 19.5
		<i>1 fish sub-bag in May</i>	6.3 - 13.4
		<i>1 fish sub-bag on halibut days in May</i>	5.9 - 12.6
		<i>1 fish sub-bag on halibut days in June</i>	4.8 - 10.5
Canary Rockfish	20.5 (21.2)	<i>5 fish sub-bag (Status Quo)</i>	19.7 - 23.6
		<i>4 fish sub-bag</i>	17.6 - 21.5

⁶ the number of charter angler trips on the South Coast has decline by more than 50% over the past 10 years

Species/ Stock	Alt. 2 2027 (2028)	Projected Total Mortality (mt)	
		<i>4 fish sub-bag in May, 5 fish otherwise</i>	19.1 - 23.4
Black Rockfish	221.7 (222.3)	151	
Cabazon/Kelp Greenling	12.5 (12.4)	8.9	
Nearshore Rockfish	16.1 (15.8)	7.3	

14.3.2 Proposed Updates to Routine Management Measures

Under Alternative 2, the same management measures and Options are considered as under Alternative 1. See Section 14.2.2 for a thorough discussion of those Actions and Options. In this section, only sub-bag limit options for yelloweye and canary rockfishes are discussed with respect to Alternative 2.

Yelloweye rockfish sub-bag limit

The WA HG for yelloweye rockfish under Alternative 2 is lower than under Alternative 1. Of the options discussed in Section 14.2.2.1, the high range of the projected mortality for only the 1 fish year-round sub-bag limit (Section 14.2.2.1.2) exceeds the HG under Alternative 2 (Table 14-9).

Canary rockfish sub-bag limit

The WA HG for canary rockfish under Alternative 2 is higher than under Alternative 1. The high range of the 5 fish (Status Quo) sub-bag mortality projection still exceeds the HG (Table 14-9), but the mortality reductions needed to stay below the HG under Alternative 2 are lower than what is needed for Alternative 1 and there is a lower chance of exceeding the HG under Status Quo management compared to Alternative 2.

14.3.3 Impact Analysis

The impact analysis is the same as under Alternative 1.

14.3.4 Socio-economic Impact Analysis

The socio-economic impact analysis is the same as under Alternative 1.

15. Action Item 19: Oregon Recreational Groundfish Fishery

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Outcome of April 2026 Council Meeting

The Council did not adopt a PPA for Oregon’s recreational fishery; however, it did adopt the recommendations from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s report ([Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental ODFW Report 1, April 2026](#)) for public review. The updated version of Chapter 15 from Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 1, April 2026 is replicated below as a decision has not been made.

15.1 No Action

Major sectors within the Oregon recreational fishery include bottomfish (groundfish), salmon, Pacific halibut and albacore fisheries. Primary groundfish target species include black rockfish, lingcod, and yellowtail rockfish. Primary catch controls for the Oregon recreational fishery are season dates, depth closures, bag limits, and GCAs (including YRCAs), all of which are tools used to keep catch within state-specific quotas and Federal HGs/ACLs. The values shown in the analysis for all alternatives are the shares based on 2026 recreational and commercial sharing percentages in Oregon State Regulations ([OAR 635-039-0090](#)).

15.1.1 Groundfish Seasons and Restrictions

Season Structure, Area Closures and Gear Specifications

The Oregon recreational groundfish fishery was open at all depths year-round during the 2025-26 harvest specifications biennium with no depth restrictions in place.

GCAs and YRCAs

Stonewall Bank YRCA (50 CFR 660.360(c)(2) and 50 CFR 660.70(i)) was established off the Central Oregon Coast in 2007 during a period when regulations were being implemented to avoid incidental contact with yelloweye and canary rockfishes. Recreational fishing for groundfish and halibut remains prohibited within the Stonewall Bank YRCA. There are no other active YRCAs in the Oregon recreational fishery, though there are a few inactive YRCAs that include: Stonewall Bank Expansions 1 and 2, Tillamook, Newport, and Florence, addressed in Section (Chapter 2).

Long-leader Fishery

Fishing with long-leader gear (Holloway Gear) (660.351, 660.360(c)(2)(1)(B), and 660.360(c)(2)(iii)(B)) allows anglers to have higher bag limits outside of the 40-fathom regulatory line to entice anglers away from the nearshore reefs while limiting yelloweye rockfish interactions. This gear configuration is designed to fish off the bottom, in the water column to target midwater rockfish stocks, while avoiding yelloweye rockfish. The gear requires no more than three hooks, at least 30 feet between the sinker on the bottom and the lowest hook, and a non-compressible float above the hooks (NMFS 2018). The term “long-leader” denotes the unusual lengths of line (< 30 feet) between the lowest hook and the weight deployed on rod and reel sportfishing gear.

The use of the gear is legal in areas and times open to sport bottomfish fishing in Oregon. However, for anglers to have access to the higher bag limits, fishing must comply with the gear specifications and take place seaward of the 40-fathom regulatory line. Additionally, long-leader gear trips are not allowed in combination with a “regular” bottomfish trip. The long-leader bag limit has ranged from 10 to 15 since 2018; however, during the 2025-26 harvest specifications process a sub-bag limit for canary rockfish was incorporated to keep from exceeding the canary rockfish HG.

Pacific Halibut

The 2025 the Pacific halibut fishery was open from May 1 through October 31. The additional days for anglers (compared to prior years) to fish offshore for halibut (combined with bottomfish) is one of the contributing factors that has led to an increase of petrale sole and sablefish caught by anglers in recent years (Table 15-3)

15.1.2 Groundfish Bag Limits and Size Limits

- General Marine Species: 10-fish daily angler limit
- Lingcod: 3-fish daily angler limit with a minimum size limit of 22 inches
- Sablefish: 10-fish daily angler limit
- Flatfish (other than Pacific halibut): 25-fish daily angler limit
- Long-leader gear fishery: 10-fish daily angler limit with a 1-fish canary rockfish sub-bag limit

15.1.3 Inseason and State Management

The west coast states are responsible for tracking and managing catches of species in the nearshore rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. A state-specific HG, also called a 'share,' is calculated for each of the component stocks. This HG is not a federal regulation but is under state regulation. The state-specific HG is used by the states to track impacts of the recreational fishery on its estimated contribution to the complex. Within state regulations, determined by the OFWC, the Oregon nearshore rockfish component stock HG, along with the Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish complex ACL, is further divided for the state commercial and recreational fisheries. The Oregon recreational values reported in this document represent the recreational share based on the recreational and commercial sharing percentages adopted by OFWC. For the nearshore rockfish component, if harvest levels in Oregon approach 75 percent of the state-specific informal HG (Table 15-2), the state of Oregon will consult with the other west coast states to determine whether inseason action is needed.

Oregon has a robust port-based monitoring program through the Ocean Recreational Boater Survey (ORBS) which allows for ODFW to closely monitor groundfish mortality inseason. The ORBS program is designed to support timely inseason management. Groundfish estimates are made monthly, with preliminary estimates available within 10 days of the end of the month. Final estimates are generated a month after preliminary data has been made available. For key species, such as black rockfish, canary rockfish and cabezon, preliminary weekly estimates are generated, allowing ODFW to make any necessary inseason adjustments in a timely manner.

If inseason action is necessary to keep mortality from exceeding a state-specific harvest guideline, the state of Oregon would take action through state process and regulation, which can be done in a timelier manner compared to the Council process. The state of Oregon would take action through state regulation ([OAR 635-039-0090](#)) via authority through [ORS 506.755 Fisheries Conservation Zones](#). Any inseason action taken by the state would be more restrictive than what is in the federal regulations, to keep mortality within the Oregon recreational limits. Inseason updates would be provided to the Council at the subsequent Council meeting, with inseason action pending Council consideration, when necessary.

Inseason management tools, designed to mitigate mortality, include bag limits (including sub-bag limits and non-retention), size limits, and time, area, depth, and gear restrictions. These management options are the primary inseason tools for keeping total impacts within the Oregon recreational sector-specific harvest targets for groundfish. The inseason action is dependent upon the timing to determine the need. State regulations (including inseason changes) from the 2025 bottomfish fishing season are displayed in Table 15-1 below.

Table 15-1. 2025 Oregon recreational groundfish season structure and bag limits adopted by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) with temporary rules implemented outside of the OFWC process.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bottomfish Season	Open all depths											
Marine Bag Limit ^{a/b/}	Four (4)							Five (5)	Four (4) ^{f/}	Three (3) ^{f/}		
Canary Rockfish	Sub-bag of one (1)											
Cabazon ^{c/}	No Retention						Sub-bag of one (1)					
Long-leader Bag Limit ^{d/}	Ten (10); Seaward of the 40-fathom regulatory line											
Canary Rockfish	Sub-bag of one (1)											
Lingcod Bag Limit	Two (2)											
Flatfish Bag Limit ^{e/}	Twenty-Five (25)											
Sablefish Bag Limit	Ten (10)											

a/ Marine bag limit includes all groundfish species other than lingcod, sablefish, and flatfish.

b/ Yelloweye and quillback rockfishes are prohibited at all times.

c/ Cabazon have a minimum size limit of 16 inches and are included within the marine bag limit.

d/ Long-leader fishery rockfish allowed for retention include; blue, bocaccio, canary, chilipepper, deacon, redstripe, greenstriped, silvergray, widow, and yellowtail rockfishes.

e/ Flounders, soles, sanddabs, turbot, and halibut except Pacific halibut.

f/ Inseason changes made through state regulations.

15.1.4 Impacts (Groundfish Mortality)

The estimated total recreational fishery mortality in 2025 is provided at the complex level in Table 15-2, and at the species level in Table 15-3. The nearshore rockfish complex exceeded the recreational state-specific share of 14.7 mt by 0.3 mt in 2025, though no inseason changes were necessary, as the nearshore commercial fishery was tracking below their state-specific share of 15.4 mt, thus the Oregon HG was not exceeded. For canary rockfish, no inseason action was taken as the overall ACL was not at risk of being exceeded.

Table 15-2. No Action. Oregon recreational Federal harvest guidelines (HG) or state quotas under No Action (mt), estimated total mortality (mt), and percent attainment for 2025. Source: RecFIN

Stock	HG or State Quota	Estimated Total Mortality	Percent Attainment
Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon Rockfish Complex ^{a/}	326.0	313.6	96%
Canary Rockfish ^{b/}	26.0	26.2	101%
Oregon Cabazon/Greenlings Complex ^{a/c/}	51.4	32.5	63%

Stock	HG or State Quota	Estimated Total Mortality	Percent Attainment
Nearshore Rockfish Complex north of 40°10' N Lat. ^{a/}	14.7	15.3	104%
YELLOWWEYE ROCKFISH ^{b/}	6.9	2.8	41%

a/ The state of Oregon adopts commercial and recreational quotas (or shares) for select species. The values are the recreational share based on the 2025 recreational and commercial sharing percentages in Oregon state regulations.

b/ Federal HG are established for canary rockfish and yelloweye rockfish and are included in Federal regulation.

c/ Includes kelp and other greenlings.

Table 15-3. No Action. 2024-2025 mortality, in mt, of the most common landed species from the Oregon recreational fishery. This table represents recent mortality under similar season structure and bag limits to what will be in place under No Action. Source: RecFIN

Species	2024	2025	Average	2025 HG ^{b/}
Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon Rockfish	313.6	313.6	313.6	326.0
Black Rockfish	279.7	279.1	279.4	261.1
Blue/Deacon Rockfish	33.9	34.5	34.2	64.9
Lingcod north of 40° 10' N lat.	180.0	210.0	195.0	-
Nearshore Rockfish north of 40° 10' N lat.	17.8	15.3	16.5	14.7
Brown Rockfish	0.3	0.3	0.3	-
China Rockfish	4.0	4.2	4.1	-
Copper Rockfish	8.3	7.9	8.1	-
Grass Rockfish	< 0.1	0.1	0.1	-
Quillback Rockfish	5.0	2.8	3.9	-
Oregon Cabezon/Greenling	34.3	32.5	33.4	49.2
Cabezon	12.7	11.4	12.0	17.2
Kelp Greenling	21.6	21.1	21.4	32.0
Canary Rockfish	50.3	26.2	38.2	26.0
Widow Rockfish	4.1	3.6	3.8	-
Yellowtail Rockfish north of 40° 10' N lat.	61.4	41.2	51.3	-
Vermilion Rockfish ^{a/}	3.7	3.8	3.8	-
YELLOWWEYE ROCKFISH	3.6	2.8	3.2	6.9
Petrale Sole	6.9	5.2	6.1	-
Sablefish north of 36° N lat.	5.8	2.9	4.4	-

a/ Part of the Shelf Rockfish complex north of 40° 10' N lat.

b/ 2025 HG provided when there is a state-specific recreational HG.

A key component when estimating projected mortality is incorporating total angler trips into the projection model. Since 2015, the recreational fishery has averaged over 100,000 bottomfish angler trips per year, with an estimated peak of 116,633 in 2022 (Table 15-4). Under No Action, bottomfish angler trips are expected to remain at or above 100,000 angler trips per year.

Table 15-4. Oregon estimated ocean bottomfish angler trips by year and mode (charter vs private) along with estimated long-leader angler trips, 2021-2025. Source: RecFIN

Mode	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Average
Charter Angler Trips	52,013	51,464	46,539	46,796	43,464	48,055
Private Angler Trips ^{a/}	47,497	65,169	55,169	52,707	56,427	55,394
Long-leader Trips ^{b/}	1,703	3,222	4,662	3,131	2,316	3,007
Total	99,510	116,633	101,708	99,503	99,891	103,449

a/ Private angler trips include guide trips (guide boats are difficult to distinguish from private boats)

b/ Long-leader trips are included within the bottomfish trip type for both RecFIN and MORG total estimated angler trips, not an addition to. Additional analysis of angler interviews was used to estimate long-leader angler trips.

15.1.5 Socioeconomic Analysis

For the recreational sectors, the Socioeconomic Analysis uses projected recreational fishing effort as the input, as highlighted in [Agenda Item C.7.a Supplemental GMT Report 4, April 2026](#). The Oregon recreational bottomfish fishery, however, is impacted by other fisheries and fuel costs in addition to bag limits and season and/or area closures. For example, the peak months of angler effort in the Oregon recreational bottomfish fishery occurs during the summer months, when albacore tuna is also accessible. When tuna are close to shore, potential bottomfish anglers may opt to pursue tuna instead. Coincidentally, if fuel costs are too high, anglers will stay closer to port and target nearshore species, specifically rockfish. Recreational anglers are not confined to one FMP, as many participate in multiple on one day, depending on what is in season and what is biting. A socioeconomic analysis confined to one targeted group of species (or one FMP) is limited as there is a lot of cross-over taking place by marine anglers.

15.2 Alternative 1

Alternative 1 describes and analyzes the impacts from default HCR ACLs. Under those defaults, the Oregon recreational HGs or presumed state quotas are those presented in Table 15-5. As described under No Action, the primary catch controls for the Oregon recreational fishery are season dates, depth closures, bag limits, and GCAs (including YRCAs).

The Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish complex ACL and associated presumed state-specified HG for the recreational fishery will see a slight increase from the 2025-26 harvest specifications following the 2025 “catch-only-projection” of Oregon black rockfish ([Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 1, November 2025](#)). This increase (330 mt in 2026 to 344 mt in 2027) will provide some relief for recreational anglers, as black rockfish are the most commonly caught species in the Oregon recreational bottomfish fishery. The nearshore rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat., canary rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish also play a role in setting recreational bag limits for the Oregon recreational bottomfish fishery, as yelloweye rockfish have been a prohibited species since 2004, quillback rockfish (part of the nearshore rockfish complex) have been prohibited in state rule since 2022, and a sub-bag limit was implemented for canary rockfish beginning in 2025.

Table 15-5. Alternative 1. Oregon recreational Federal harvest guidelines (HG) in metric tons (mt), or state quotas under Alternative 1 (mt) for 2027-28 compared to the adopted HG for 2025-26.

Stock	2025 HG (mt)	2026 HG (mt)	2027 Alt 1 HG (mt)	2028 Alt 1 HG (mt)
Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon Rockfish Complex ^{a/}	326.0	329.5	344.5	347.5
Canary Rockfish ^{b/}	26.0	28.6	30.8	31.9
Oregon Cabezon/Greenling Complex ^{a/c/}	49.2	48.5	48.3	48.1
Nearshore Rockfish Complex north of 40°10' N. lat. ^{a/}	14.7	14.3	13.9	13.6
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH ^{b/}	8.8	9.0	20.7	20.7

a/ The state of Oregon adopts commercial and recreational quotas (or shares) for select species. The values are the recreational share based on the 2025 recreational and commercial sharing percentages in Oregon state regulations.

b/ Federal HG are established for canary rockfish and yelloweye rockfish and are included in Federal regulation.

c/ Includes kelp and other greenlings.

15.2.1 Groundfish Seasons and Restrictions

Under Alternative 1, the Oregon recreational groundfish fishery (including the long-leader fishery) season and depth restrictions would be the same as described under No Action (see Section 15.1.1). Given the higher yelloweye rockfish HG, the only recreational area closed to bottomfish (and Pacific halibut) fishing is the Stonewall Bank YRCA.

15.2.2 Groundfish Bag Limit and Size Limits

For Alternative 1, sub-bag limit options are presented for both yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish shown in Table 15-6. The [2025 yelloweye rockfish stock assessment](#) estimates that the stock’s spawning output is now 40.1 percent of unfished levels and exceeds the management target of 40 percent, signaling recovery after decades of rebuilding ([Johnston et al., 2025](#)). Therefore, higher HG and non-trawl ACL allow for some retention of yelloweye rockfish for recreational anglers beginning in 2027. For canary rockfish, a range of options are presented in the table below

to account for an increasing ACL, including a new sub-bag limit option of 5 canary rockfish in the long-leader fishery per request from ODFW.

Table 15-6. Alternative 1 – Oregon recreational groundfish season structure and bag limits under Alternative 1. Bold indicates changes from No Action.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bottomfish Season	Open all depths											
Marine Bag Limit ^{a/}	Ten (10)											
--Yelloweye Rockfish	<i>Option 1 (Status Quo): No Retention</i>											
	<i>Option 2: Sub-bag limit of one (1)</i>											
Long-leader Bag Limit ^{b/}	<i>Option 1 (Status Quo): Twelve (12); Seaward of the 40-fathom regulatory line</i>											
	<i>Option 2: Ten (10); Seaward of the 40-fathom regulatory line</i>											
--Canary Rockfish	<i>Option 1 (Status Quo): Sub-bag limit of one (1)</i>											
	<i>Option 2: Sub-bag limit of two (2)</i>											
	<i>Option 3: Sub-bag limit of two (5)</i>											
	<i>Option 4: No sub-bag limit</i>											
Lingcod Bag Limit	Three (3)											
Flatfish Bag Limit ^{c/}	Twenty-Five (25)											
Sablefish Bag Limit	Ten (10)											

a/ Marine bag limit includes all groundfish species other than lingcod, sablefish, and flatfish.

b/ Long-leader fishery rockfish allowed for retention include; blue, bocaccio, canary, chilipepper, deacon, greenstriped, redstripe, silvergray, widow, and yellowtail rockfishes.

c/ Flounders, soles, sanddabs, turbot, and halibut except Pacific halibut.

15.2.3 Inseason Management Response

See Section 1.2 Inseason and State Management Response under No Action. For yelloweye rockfish, the state will track recreational catch estimates and provide the Council with updates as requested.

15.2.4 Impacts (Groundfish Mortality)

The annual projected mortality values presented in Table 15-7 are point estimates generated by the Model of Oregon Recreational Groundfish (MORG), the Oregon recreational model approved by the SSC, using the season structure and bag limits detailed above. The point estimates provided for each species are the median values of the projections generated by the MORG. Therefore, 50 percent of the projected values lie above or below the point estimate. State management and inseason changes, described under No Action, will be utilized to keep impacts below the state-specified HG under Alternative 1.

Table 15-7. Alternative 1 – Oregon Recreational. 2027 Projected Mortality (mt) and associated HG (mt) of Oregon recreational species under Alternative 1. Projections modeled with a five-fish marine bag in state rule, no retention of yelloweye rockfish and four different sub-bag limit options for canary rockfish (CAN).

Stock	Option 1 (SQ): CAN sub-bag 1	Option 2: CAN sub- bag 2	Option 3: CAN sub- bag 5	Option 4: CAN no sub-bag	2027 HG (mt)
Black/Blue/Deacon Rockfish OR	300.6	297.1	293.7	293.9	344.2
Canary Rockfish	37.9	32.3	45.7	52.1	30.8
Nearshore Rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	13.9
Cabezon/Greenlings	38.0	38.0	38.0	38.0	48.3
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	20.7

15.2.5 Socioeconomic Analysis

Under Alternative 1, the Oregon recreational groundfish fishery season and depth restrictions would be the same as described under No Action. Therefore, the same socioeconomic challenges described in Section 15.1.5, remain. Since 2016, the number of recreational bottomfish anglers has ranged from 96,297 (2016) to 116,633 (2022) annually. For 2027-28, similar to 2025-26, harvest limits for both black rockfish and canary rockfish remain well below harvest limits of years leading up to 2025, thus bag limits are anticipated to remain low in state regulation to minimize the risk of exceeding harvest limits (see Table 15.1). A variable that could increase bottomfish angler effort in 2027 is if any yelloweye rockfish retention is allowed. With an HG of 20.7 mt of yelloweye rockfish under Alternative 1 for 2027 (Table 15-7), any change in angler behavior is anticipated to be minimal as retention of yelloweye rockfish will again be prohibited once the risk to the HG is projected.

15.2.6 Management Measures

One management measure was analyzed for the Oregon recreational fisheries: incorporating retention of yelloweye rockfish. As retention of yelloweye rockfish has been prohibited since 2004, accounting for a shift in angler behavior is difficult to quantify. Instead, all angler-reported discarded yelloweye rockfish since 2021 were assumed retained (100 percent mortality) to account for an upper range of potential total mortality regarding yelloweye rockfish if some retention was allowed, shown in Table 15-8.

Table 15-8. Estimated total mortality of yelloweye rockfish vs assumed total mortality if retention of yelloweye rockfish was allowed. Source: RecFIN (2021-2025).

Year	Estimated Total Mortality (mt)	Estimated Total Mortality Assuming 100% Retention (mt)	2027 HG (mt)	2028 HG (mt)
2021	3.3	10.6	20.7	20.7
2022	5.2	14.9	20.7	20.7
2023	3.8	15.2	20.7	20.7
2024	3.6	12.6	20.7	20.7
2025	3.2	11.1	20.7	20.7

There are two primary reasons to allow retention of yelloweye rockfish. A one-fish sub-bag limit of yelloweye rockfish may help reduce regulatory discarded dead yelloweye rockfish; this species is encountered in deeper waters associated with higher discard mortality rates (Table 15-9), due to an increased risk of barotrauma. Additionally, allowing for some retention of yelloweye rockfish may also encourage anglers to fish offshore, providing some relief to rockfish found in the nearshore reefs. As mentioned in section 1.2, inseason changes can be made if the harvest guideline is projected to be exceeded.

Table 15-9. Discard Mortality Rates (DMR) for yelloweye rockfish by depth bin in fathoms (fm).

Depth Bin	0-10 fm	10-30 fm	30-50 fm	50-100 fm	100+ fm
Yelloweye Rockfish	9%	9%	11%	38%	100%

15.2.7 Impact to Salmon Species

As yelloweye rockfish are not caught in combination with salmon and there are no changes to the season structure, depth restriction or YRCAs, salmon encounter rates from the bottomfish fishery are anticipated to be similar compared to recent years. Table 15-10 below displays total numbers of Chinook and coho caught over the past five years from charter and private anglers while targeting bottomfish.

Table 15-10.. Total number of landed and released of the twenty most common species, plus Chinook and coho, from only long-leader gear trips in 2022-2025.

Species	2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Landed	Released	Landed	Released	Landed	Released	Landed	Released
Chinook Salmon	31	119	0	87	2	53	9	66
Coho Salmon	37	110	73	233	21	285	79	339

15.3 Widow Rockfish Alternatives

Under the widow rockfish HCR alternatives, the associated Oregon recreational HGs do not change as widow rockfish harvested in the recreational fishery off Oregon contribute to the non-trawl set-aside of either 150 mt or 300 mt. Table 15-11 below shows the estimated total mortality from Oregon recreational fisheries of widow rockfish since 2021.

Table 15-11. Annual total estimated mortality (in metric tons) for all species considered under Alternative 2 and associated 2027 Oregon recreational HG under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. Source: RecFIN (2022-2025).

Stock	2021 (mt)	2022 (mt)	2023 (mt)	2024 (mt)	2025 (mt)
Widow rockfish	3.5	4.2	8.2	4.1	3.6

16. Action Item 20: California Recreational Groundfish Fishery

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Outcome of April 2026 Council Meeting

The Council adopted the recommendations described in [C.7.a Supplemental GAP Report 1, April 2026](#), [Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1, April 2026](#), and [Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental EC Report 1, April 2026](#) for the California recreational fishery as PPA. The items described in these reports, including season structure, sub-bag limits, and measures related to the rockfish, cabezon, greenling (RCG) complex, are shown below in Table 16-1. In brief, the Council adopted the Option 4 boat-based rockfish and lingcod season structure (open April 1-December 31 at all depths, statewide), and status quo rockfish sub-bag limits except for vermilion/sunset, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfishes. The sub-bag limit for vermilion/sunset rockfish between 42° and 40°10' N. lat. would be reduced from 4 fish to 2 fish in order to make the sub-bag limit the same, statewide. Cowcod and yelloweye rockfish would each have a sub-bag limit of 1 fish in December only, and would be required to be landed whole. Quillback and bronzespotted rockfishes remain prohibited. The Council also adopted separate management measures for species in the RCG complex, including year-round, all depth seasons for cabezon and kelp greenling and an individual 10 fish bag limit for cabezon and kelp greenling.

The vermilion/sunset rockfish bag limit reduction for the area between 42° and 40°10' N. lat. was not analyzed in the March version of this document. Therefore, this management measure is analyzed in Section 16.1.1, below. For cowcod and yelloweye rockfish, an additional Option of a 1 fish sub-bag limit in April has been analyzed in Sections 16.1.2 below for Council consideration (see also: [Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1, April 2026](#)). Note, the projected impacts for season structure Options 3 and 4 in Appendix A have been updated with the most up-to-date information.

16.1 PPA

Table 16-1. PPA. Summary of decision points and the resulting federal management actions for the 2027-28 California recreational fishery. Cells in dark grey shading show management measure decisions which differ from status quo; cells that are not highlighted are status quo/equivalent to No Action.

Decision Point	Description of Council PPA
<i>Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenling (RCG) Complex</i>	
RCG Complex Decoupled	Regulations for rockfish, cabezon, and kelp greenling would be determined and described separately without reference to the RCG complex. Results in structural changes to regulations for bag, gear, and size limits, but the limits are effectively status quo. Results in structural changes to season and depth regulations, <u>and</u> an effectual change from status quo seasons and depths.
<i>Groundfish Seasons and Area Restrictions</i>	
Groundfish Management Areas (GMAs)	5 GMAs: Northern, Mendocino, San Francisco, Central, and Southern
Rockfish Conservation Area Waypoints	No waypoint modifications
Groundfish Exclusion Areas	No modifications
Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas	Remove the following YRCAs off California from regulation: Point St. George, South Reef, Reading Rock, Point Delgada (North) and Point Delgada (South).
<i>Season Structure</i>	

Decision Point	Description of Council PPA
Boat-Based Rockfish and Lingcod Season Structure	<u>Option 4*</u> : For all GMAs, - Jan 1 – Mar 31: Closed - Apr 1 – Dec 31: Open at all depths <i>*Includes additional accountability measures; see Appendix A (Section 16.2.4, Option 4)</i>
Cabazon	Open year-round at all depths
Greenling	Open year-round at all depths
California scorpionfish	Open year-round at all depths
Other groundfish	Open year-round at all depths
Bag Limits, Gear Limits, Size Limits	
Rockfish	10-fish aggregate daily bag and possession limit; no size limits; no more than 2 hooks with 1 line (effectively status quo)
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish North of 40° 10' N. lat.</i>	<i>2-fish sub-bag limit</i>
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish South of 40° 10' N. lat.</i>	<i>2-fish sub-bag limit</i>
<i>Canary rockfish</i>	<i>2-fish sub-bag limit</i>
<i>Copper rockfish</i>	<i>1-fish sub-bag limit</i>
<i>Yelloweye rockfish</i>	<i>1 fish during December only, must be landed whole</i>
<i>Cowcod</i>	<i>1 fish during December only, must be landed whole</i>
Quillback rockfish	Prohibited, 0 fish
Bronzespotted rockfish	Prohibited, 0 fish
Lingcod	2 fish; 22 in. size limit; no more than 2 hooks with 1 line
Cabazon	10 fish; no size limit; no more than 2 hooks with 1 line (effectively status quo)
Greenling	10 fish; no size limit; no more than 2 hooks with 1 line (effectively status quo)
California Scorpionfish	5 fish; no size limit; no more than 2 hooks with 1 line
Pacific sanddab, petrale sole, starry flounder	Unlimited
All other groundfish unless specified (state regulations may also apply)	20 fish, of which no more than 10 may be of any one species

The list of accountability measures associated with season structure Option 4 in Appendix A (Section 16.2.4) have also been updated to include accountability measures for lingcod, which were intended for inclusion in the April version of the document.

Most groundfish harvest guidelines are shared between the commercial non-trawl sector and the recreational sector. Shares (formal/informal) that are specific to the California recreational fishery are shown in Table 16-2. Note that the HG values in Appendix A were calculated prior to the Council's adoption of updated Tribal off-the-top values. The HGs in Table 16-2 represent the most up-to-date and accurate information.

Table 16-2. PPA. 2027-28 California-specific recreational harvest guidelines (HG)/shares in metric tons (mt).

Stock	CA Recreational HGs (mt) (2027/2028)
Bocaccio South of 40°10' N lat.	963.1/919.8
Canary rockfish	55.3/57.2
Cowcod South of 40°10' N. lat.	23.5/23.1
Yelloweye rockfish	26.9/26.9

16.1.1 Vermilion/Sunset Rockfish Sub-Bag Limits

Vermilion/sunset rockfish is managed within the shelf rockfish complex as two stocks, one north of 40°10' N. lat., and the other south of 40°10' N. lat. The vermilion/sunset rockfish ACL contribution to the shelf complex for the northern stock in the area off California (i.e., between 42° and 40°10' N. lat.) is 6.1 mt in 2027 and 6.0 mt in 2028.

In the California recreational fishery, vermilion/sunset rockfish is currently subject to a sub-bag limit of 4 fish north of 40°10' N. lat. (Northern GMA), and 2 fish south of 40°10' N. lat. (all other GMAs). In 2024, the vermilion/sunset rockfish non-trawl ACL contribution to the complex for the area north was exceeded with a 4-fish limit and RCA depth restrictions. The Council's PPA is to reduce the vermilion/sunset rockfish sub-bag limit in the Northern GMA from 4 fish to 2 fish, which would make the sub-bag limit consistent statewide. With the status quo (4 fish) sub-bag limit, the projected impacts to the northern stock under season structure Option 4 are 4.5 - 5.5 mt. With the 2 fish sub-bag limit, the projected impacts would be 4.1 - 5 mt (see Table 16-3 below and Appendix A (Table 16-21), which has updated projections that were analyzed with complete base year data for 2025).

To determine whether this action would constrain the fishery, the RecFIN bag limit tool was used to analyze how many vermilion/sunset rockfish anglers typically keep when vermilion/sunset rockfish is a part of their catch. In the Northern GMA from 2024-2025, on average, 92 percent of anglers kept only 1 or 2 vermilion/sunset rockfish, whereas only 8 percent kept 3 or more (note, regulations allowed up to 4 vermilion/sunset rockfish in this time and area). Therefore, the vast majority of anglers in the affected area only kept 2 or fewer, despite having the opportunity to keep more. This suggests that lowering the sub-bag limit would not cause appreciable changes in angler behavior or constrain the fishery, and would likely result in few additional regulatory discards.

16.1.2 Cowcod and Yelloweye Rockfish Seasonal Sub-Bag Limits

The Council's PPA is to allow a 1 fish sub-bag limit in December for cowcod and yelloweye rockfish in the California recreational fishery. The Council, GAP, and GMT also considered a new option, which was not previously analyzed, to allow a 1 fish sub-bag limit in April ([Agenda Item C.6.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1, April 2026](#)). Therefore, the April option is provided herein for continued consideration. The projected impacts under season structure Option 4 for both seasonal sub-bag limit options were updated with complete base year data from 2025, and are provided in comparison to the Council's interim FPA harvest specifications (Table 16-3). For cowcod, the projected impacts are expected to be similar between the December and April option. For yelloweye rockfish, the projected impacts for the April option are expected to be slightly

higher. With the Council's interim FPA harvest specifications (Alternative 1 for both stocks; though only yelloweye rockfish was considered for alternative HCRs), neither the April nor December option are expected to exceed harvest limits. See Appendix A (Sections 16.2.5 and 16.3.5) for additional analysis. The GMT and EC reports (cited above) also recommended whichever option is chosen as FPA, that seasonal retention for both species should occur in the same month.

When evaluating whether the highest overall benefit would come by allowing seasonal retention in April versus December, there are tradeoffs for each option, specifically in the context of the Council's PPA season structure, Option 4. For April, allowing retention at the beginning of the season comports with the management style associated with Option 4, which is to allow all-depth opportunity until inseason action is needed to control catches. Under Option 4, there would be more access to these stocks at the beginning of the season since inseason action is likely to be implemented near the end of the year, if needed. Both April and December would provide a controlled method to collect fishery performance data, which would be valuable for future catch projections and stock assessments. Data collected from a period without depth restrictions would provide more complete information, which is more likely to be the case with the April option. Under the December option, even if a depth restriction were not implemented, a sub-bag limit reduction on canary rockfish and/or vermilion/sunset rockfish could occur. However, canary rockfish co-occur with yelloweye rockfish, and vermilion/sunset rockfish co-occur with cowcod. As a result, anglers targeting cowcod or yelloweye rockfish may need to discard incidental catches of canary and vermilion/sunset rockfishes, which would result in more regulatory discards and higher mortality of constraining species.

The benefit of the December option is that the Council would have more opportunity to take inseason action to cancel retention in December if mortality of yelloweye rockfish or cowcod are higher than projected with the Option 4 all-depth fishery. This could be necessary only if the amount of mortality resulted in a risk of exceeding harvest limits.

16.1.3 Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenling (RCG) Complex: Additional Analysis

An analysis was done to determine how many cabezon or kelp greenling anglers retain in their bags when cabezon or kelp greenling is a part of their catch (Appendix A, Chapter 16). In brief, 87 percent of California anglers who kept at least one cabezon only kept one, and 85 percent of anglers who kept at least one kelp greenling only kept one (in 2024).

Additionally, the average total California recreational mortality from all rockfish, cabezon, and kelp greenling was 1,211 mt from 2024-2025. An average of 1.7% (20 mt) was attributed to cabezon, and 0.2% (2.6 mt) was attributed to kelp greenling. The remainder of the total can be attributed to rockfish. Therefore, the majority of mortality from the RCG complex is primarily from rockfish, with a small proportion coming from cabezon or greenling, which supports the conclusion that decoupling the aggregate bag limit is not anticipated to have significant impacts to groundfish stocks.

16.1.4 PPA Impacts

Updated impact projections utilizing full 2025 data for the Council's PPA season structure and bag limits are shown below in Table 16-3 for reference, and have also been updated in Appendix A (Table 16-21). Additionally, a new Option for cowcod and yelloweye rockfish, where retention would only be allowed in April, has been provided in Table 16-3 for Council consideration. The projections below were analyzed with complete 2025 base year data; at the time of the previous document drafting, data were only available through November 2025. The projected impacts for the status quo season structure (Option 3) have also been updated with the most current analysis in Appendix A (Table 16-20).

Table 16-3. California recreational Alternative 1, Option 4 season structure (open Apr – Dec, at all depths, statewide) projected impacts updated with full 2025 data to select groundfish stocks, without inseason adjustments, compared to the Council's interim Final Preferred Alternative (iFPA) harvest specifications. The projected impacts and limits show the Council's PPA management measures for ACTs and bag limits, with additional options for cowcod and yelloweye rockfish, and *italics* indicating the Council's PPA bag limits. All units in metric tons.

Species	Projected Mortality	Council iFPA Harvest Specification		Limit Reference Point
		2027	2028	
Canary Rockfish <i>2-fish sub-bag</i>	78.4 – 90.2	55.3	57.2	CA Rec HG ^{a/}
Quillback Rockfish <i>Prohibited</i>	5.7 – 6.3	7.1	7.1	PPA Rec ACT
Lingcod S. 40°10' N. lat. <i>2-fish bag</i>	375.3 – 414.8	387.1	391.3	PPA Rec ACT
Vermilion/sunset Rockfish 42°-40°10' N. lat. <i>2-fish sub-bag</i>	4.1 – 5	6.1	6.0	ACL Contribution to the Shelf Complex
Vermilion/sunset Rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat. <i>2-fish sub-bag</i>	198 – 242	168.0	164.4	PPA Rec ACT
Copper Rockfish S. 34°27' N. lat. <i>1-fish sub-bag</i>	22.3 – 23.7	20.1	22.0	PPA Rec ACT
Cowcod Prohibited (status quo) 1-fish sub-bag (April only) <i>1-fish sub-bag (December only)</i>	9.3 – 10.7 16.7 – 19.2 16.7 – 19.2	23.5	23.1	CA Rec HG ^{b/}
Yelloweye Rockfish Prohibited (status quo) 1-fish sub-bag (April only) <i>1-fish sub-bag (December only)</i>	16.3 – 18.7 23.7 – 27.3 20.9 – 24.1	26.9	26.9	CA Rec HG ^{c/}

a/ The Council's interim FPA is Alternative 2.

b/ The CA Rec HG is for the area South of 40°10' N. lat. by stock definition. Projected impacts North of 40°10' N. lat. are trace.

c/ The Council's interim FPA is Alternative 1.

16.2 Socioeconomic Impacts – California Recreational

As noted in Agenda Item [C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 4, April 2026](#), management measure options (e.g., seasons, depths, bag limits) typically have more influence on recreational fishing effort than harvest specification Alternatives, and therefore greater impacts on socioeconomic considerations for the recreational sectors. However, analysis of the full suite of management measure options in the draft socioeconomic analysis ([Agenda Item C.7, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 5, April 2026](#)) is difficult to quantify, primarily due to modeling limitations on depth-based regulations. Therefore, a qualitative analysis on socioeconomic factors not expanded upon in the draft socioeconomic analysis, including additional context for comparing the harvest specifications Alternatives, and a comparison of the management measure Options, is provided in this section for the California recreational fishery.

16.2.1 Context: Additional Factors

There is currently no method to directly quantify socioeconomic impacts (i.e., comparable to ex-vessel revenue) in the recreational groundfish sectors. Fishing effort, with angler-trips as the unit, is the primary economic metric in the recreational sector, with increases in effort generally associated with longer season lengths and fewer depth-based restrictions, which as a result is expected to increase economic output and employment. There are also ancillary economic effects that would be expected to increase with increased effort, such as more dollars spent on tackle and bait, boat fuel, and fishing licenses (for both the private vessel and CPFV fleets). For the CPFV fleet, longer seasons and reduced depth constraints in the fishery is expected to result in more customers for small businesses. The reverse socioeconomic effects would be expected with decreases in effort.

It is also important to note indirect factors which cannot be anticipated, but could influence realized/actualized effort and economic benefit such as gas prices and interactions with other non-groundfish fisheries (ex., salmon, Dungeness crab, ocean whitefish, tuna). Gas prices can influence fishery participation and fishing behavior, particularly when steep increases in gas prices occur. In the CPFV fleet, if gas prices increase enough to significantly affect profit margins, CPFV operators may need to either increase prices (ex., fuel surcharge) or alter boat operations. Boat fuel economy is also directly related to transit speed, so when gas prices increase significantly, many operators will choose to travel slower than usual to avoid placing a fuel surcharge on customers. However, this can add several hours to transit time and can reduce the amount of time spent actively fishing per trip, or cause effort shifts into shallower/nearshore areas. It also can affect the availability of half-day trips, as customer satisfaction could be affected by extensive transit time. If CPFV operators did not mitigate their increased operational costs due to fuel prices, effort could remain stable, but CPFV operators would likely see a decrease in net revenue.

Interactions with other non-groundfish fisheries are also difficult to anticipate. The availability of other targets can have variable effects on recreational fishing effort, from both the individual trip level and on the historical scale. If a fishing trip targets a species such as salmon or ocean whitefish, but fishing success is lower than anticipated, anglers may pivot towards more readily available targets, such as rockfish, lingcod, or California scorpionfish. Conversely, if other targets are available and successful, this could shift effort away from groundfish, such as HMS species during strong El Nino years. Historically, the central and particularly northern California ports have relied on salmon tourism. For the past three years, the California recreational salmon fishery has

experienced complete, or near complete, closures. This has shifted more effort towards groundfish fisheries. The far northern ports, such as the Crescent City, Eureka, and Fort Bragg areas, are particularly susceptible to effort decreases in the groundfish fishery due to other factors, including more variable weather, sparse human population density, less infrastructure, and seasonally accessible infrastructure when compared to places such as the San Francisco Bay area. The northern and central ports also historically target Dungeness crab, making rockfish/crab combination trips a popular attraction when the Dungeness crab fishery is open near the end of the year. Depth restrictions in the groundfish fishery may affect the availability of these combination trips due to transit provisions and soak-time regulations. In summary, the presence of other targets/fisheries can influence the demand for recreational groundfish trips, however, these variations are difficult to fully anticipate. Additionally, the dynamics of other fisheries can cause effort shifts both towards and away from the groundfish fishery.

16.2.2 Analysis: 2027-2028 Harvest Specifications Comparison

While management measures (i.e., seasons and depths, bag limits) have the most socioeconomic effect in the California recreational fishery, harvest specification Alternatives can also have socioeconomic effects if an Alternative results in different management measure decisions. Therefore, the following section provides additional context and analysis to compare the harvest specifications Alternatives.

No Action vs. Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, for the California recreational fishery, ACL increases for constraining species are expected to result in less restrictive regulations and more fishing opportunities when compared to No Action. The effect is expected to be an increase in effort and overall socioeconomic benefit in Alternative 1 compared to No Action.

The draft socioeconomic analysis showed overall income and employment decreasing from No Action to Alternative 1, Option 4 (Tables B-13 through B-18, [Agenda Item C.7, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 5, April 2026](#)), despite less restrictive RCA depth limits in the Southern GMA, as well as significant ACL increases for stocks that have been constraining in recent years (ex., California quillback rockfish, yelloweye rockfish). Based on the draft socioeconomic analysis, the projected economic reduction likely follows from a projected decrease in effort from No Action to Alternative 1, Option 4 (Table 2-8 of the draft socioeconomic analysis). However, based on the aforementioned reasons (larger ACLs on constraining species likely resulting in more fishing opportunity), we expect that there would be an effort *increase* under Alternative 1. Due to this discrepancy, it is difficult to rationalize the conclusion of the draft socioeconomic analysis with respect to the California recreational fishery.

The discrepancy between the draft socioeconomic analysis and the expected effect of Alternative 1 likely results from a higher-than-expected baseline of comparison for effort under No Action, as well as lower-than-expected effort under Alternative 1, Option 4 due to incompatible modeling assumptions. Effort under No Action is calculated as the average effort from 2023-2025, while the projected effort under Alternative 1 uses CDFW's projection methods with 2024-2025 as the base year. Regulations in 2023 were significantly different than those in place in 2024-2025, and do not represent expected effort (or catch) under a No Action scenario; this is why data from 2023 were not included in catch projection modeling. Under No Action and Alternative 1, Option 4, the

season length remains the same; the only difference is depth restrictions in the Southern GMA (under No Action). Due to modeling limitations, the projected angler effort under both scenarios would be the same even if No Action effort were reported as the value from CDFW's effort projection methods. However, qualitatively, it could be expected that fishing quality in the Southern GMA would improve under Alternative 1, Option 4 compared to No Action. It is possible the improvement could be large enough to result in increased angler effort that cannot currently be captured in the model.

Alternative 1 vs. Alternative 2

The draft socioeconomic analysis indicates no projected difference in impact between Alternative 1, Option 4 and Alternative 2, Option 4. This is because season structure Option 4 (Council PPA) is the same, regardless of Alternative. To further explore the socioeconomic effects of Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 harvest specifications, additional context is provided.

Differences in harvest specifications for canary rockfish and yelloweye rockfish are being considered under Alternative 2. These are influential species to the California recreational fishery north of Point Conception. For canary rockfish, the ACL under Alternative 2 is larger than the ACL under Alternative 1. With respect to season structure, under Option 4 and Option 3 (status quo), larger harvest limits may result in a longer all-depth fishery before inseason adjustment is needed. More all-depth opportunity is expected to result in positive socioeconomic effects. For yelloweye rockfish, the ACL under Alternative 2 is lower than the ACL under Alternative 1. The harvest limit under Alternative 2 could result in a continued prohibition on yelloweye rockfish in the California recreational fishery. The socioeconomic effects of this are unknown, but generally, additional opportunity would have positive socioeconomic benefits.

16.2.3 Analysis: Socioeconomic Effects of Management Measures

Decoupling the Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenling (RCG) Complex

The proposed bag limit restructuring of the RCG complex results in no effectual change in the bag limit for any of the individual species, since anglers can currently retain up to 10 cabezon, or 10 greenling within the aggregate RCG complex bag limit. RCG angler bags on bottomfish trip types are primarily composed of rockfish, with cabezon and greenling making up only a small proportion. Therefore, no measurable increases (or decreases) in effort are expected due to decoupling the bag limit, only a potential change in the quality of fishing is expected.

Regarding changes to seasons and depths for cabezon and greenling, this action would result in year-round, all-depth seasons for these two species. Additional trips specifically targeting cabezon or greenling are not expected. Therefore, the socioeconomic effects of removing cabezon and greenling from the RCG complex are expected to be neutral, or minimally positive.

Boat-Based Rockfish and Lingcod Season Structures

The ROA for management measures in the California recreational fishery typically include two season structure Options, which bracket or “bookend” the ROA. These bookends are season structure Option 1 (full fishery closure) and Option 2 (no season or depth restrictions). These are included as a comparative tool and to provide inseason flexibility to the Council, but are generally not considered feasible Options. Additionally, Option 5 was added to the ROA after the draft

socioeconomic analysis was written, and was not previously analyzed. Therefore, this analysis will focus on analyzing season structure Option 3, Option 4, and Option 5. Each of these Options have the same season length (April – December), but have different depth restrictions. Generally, measures resulting in reduced time on the water (i.e., season closure) cause the most reductions in projected effort, followed by depth restrictions, with bag limit reductions having the least impact to projected effort.

RCA depth restrictions are a type of area closure for the California recreational fishery. RCA lines can be used to restrict fishing either offshore of the RCA line, or inshore of the RCA line. Generally, imposing an RCA depth restriction is expected to result in an effort decrease compared to an all-depth fishery, but the magnitude of the decrease depends on the type (inshore/offshore) and extent (20 fm, 30 fm, 40 fm, etc..) of the restriction. An “offshore only” fishery could be expected to result in a larger decrease in effort than an “inshore only” fishery since it requires traveling further out into deeper waters and reduces accessibility for kayak anglers and small private boats due to fuel capacity and safety. For larger private boats and CPFVs, an offshore-only fishery still requires additional transit time, more fishing line and deep-water reels and weights, thus more fuel and potentially less time spent actively fishing. Therefore, an offshore only fishery could result in further effort decreases compared to an inshore only fishery. For both inshore and offshore only fisheries, a depth restriction which results in less fishable area would generally be expected to result in lower effort, however due to model limitations, any changes in effort associated with depth limit changes cannot be quantified.

Option 3:

This option explores the status quo season structure (i.e., equivalent to No Action). North of Point Conception, the season is open April 1 – December 31, at all depths. South of Point Conception, the season follows an all-depth/inshore/offshore structure. The socioeconomic impact of this season structure Option is expected to be neutral compared to No Action because it is equivalent.

Option 4: Council PPA.

This Option explores a season which is open from April 1 – December 31, at all depths, statewide. This season structure is similar to Option 3, except the all-depth fishery is extended into the area south of Point Conception. Under Option 4, it is expected that inseason action may be needed to slow mortality of constraining species. However, since inseason management measure adjustments are situationally dependent, this could cause some uncertainty for trip and business planning purposes. This also means that anticipating the socioeconomic impacts of such an action is difficult to evaluate.

Management measures may also affect port areas differently. For example, a depth restriction imposed during later months of the year in central and northern California could reduce the availability of rockfish/Dungeness crab combination trips, resulting in lower fishing quality and potentially lower effort. This Option could also result in more precautionary fleet behavior, or self-management in the CPFV fleet, which has unquantifiable effects. Overall, the socioeconomic impacts of this season structure Option (compared to No Action) are unknown due to uncertainty of inseason actions and effects, and could be neutral, positive, or negative.

Option 5:

This season structure Option generally follows an offshore/inshore/all depth season structure, with the specific RCA line varying by port area. Under Option 5, there would be significantly more depth restrictions than under No Action and could result in lower effort and negative socioeconomic impacts.

Bag and Sub-Bag Limits

For vermilion/sunset rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat., the Council's PPA is to reduce the sub-bag limit from 4 to 2. Based on the analysis in Section 16.1.1 of this document, this action is not expected to result in appreciable changes in effort or socioeconomic effects.

Under the Council's PPA season structure (Option 4), sub-bag limits could be reduced inseason. For both canary rockfish and vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat., a sub-bag limit reduction could result in reductions to fishing quality due to regulatory discards of otherwise desirable fish, but would likely have a neutral socioeconomic effect as other rockfish and groundfish targets would remain available.

Cowcod and Yelloweye Rockfish

The Council's PPA is to allow a 1 fish sub-bag limit for cowcod and yelloweye rockfish in December. The Council is also considering a 1 fish sub-bag limit in April.

While the amount of direct targeting (i.e., trips focused specifically on catching a cowcod or yelloweye rockfish) that would occur is unknown, the novelty of anglers being able to retain species that have been prohibited for over 20 years could attract fishery participants. Prior to being declared overfished, cowcod was historically a prized target in southern California due to its large size and unique appearance. As such, allowing retention of cowcod is expected to result in some amount of direct targeting and potential increases in effort, but the amount cannot be quantified. This effect is less likely for yelloweye rockfish. For cowcod, whether allowing retention in April would result in higher effort than December is unknown. For yelloweye rockfish, April weather in northern California can be more favorable than December, and could result in better access to the resource and therefore higher effort. Specifically with respect to season structure Option 4, if the season for cowcod and yelloweye rockfish took place in December, and if inseason adjustments were made to control mortality of other co-occurring rockfish species (ex., canary rockfish, vermilion/sunset rockfish), anglers may have reduced access to cowcod and yelloweye rockfish compared to an April season. Therefore, the April Option could potentially result in a greater increase in effort than the December Option. Overall, allowing limited retention of cowcod and yelloweye rockfish in the California recreational fishery is expected to improve fishing quality with the potential to have a positive socioeconomic effect.

Appendix B

*Draft 2027-28 Groundfish Harvest
Specifications and Management Measure*

*Analysis of the Range of Alternatives for
Management Measures*

Chapters

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Action Item 12- 13: The Trawl Groundfish Fishery including the At-sea Sector.....AIC #12 & 13

Action Items 14-17: The Commercial Non-Trawl Groundfish Fishery.....AIC #14-17

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Action Item 19: The Oregon Recreational Groundfish Fishery....AIC #19

Action Item 20: The California Recreational Groundfish Fishery.....AIC #20

Action Items 1-11

Groundfish Conservation Areas and Preliminary Distribution of 2027-28 Annual Catch Limits to the Groundfish Fishery Sectors Under the Alternatives

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Forward

The No Action alternative would not alter any harvest specifications or management measures implemented for the 2025-26 biennium. No Action harvest specifications are largely an untenable choice for the Council, as they do not integrate the best scientific information available (BSIA), per Amendment 24. No Action harvest specifications would only go into effect if certain circumstances occurred (e.g., the Council did not adopt the 2027-28 harvest specifications). However, No Action is used to evaluate the impacts of the 2025-26 harvest specifications and management measures, and as a comparative tool for the alternatives being considered for the 2027-28 biennium. No Action uses 2025 harvest specifications to serve as reference points because 2025 is the most recent fishing year with complete mortality data to compare against mortality projections for the proposed 2027-28 biennial specifications and management measures. The detailed analyses of No Action harvest specifications and management measures can be found on the [Council's website](#).

1. Annual Catch Limit

This following provides the draft annual catch limits (ACLs) distributions of harvest amounts to the groundfish sectors (1-1). The ACL is a level of annual catch, which counts all sources of annual fishing-related mortality, including discard mortalities, and is the harvest threshold used to manage west coast fisheries. It can be set less than or equal to the ABC in consideration of conservation objectives, socioeconomic concerns, management uncertainty, ecological concerns, and other factors

This information in this section is detailed in Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1, April 2026 and is summarized here

The scenarios addressed herein are the No Action (2025 harvest control rules (HCR)), Alternative 1 : default HCR¹, and Alternative 2: alternative HCRs for yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat., chilipepper rockfish, rougheye/blackspotted rockfish, yelloweye rockfish, canary rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, and petrale sole). The overfishing limits (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and ACLs are sourced from [F.3, Attachment 1, November 2025 and described in Section \(insert\)](#).

All values in this document are considered draft and may be revised, as appropriate.

1.1 No Action – 2025 ACLs

The No Action alternative are the 2025 ACLs (1-1). No Action harvest specifications are largely an untenable choice for the Council, as they do not integrate the best scientific information available (BSIA), per Amendment 24. No Action harvest specifications would only go into effect if certain circumstances occurred (e.g., the Council did not adopt the 2027-28 harvest specifications). However, No Action is used to evaluate the impacts of the 2025-26 harvest specifications and management measures as a comparative tool for the alternatives being considered for the 2027-28 biennium. No Action uses 2025 harvest specifications to serve as reference points because 2025 is the most recent fishing year with complete mortality data to compare against mortality projections for the proposed 2027-28 biennial specifications. The detailed analyses of No Action harvest specifications and management measures can be found on the Pacific Fishery Management Council's ([Council](#)) website.

In 2025, of the 30 species managed as single stocks, nine were attained at over greater 50 percent of the ACL. Of the stock complexes, three complexes stocks were attained at over 50 percent. Overall average attainment of the ACL for all single stocks (excluding CA quillback rockfish, as it would skew the data) and stock complexes, was approximately 34 percent and 35 percent, respectively.

¹. The default HCRs process is detailed in [Amendment 24](#), at §5.1 of the FMP, and §2.3 of the 2015 Environmental Impact Statement (PFMC, 2015).

1-1. No Action: 2025 annual catch limits (ACL) under default harvest control rules in metric tons (mt) for each stock and stock complex fishery management unit (FMU). -see [Agenda Item F.3, Supplemental Attachment 1, November 2025](#) for additional detail. Values are rounded to nearest mt. (Source PacFIN, 3/07/26)

Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)	Attain(mt)	% Attained
QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	California	1.3	3.9	306.5%
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	56	24.9	44.6%
Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	11,193	960.4	8.6%
Big skate	Coastwide	1,224	68.7	5.6%
Black rockfish	Washington	245	152.0	62.0%
Black rockfish	California	234	198.7	88.7%
Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,681	677.1	40.3%
Cabezon	S of 42° N. lat.	162	41.3	25.5%
California scorpionfish	S of 34°27' N. lat.	244	228.6	93.7%
Canary rockfish	Coastwide	572	359.1	62.9%
Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,815	1,078.3	38.3%
Cowcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	77	12.7	16.6%
Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	754	240.9	32.0%
Dover sole	Coastwide	47,424	3,707.0	7.8%
English sole	Coastwide	8,884	226.9	2.6%
Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,631	1,093.7	30.1%
Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	748	427.8	57.2%
Longnose skate	Coastwide	1,616	511.5	31.6%
Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	2,050	26.9	1.3%
Longspine thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	648	3.5	0.5%
Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600	44.7	2.8%
Pacific Ocean perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,328	299.9	9.0%
Pacific spiny dogfish	Coastwide	1,361	242.1	17.8%
Pacific whiting	Coastwide	295,520	240,435.7	81.4%
Petrale sole	Coastwide	2,354	2,369.3	100.7%
<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>N of 36° N. lat</i>	See Section 9.1.1		
<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>S of 36° N. lat.</i>	See Section 9.3.1		
Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	815	405.9	49.8%
Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,508	31.8	2.1%
Starry flounder	Coastwide	392	17.4	4.4%
Widow rockfish	Coastwide	11,237	10,089.1	89.8%
Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	6,241	2,022.2	32.4%
Stock Complexes				
Nearshore rockfish north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	88	64.1	73.8%
Nearshore rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	932	492.2	52.8%
Shelf rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,330	339.4	25.5%
Shelf rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,457	579.9	39.8%
Slope rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,488	324.7	21.8%
Slope rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	693	136.9	19.7%

Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)	Attain(mt)	% Attained
Other fish complex	Coastwide	223	21.4	9.6%
Other flatfish complex	Coastwide	7,974	430.8	5.4%
OR black/blue/deacon rockfish	Oregon	423	390.9	92.4%
OR cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	177	44.1	24.9%
WA cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	15	8.6	58.7%

a/ Pacific whiting harvest limits are set through an annual bilateral treaty process external to the Council

b/ chilipepper north of 40°10' N. lat. is managed under the shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. and their OFL/ABC/ACL contribute to the complex OFL/ABC/ACL total.

c/ Rougheye/blackspotted rockfishes are managed under the slope rockfish complexes and their OFL/ABC/ACL contribute to the complex OFL/ABC/ACL total

1.2 Alternative 1 – Default HCR– Harvest Specifications

Alternative 1 reflects the default HCR scenario. Default HCRs are the same HCRs used in the 2025-26 biennium. The draft 2027-28 ACLs under default HCRs are shown Table 1-2 for non-sablefish stocks only, sablefish information is detailed in Chapter 9. Widow rockfish harvest specifications have not been adopted, the Alternative 1 ACLs represent the October 2025, as shown in Table 16, of [Agenda Item F.3. GMT Report 1, November 2025](#), PPA will be identified at a later meeting stock assessment model for the low bookend for analysis

Table 1-2. Alternative 1: Draft 2027-28 annual catch limits (ACL) under default harvest control rules in metric tons (mt) for each stock and stock complex fishery management unit (FMU). -see [Agenda Item F.3, Supplemental Attachment 1, November 2025](#) for additional detail. Values are rounded to nearest mt.

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)
2027	QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	California	12
2028	QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	California	12
2027	YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	113
2028	YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	113
2027	Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	7,947
2028	Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	7,131
2027	Big skate	Coastwide	1,155
2028	Big skate	Coastwide	1,122
2027	Black Rockfish	Washington	240
2028	Black Rockfish	Washington	249
2027	Black Rockfish	California	241
2028	Black Rockfish	California	261
2027	Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,288
2028	Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,185
2027	Cabezon	California	150
2028	Cabezon	California	146
2027	California Scorpionfish	S of 34°27' N. lat.	233
2028	California Scorpionfish	S of 34°27' N. lat.	229
2027	Canary Rockfish	Coastwide	606
2028	Canary Rockfish	Coastwide	623

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)
2027	Chilipepper	Coastwide	2,986
2028	Chilipepper	Coastwide	2,870
2027	Cowcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	74
2028	Cowcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	73
2027	Darkblotched Rockfish	Coastwide	773
2028	Darkblotched Rockfish	Coastwide	754
2027	Dover Sole	Coastwide	38,573
2028	Dover Sole	Coastwide	35,616
2027	English Sole	Coastwide	3,168
2028	English Sole	Coastwide	3,168
2027	Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,482
2028	Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,439
2027	Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	789
2028	Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	796
2027	Longnose Skate	Coastwide	1,546
2028	Longnose Skate	Coastwide	1,515
<i>Longspine Thornyhead</i>			
2027	Longspine Thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,878
2028	Longspine Thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,834
2027	Longspine Thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	593
2028	Longspine Thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	579
2027	Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600
2028	Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600
2027	Pacific Ocean Perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,123
2028	Pacific Ocean Perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,036
2027	Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Coastwide	1,278
2028	Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Coastwide	1,240
2027	Pacific whiting a/	Coastwide	-
2028	Pacific whiting a/	Coastwide	-
2027	Petrale Sole	Coastwide	2,449
2028	Petrale Sole	Coastwide	2,423
2027	<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>Coastwide</i>	-
	<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>N of 36° N. lat</i>	See §9.1.2
	<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>S of 36° N. lat.</i>	See §9.3.2
2027	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	847
2028	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	856
2027	Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	620
2028	Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	620
2027	Starry flounder	Coastwide	393
2028	Starry flounder	Coastwide	393
2027	Widow rockfish b/	Coastwide	4,796
2028	Widow rockfish b/	Coastwide	4,998

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)
2027	Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	4,723
2028	Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	4,540
Stock Complexes			
2027	Nearshore rockfish north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	85
2028	Nearshore rockfish north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	83
2027	Nearshore rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	928
2028	Nearshore rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	924
2027	Shelf rockfish complex c/ <i>Chilipepper rockfish</i>	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,342
			225
2028	Shelf rockfish complex c/ <i>Chilipepper rockfish</i>	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,333
			216
2027	Shelf rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,456
2028	Shelf rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,453
2027	Slope rockfish complex d/ <i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,623
2028	Slope rockfish complex d/ <i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,602
2027	Slope rockfish complex d/ <i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>	S of 40°10' N. lat.	699
2028	Slope rockfish complex d/ <i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>	S of 40°10' N. lat.	696
2027	Other fish complex	Coastwide	223
2028	Other fish complex	Coastwide	223
2027	Other flatfish complex	Coastwide	6,577
2028	Other flatfish complex	Coastwide	6,193
2027	Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	Coastwide	448
2028	Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	Coastwide	452
2027	OR cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	174
2028	OR cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	173
2027	WA cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	15
2028	WA cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	14

a/ Pacific whiting harvest limits are set through an annual bilateral treaty process external to the Council in Spring of 2026, thus values are not reported

b/ Widow rockfish harvest specifications have not been adopted, the Alternative 1 ACLs represent the results of the October 2025 assessment, as shown in Table 16, of [Agenda Item F.3. GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)

c/ chilipepper north of 40°10' N. lat. is managed under the shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. and their OFL/ABC/ACL contribute to the complex OFL/ABC/ACL total.

d/ Rougheye/blackspotted rockfishes are managed under the slope rockfish complexes and their OFL/ABC/ACL contribute to the complex OFL/ABC/ACL total

1.3 Alternative 2 -Alternative HCR Harvest Specifications

Alternative 2 considers alternative HCRs for the seven stocks shown in Table 1-3. The draft harvest specifications are shown in Table 1-4 for these stocks, noting that the harvest specification for the

shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. and both slope rockfish complexes are shown to account for the contributions from chilipepper rockfish and rougheye/blackspotted rockfishes, respectively. The widow rockfish 2027-28 ACLs are considered draft and are only used to 'bookend' overwinter analyses. The Council directed the analysis of widow rockfish to use the results of the October 2025 stock assessment model for Alternative 2 for 2027 and 2028 to be analyzed, as shown in Table 16, of [Agenda Item F.3. GMT Report 1, November 2025](#), PPA will be identified at a later meeting.

Table 1-3. Alternative 2: Stocks with alternative harvest control rules (HCR).

Stock	Alternative HCR
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Constant ACL = 85 mt
Canary rockfish	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45, no 40-10 adjustment
Chilipepper rockfish	Constant ACL = 2,114 mt
Petrable sole	Constant ABC = ACL 2,489 mt
Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish	Constant ACL = 300 mt
Shortspine thornyhead	Constant ABC = ACL 902 mt
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.	Ad hoc phase-in
Widow rockfish	2025 stock assessment model ACL

Table 1-4. Alternative 2: Draft 2027-28 annual catch limits (ACL) in whole metric tons (mt).

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)
2027	YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	85
2028	YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	85
2027	Canary rockfish	Coastwide	643
2028	Canary rockfish	Coastwide	664
2027	Chilipepper	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,966
2028	Chilipepper	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,966
2027	Petrable sole	Coastwide	2,489
2028	Petrable sole a/	Coastwide	2,489
2027	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	902
2028	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	902
2027	Widow rockfish a/	Coastwide	9,755
2028	Widow rockfish a/	Coastwide	9,255
2027	Yellowtail rockfish	north of 40° 10' N. lat.	5,050
2028	Yellowtail rockfish	north of 40° 10' N. lat.	4,730
Stock Complexes			
2027	Shelf rockfish complex north b/	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,265
	<i>Chilipepper rockfish</i>		148
2028	Shelf rockfish complex b/	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,265
	<i>Chilipepper rockfish</i>		148
2027	Slope rockfish complex north c/	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,090
	<i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>		294
2028	Slope rockfish complex north c/	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,086

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)
	<i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>		294
2027	Slope rockfish complex south c/	south of 40°10' N. lat.	688
	<i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>		6
2028	Slope rockfish complex c/	south of 40°10' N. lat.	686
	<i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>		6

a/ Widow rockfish harvest specifications have not been adopted, the Alternative 1 ACLs represent the results of the 2023 assessment, as shown in Table 16, of [Agenda Item F.3. GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)b/ chilipepper north of 40°10' N. lat. is managed under the shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. and their OFL/ABC/ACL contribute to the complex OFL/ABC/ACL total.

c/ Rougheye/blackspotted rockfishes are managed under the slope rockfish complexes and their OFL/ABC/ACL contribute to the complex OFL/ABC/ACL total

1.4 Comparison of ACLs

1.4.1 Comparison of No Action to Alternative 1

Table 1-5 is provided as a reference point for comparison between the No Action and Alternative 1 ACLs. It is not a meaningful comparison as No Action cannot be adopted for ACLs. Of the stocks and stock complex ACLs under Alternative 1, ACLs increase for 11 stocks and 4 stock complexes. There is no change for two stocks and three stock complexes. The ACLs for 19 stocks and 4 stock complexes decrease. Overall, 63 percent of stocks/stock complex ACLs decrease relative to the No Action values.

As a reminder, this analysis uses temporary harvest specification values for widow rockfish. The Council directed analysis of widow rockfish use the 2023 Catch-only projection OFL, ABC, and ACLs and the results of the October 2025 stock assessment model for the bookends of the Range of Alternatives for 2027 and 2028 to be analyzed, as shown in Table 16, of [Agenda Item F.3. GMT Report 1, November 2025](#).

Table 1-5. A comparison of the annual catch limits (ACL) under No Action (2025) and Alternative 1 (2027) , showing the percent (%) increase or decrease between the two Alternatives for all Council managed groundfish stocks and stock complexes Stocks/stock complex ACLs that increase relative to 2025 are in bold.

Stock	FMU	No Action 2025 ACL (mt)	Alt 1 2027 ACL (mt)	Difference (mt)	% incr./decr
QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	California	1.3	12	+11	+823.1%
YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	56	113	+57	+101.8%
Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	11,193	7,947	-3,246	-29.0%
Big skate	Coastwide	1,224	1,155	-69	-5.6%
Black rockfish	Washington	245	240	-5	-2.0%
Black rockfish	California	234	249	15	+6.4%
Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,681	2,288	+607	+36.1%
Cabezon	California	162	150	-12	-7.4%
California scorpionfish	S of 34°27' N. lat.	244	233	-11	-4.5%
Canary rockfish	Coastwide	572	606	+34	+6.0%
Chilipepper	Coastwide	2,815	2,986	+171	+6.1%

Stock	FMU	No Action 2025 ACL (mt)	Alt 1 2027 ACL (mt)	Difference (mt)	% incr./decr
Cowcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	77	74	-3	-3.9%
Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	754	773	+19	+2.5%
Dover sole	Coastwide	47,424	38,573	-8,851	-18.7%
English sole	Coastwide	8,884	3,168	-5,716	-64.3%
Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,631	3,482	-149	-4.1%
Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	748	789	+41	+5.5%
Longnose skate	Coastwide	1,616	1,546	-70	-4.3%
Longspine thornyhead	Coastwide				
Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	2,050	1,878	-172	-8.4%
Longspine thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	648	593	-55	-8.5%
Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600	1,600	0	+0.0%
Pacific ocean perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,328	3,123	-205	-6.2%
Pacific spiny dogfish	Coastwide	1,361	1,278	-83	-6.1%
<i>Pacific whiting a/</i>	<i>Coastwide</i>	<i>295,520</i>	-	-	-
Petrale sole	Coastwide	2,354	2,449	+95	+4.0%
Sablefish	Coastwide				
<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>N of 36° N. lat.</i>	26,688	10,962	-15,726	-58.9%
<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>S of 36° N. lat.</i>	7,857	3,002	-4,855	-61.8%
Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	815	847	32	+3.9%
Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,508	620	-888	-58.9%
Starry flounder	Coastwide	392	393	+1	0.3%
Widow rockfish b/	Coastwide	11,237	4,796	-6,441	-57.3%
Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	6,241	4,723	-1,518	-24.3%
Stock Complexes					
Nearshore rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	88	85	-3	-3.4%
Nearshore rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	932	928	-4	-0.4%
Shelf rockfish complex north c/	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,330	1,342	+12	+0.9%
<i>Chilipepper</i>		212	225	+14	+6.1%
Shelf rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,457	1,457	0	0.0%
Slope rockfish complex north d/	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,488	1,623	+135	+9.1%
<i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>		185	827	+642	+347.0%
Slope rockfish complex south d/	S of 40°10' N. lat.	693	699	+6	+0.9%
<i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>		4	17	+13	+325.0%
Other fish complex	Coastwide	223	223	0	0.0%
Other flatfish complex	Coastwide	7,974	6,577	-1,397	-17.5%
Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	Coastwide	423	448	+25	+5.9%
OR cabezon/kelp greenling complex	Oregon	177	174	-3	-1.7%
WA cabezon/kelp greenling complex	Washington	15	15	0	0.0%

a/ Pacific whiting specifications are set by a process external to the Council.

b/ Widow rockfish harvest specifications have not been adopted, the Alternative 1 ACLs represent the results of the October 2025 assessment, as shown in Table 16, of [Agenda Item F.3. GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)

c/ chilipepper north of 40°10' N. lat. is managed under the shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. and their OFL/ABC/ACL contribute to the complex OFL/ABC/ACL total.

d/ Roughey/blackspotted rockfishes are managed under the slope rockfish complexes and their OFL/ABC/ACL contribute to the complex OFL/ABC/ACL total

1.4.2 Comparison of No Action to Alternative 2

The comparison of No Action ACLs to Alternative 2 ACLs is shown in Table 1-6 Under Alternative 2, four stock's ACLs increase relative to No Action .

Table 1-6. A comparison of the annual catch limits (ACL) under No Action (2025) and Alternative 2 (2027) , showing the percent (%) increase or decrease between the two Alternatives for all Council managed groundfish stocks and stock complexes. Stocks/stock complex ACLs under Alternative 2 that increase relative to No Action are in bold

Stock	FMU	No Action ACL (mt)	Alt 2 ACL (mt)	Difference (mt)	% incr./decr
YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	56	85	+29	+51.8%
Canary rockfish	Coastwide	571	643	+72	+12.6%
Chilipepper rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,815	1,966	-849	-30.2%
Petrable sole	Coastwide	2,354	2,489	+135	+5.7%
Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	815	902	+87	+10.7%
Widow rockfish a/	Coastwide	11,237	9,755	-1,482	-13.2%
Yellowtail rockfish.	N of 40° 10' N. lat	6,241	5,050	-1,191	-19.1%
Stock Complexes					
Shelf rockfish complex north b/	N. of 40° 10' N. lat	1,330	1,265	-65	-4.9%
<i>Chilipepper</i>		212	148	+64	-30.2%
Slope rockfish complex north c/	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,488	1,090	-398	-26.7%
<i>Roughey/blackspotted rockfish</i>		185	294	+109	+58.9%
Slope rockfish complex south c/	S of 40°10' N. lat.	693	688	-5	-0.7%
<i>Roughey/blackspotted rockfish</i>		4	6	+2	+50.0%

a/ Widow rockfish harvest specifications have not been adopted, the Alternative 2 ACLs represent the results of the 2023 assessment, as shown in Table 16, of [Agenda Item F.3. GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)

b/ chilipepper north of 40°10' N. lat. is managed under the shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. and their OFL/ABC/ACL contribute to the complex OFL/ABC/ACL total.

c/ Roughey/blackspotted rockfishes are managed under the slope rockfish complexes and their OFL/ABC/ACL contribute to the complex OFL/ABC/ACL total

1.4.3 Comparison of ACLs for Stocks and Stock Complexes Considered under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2

As shown in Table 1-7, the comparison of seven stocks and three stock complexes considered under both Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 ACLs show only canary, widow, and yellowtail (north of 40°10' N. lat.) rockfishes, petrale sole, and shortspine thornyhead increase under Alternative 2 relative to Alternative 1. The difference between canary and yellowtail (north of 40°10' N. lat.) rockfishes and shortspine thornyhead under Alternative 2 and Alternative 1 is, on average, about a six percent. The difference between Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 for petrale sole is, on average, about two percent All stock complexes and yelloweye and chilipepper rockfishes have higher ACLs under Alternative 1.

Table 1-7. Comparison of Alternative 1 (default HCR) and Alternative 2 (Alternative HCR) annual catch limits (ACL) showing the difference in metric tons (mt) and the percent (%) increase or decrease of Alternative 2 relative to Alternative 1.

Year	Stock	FMU	Alt 1 ACL (mt)	Alt 2 ACL (mt)	Difference (mt)	% incr./decr
2027	YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	113	85	-28	-24.8%
2028	YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	113	85	-28	-24.8%
2027	Canary rockfish	Coastwide	606	643	+37	+6.1%
2028	Canary rockfish	Coastwide	623	664	+41	+6.6%
2027	Chilipepper rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat	2,986	1,966	-1,020	-34.2%
2028	Chilipepper rockfish.	S of 40°10' N. lat	2,870	1,966	-904	-31.5%
2027	Petrable sole	Coastwide	2,449	2,489	+40	+1.6%
2028	Petrable sole	Coastwide	2,423	2,489	+66	+2.7%
2027	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	847	902	+55	+6.5%
2028	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	856	902	+46	+5.4%
2027	Widow rockfish a/	Coastwide	4,796	9,755	+4,959	+103.4%
2028	Widow rockfish a/	Coastwide	4,998	9,255	+4,257	+85.2%
2027	Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat	4,723	5,050	+327	6.9%
2028	Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat	4,540	4,730	+190	4.2%
Stock Complexes						
2027	Shelf rockfish complex north b/	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,342	1,265	-77	-5.7%
	<i>Chilipepper</i>		225	148	-77	-34.2%
2028	Shelf rockfish complex north b/	N of 40°10' N. lat	1333	1,265	-68	-5.1%
	<i>Chilipepper</i>		216	148	-68	-31.5%
2027	Slope rockfish complex north c/	S of 40°10' N. lat	1,623	1,090	-533	-32.8%
	<i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>		827	294	-533	-64.4%
2028	Slope rockfish complex north c/	N of 40°10' N. lat	1602	1,086	-516	-32.2%
	<i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>		827	294	-533	-64.4%
2027	Slope rockfish complex south c/	N of 40°10' N. lat	699	688	-11	-1.6%
	<i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>		17	6	-11	-64.7%
2028	Slope rockfish complex south c/	S of 40°10' N. lat	696	686	-10	-1.4%
	<i>Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish</i>		17	6	-11	-64.7%

a/ Widow rockfish harvest specifications have not been adopted, the Alternative 1 ACLs represent the results of the October 2025 assessment and Alternative 2 represent the results of the 2023 assessment, as shown in Table 16, of [Agenda Item F.3. GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)

b/ chilipepper north of 40°10' N. lat. is managed under the shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. and their OFL/ABC/ACL contribute to the complex OFL/ABC/ACL total.

c/ Rougheye/blackspotted rockfishes are managed under the slope rockfish complexes and their OFL/ABC/ACL contribute to the complex OFL/ABC/ACL total

, widow, and yellowtail (north of 40°10' N. lat.) rockfishes, petrale sole, and shortspine thornyhead relative to Alternative 1.

1.4.4 Analysis relative to the PPA

The Council adopted Alternative 2 HCRs for, chilipepper, canary, rougheye/blackspotted, widow, and yellowtail (north of 40°10' N. lat.). yelloweye rockfish rockfishes, petrale sole, and shortspine thornyhead as their PPA for the 2027-28 harvest specifications.

The canary rockfish Alternative 2 HCR removes the 40-10 rule and increases ACLs by a little more than six percent over Alternative 1. Application of the 40-10 rule is a policy decision by the Council. Canary rockfish ACLs are generally underattained; however, even when the ACL is underattained, individual sectors or vessels can be constrained by lower allocations. Removal of the 40-10 rule may provide some relief to all fishing sectors and improve operational flexibility and help to minimize socioeconomic impacts from this constraining stock.

The chilipepper Alternative 2 HCR is a constant ACL of 2,114 mt. After this biennium, the HCR would revert back to $ABC = ACL \times P^* 0.45$. Alternative 2 takes into account recent fishery performance and allows for the fraction of unfished biomass to decrease at a slower rate than Alternative 1, which may reduce the risk of decreasing harvest limits in the future ([Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)).

The rougheye/blackspotted rockfish Alternative 2 HCR is a constant coastwide ACL of 300 mt for 2027-28 only and then reverts to the default HCR of $ABC = ACL, P^* 0.45$ in 2029. The 300 mt constant catch reflects the maximum mortality reported in the Estimated Discard and Catch of Groundfish Species in the 2024 U.S. West Coast Fisheries (Somers et al, 2025) data product for this stock. This stock is managed in the slope rockfish complexes north and south of 40°10' N. lat. and increases or decreases in the ACL affect the slope rockfish complexes by the amount contributed to the complex OFL/ABC/ACL/ This HCR is meant as a precautionary step to address the uncertainty that surrounds the estimate of biomass from the assessment's and reduce the risk of inadvertently overfishing the other stocks within the slope rockfish complexes ([Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)).

Widow Rockfish: Default HCRs and any alternative HCRs have not been adopted by the Council. This section will be completed after the April 2026 Council meeting.

Under Alternative 2, the yelloweye rockfish HCR is a constant catch set at 85 mt, which is a midpoint between the 2026 ACL and the 2027 Alternative 1 HCR ACL. The 2026 ACL is 56.6 mt and the 2027 ACL under the default HCR is 113 mt; 85 mt provides a catch limit in the middle, which provides some relief to the fishery with the higher ACLs while balancing a precautionary approach. After this biennium, yelloweye rockfish HCR would revert back to the default ($ABC=ACL, P^* 0.40$). The Council recognizes that the assessment (Johnston et al, 2025) indicates that yelloweye rockfish is rebuilt². The SSC noted that although this stock could be considered rebuilt following this update assessment (fraction unfished = 0.443 in 2027), the particular life history traits of yelloweye rockfish make it particularly vulnerable to fishing ([Agenda Item G.3.a, supplemental SSC Report 2, September 2025](#)). This HCR acknowledges uncertainty of the assessment and is a conservative measure to maintain its positive biomass trajectory of the stock as it comes out of its rebuilding period.

² As noted by the SSC in [Agenda Item G.3.a, Supplemental SSC Report 2, September 2025](#)

Under Alternative 2, the yellowtail rockfish (north of 40°10' N. lat.) HCR is an ad-hoc phase-in approach to ramp down the ACL. In 2027, the HCR is $ABC = ACL$ of 5,050 mt (one mt below the OFL) and in 2028, the HCR uses a mid-point of the newly calculated OFL and $ABC = ACL$. After this biennium, the HCR reverts to the default HCR ($ABC = ACL$, $P^* 0.45$). The rationale for selection of this alternative HCR reflects the Council's concern of impact on the midwater trawl fishery. The OFLs predicted from this assessment (Oken et al, 2025), which are based on full attainment of the ACL, are only 20-24 percent above estimated catches in 2025 and 2026, and thus, are likely to put constraints on individual commercial trawl vessel limits. This phase-in approach would keep the ABC and ACL below the OFL and would provide the trawl fleet immediate relief while transitioning to the lower limits [Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)).

The Alternative 2 HCR for shortspine thornyhead: is a constant catch ABC equals ACL of 902 mt for both 2027 and 2028. This HCR is an ad-hoc phase in approach used to set a constant $ABC = ACL$ of 902 mt for 2027-28 only. The 2027 ABC/ACL is the ABC for 2026), The HCR would revert back to the default HCR ($ABC > ACL$, $P^* 0.45$, 40-10 adjustment) after this biennium. Shortspine thornyhead is a constraining stock in the groundfish fishery as it limits attainments of other co-occurring stocks. Given that 2027-2028 ACLs are anticipated to constrain the commercial fishery further, this approach may allow the fishery to adjust to lower limits without exceeding the OFL by ramping down the ACL to the harvest specification amounts projected for 2029 and beyond ([Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)).

The Alternative 2 HCR for petrale sole is a constant ABC equals ACL of 2,489 mt for both 2027 and 2028. This ad-hoc phase in approach is for 2027-28 only and in the next biennium, the HCR would revert to the default HCR of $ABC = ACL$, $P^* 0.45$. Petrale sole is a highly attained stock. Due to anticipated constraints to the fishery, particularly the bottom trawl fleet, this HCR allows the fishery to adjust to lower limits without exceeding the OFL by ramping down the ACL to the harvest specification amounts projected for 2029 and beyond ([Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)).

Conclusion:

Alternative 1 offers higher ACLs for yelloweye rockfish, chilipepper rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat., the shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat., and the slope rockfish complexes north and south of 40°10' N. lat. relative to Alternative 2. Alternative 2 offers higher ACLs for only canary

2. Action Item 2: Area Management

In the biennial process, the Council may modify groundfish conservation areas (GCA) to address such issues as waypoint corrections and other minor revisions, as appropriate. Geographic coordinates (i.e. waypoints) for GCAs are listed in the Federal regulations at [§660.70](#) - § 660.79, Their associated fishing restrictions are found in the sector-specific management measures sections at § 660.130, § 660.230, § 660.330, and § 660.360.

2.1 *No Action*

Under No Action, no modifications would be made to waypoints and area management area boundaries. The modifications adopted by the Council in the 2025-26 biennial process correcting specified in [Agenda Item F.6.a Supplemental CDFW Report 1 June 2024](#) would remain. These waypoint corrections improved the alignment of the 50-fathom (fm) Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCA) boundary coordinates with chart-based depth contours off the coast of Bodega Bay, California.

2.2 *Alternative 1*

Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas

Under Alternative 1, the Council is not considering GCA waypoint revisions. The Council is considering a GCA modification to remove Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas (YRCA) off the coasts of California and Oregon that have never been activated.

YRCAs are spatial area closures defined by a series of connected waypoints listed in [50 CFR 660.70](#) (Figure 1; see the [NMFS Pacific Coast Non-Trawl Fishery Closures Map](#)). The YRCAs were generally designed around known hotspots for yelloweye rockfish, so these closures are intended to limit incidental encounters with this species. YRCAs generally prohibit non-trawl gear types, and can apply to the non-trawl commercial sector, recreational sector, or both. These areas may be activated inseason and deactivated as needed to mitigate yelloweye rockfish mortality. The first YRCAs were designed beginning in 2003 to reduce non-trawl impacts on yelloweye rockfish by preventing effort in key habitat areas, existing as flexible management tools which can be activated and deactivated as needed to support conservation objectives. The need, at the time of their creation, was to reduce impacts on this rebuilding stock. Several YRCAs have never been implemented but remain in Federal regulations as available tools.

There are 17 YRCAs in regulation off the west coast (Table 2-1): five off of Washington, seven off of Oregon, and five off of California. As recommended by the GMT ([Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)), the Council is considering removing the YRCAs in regulation that are not active and have never been active, which includes several YRCAs off Oregon and California. The Council requested 10 YRCAs for inclusion within the range considered for 2027-28 management measures, which are the Tillamook, Newport, Stonewall Bank Expansions 1 and 2, Florence, Point St. George, South Reef, Reading Rock, Point Delgada (North) and Southern Point Delgada YRCAs ([Agenda Item F.8, Motions in Writing, November 2025](#)) (§660.70 (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), and (n)-(r)). The remaining YRCAs are not considered at this time. It is important to note many of the YRCAs that were requested for inclusion in the analysis

(e.g., Tillamook, Newport, Florence, Heceta Bank) are also included in Federal Pacific halibut regulations as detailed at [50 CFR 300.63\(f\)](#).

There are three focal reasons for analyzing removal of the YRCAs listed above (in no particular order):

1. The [2025 yelloweye rockfish stock assessment](#) estimates that the stock's spawning output is now 40.1 percent of the unfished level and exceeds the management target of 40 percent, signaling recovery after decades of rebuilding (Johnston et al., 2025).
2. There are other, more finely tuned management tools currently used in the non-trawl sector that reduce impacts to yelloweye rockfish, such as prohibited retention, season and Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs)³, and descending device requirements. YRCAs have typically only been used when other management measures are not sufficient and as a precautionary management approach to support rebuilding, hence the option to activate YRCAs inseason.
3. Removal of YRCAs that have never been needed in the past, and are not likely to be needed in the future would streamline regulations with presumably little to no impact on the stock or the fishery.

Only a few YRCAs have ever been activated because other management measures have been successful in mitigating yelloweye rockfish impacts, thus reducing the need for YRCA activation. While active YRCAs focus specifically on reducing impacts to yelloweye rockfish, it is likely they have historically benefitted the conservation of other groundfish, such as canary rockfish.

Brief History of YRCAs

In 2003, the North Coast Recreational (“C-Shaped”) YRCA off Washington (Figure 2) was activated for recreational fishing and, in addition to prohibiting recreational activity, serves as a voluntary avoidance area for commercial fixed gear fisheries. A voluntary avoidance area is a community-based management tool in which the fishing community chooses not to fish in a specific area to support management objectives, but are not compelled by law to do so. In 2007, the North Coast Commercial and Salmon Troll YRCAs off Washington were implemented as well as a portion of the Stonewall Bank YRCA off Oregon for recreational fisheries. At present, these closures are still active.

³ RCAs are separate depth-based restrictions (rather than specific habitat/reef area closures) and have historically been used to mitigate both trawl and non-trawl impacts on all groundfish species of concern, including yelloweye rockfish.

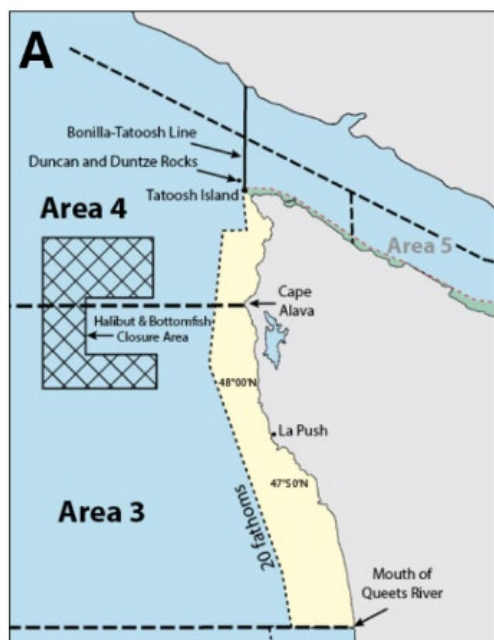


Figure 2-1. North Coast/"C Shaped" YRCA off Washington

The South Coast YRCA off Washington was implemented in 2007 for recreational fishing and in 2009, the Westport Offshore YRCA off Washington was activated for recreational fishing. The Westport and South Coast YRCAs were deactivated for recreational fisheries during the 2021-22 biennial process ([Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 1, April 2021](#)). These two YRCAs remain in regulation and are a voluntary avoidance for commercial fixed gear (§ [660.230\(d\)\(3\)](#), §660.230(d)(4), §[660.330\(d\)\(3\)](#), and §660.330(d)(4)).

In order to best summarize the YRCA status and history, there are three status "types" used in Table 1, based on activity:

1. **Active** – Area defined in regulations as a currently active, mandatory area closure for the recreational and/or commercial non-trawl sectors.
2. **Inactive, previously active** – Area defined in regulations, are not currently active closures for either sector, but has been activated in the past. May currently exist as a voluntary avoidance area.
3. **Inactive, never active** – Area defined in regulations, are not currently active and were never active at any point for either sector.

There are two Options provided for Council consideration for YRCAs, summarized in Table 2-1, and further described in the section below.

Table 2-1. Summary of decision point for Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas (YRCA) under each Option, status, and for which sector(s) each YRCA may apply

Name, Location	Status	Applicable sector	Option 1	Option 2
North Coast Recreational, WA	Active	Recreational; Commercial fixed gear (voluntary)	No change	No change
North Coast Commercial, WA	Active	Commercial fixed gear	No change	No change
North Coast Salmon Troll, WA	Active	Salmon troll vessels	No change	No change
Westport, WA	Inactive; previously active	Recreational; Commercial Non-Trawl (voluntary)	No change	No change
South Coast, WA	Inactive; previously active	Recreational; Commercial Non-Trawl (voluntary)	No change	No change
Stonewall Bank, OR	Active	Recreational	No change	No change
Stonewall Bank – Expansion 1, OR	Inactive; never active	Recreational	No change	Remove from regulations
Stonewall Bank – Expansion 2, OR	Inactive; never active	Recreational	No change	Remove from regulations
Tillamook, OR	Inactive; never active	Non-Trawl	No change	No change
Newport, OR	Inactive; never active	Non-Trawl	No change	No change
Florence, OR	Inactive; never active	Non-Trawl	No change	No change
Heceta Bank, OR	Active	Commercial Non-Trawl	No change	No change
Point St. George, CA	Inactive; never active	Non-Trawl	No change	Remove from regulations
South Reef, CA	Inactive; never active	Non-Trawl	No change	Remove from regulations
Reading Rock, CA	Inactive; never active	Non-Trawl	No change	Remove from regulations
Point Delgada (North), CA	Inactive; never active	Non-Trawl	No change	Remove from regulations
Southern Point Delgada, CA	Inactive; never active	Non-Trawl	No change	Remove from regulations

Pacific Halibut Considerations

Several of the YRCAs off Oregon which fit the “inactive; never active” criteria are also defined within Federal Pacific halibut regulations ([50 CFR 300.63\(f\)](#)). These are the Tillamook, Newport, Florence, and Heceta Bank YRCAs. In order to remove these from regulations, the Council’s recommendations would also have to proceed through Pacific halibut rulemaking processes, which could jeopardize the 2027-28 groundfish harvest specifications process. These YRCAs, and other YRCAs with additional complexity could be addressed through additional follow-on action, if desired. Therefore, at this time, the YRCAs off Oregon that are also defined within Pacific halibut regulations were analyzed but ultimately removed from Option 2. This leaves the remaining two YRCAs off Oregon and all YRCAs off California for consideration.

Option 1

Under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, Option 1: YRCA regulations would remain the same. Inactive YRCAs would be available within regulations (see Table 2-1, above) for implementation, as appropriate.

Option 2

Under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, Option 2: YRCAs that fit the inactive; never active criteria and are not listed within Pacific halibut regulations would be removed from Federal regulations ((§660.70 (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), and (n)-(r)). These are the Point St. George, South Reef, Reading Rock, Point Delgada (North), and Southern Point Delgada YRCAs (Table 2-1).

Under Option 2, following removal from Federal regulation, these YRCAs would no longer be available as a management tool to activate as needed in the future, unless a specific rule were passed to design and activate new YRCAs as was done under Amendment 16. No changes to the status (i.e., active/inactive) or availability of any other YRCAs in regulations would occur under Option 2.

The YRCAs were developed as a management tool that could be used to support rebuilding objectives, within a suite of other tools (seasons and depth restrictions, prohibition, etc.). Yet, none of the YRCAs under consideration for removal under Option 2 were ever deemed necessary during rebuilding, when the stock was most vulnerable. Given the stock of yelloweye rockfish is no longer overfished, it is unlikely that YRCAs, which were not necessary to effectively manage a rebuilding stock, would be needed to effectively manage a healthy stock. Furthermore, their lack of use in this recent rebuilding period indicates that these areas would not be useful in a hypothetical rebuilding scenario for yelloweye rockfish in the future. It is also unknown if the areas which these YRCAs were designed around still experience high encounter rates. Additionally, other management tools (as described previously in this section) that have been successful in keeping yelloweye rockfish mortality within the harvest limits will continue to be available. This change is likely to streamline regulations with no anticipated impact to groundfish stocks.

Another aspect to consider is that the most recent assessment projected spawning stock biomass at 40.1 percent unfished in 2025, which only narrowly exceeds the management target of 40 percent. While these YRCAs have never been activated while the stock was rebuilding, keeping the YRCAs as a readily available tool could be useful as the Council considers allowing for some retention of yelloweye rockfish in the near future. For example, if any unexpected trends in mortality were identified, the Council could activate the YRCAs inseason to limit mortality. How effective these YRCAs would be at limiting mortality is unknown.

2.3 *Lasuen Knoll*

The Council is considering a removing the 150 fathom boundary line around Lasuen Knoll ([50 CFR 660.73\(s\)](#)) in southern California from Federal regulations. This seamount is between the mainland, near Newport Beach, CA and Santa Catalina Island. The commercial Non-Trawl RCA boundaries south of 34°27' N. lat., the area where Lasuen Knoll is, extend from the 100 fm bathymetric line to the 150 fm depth contour [Table 2a \(South\) to Part 660, Subpart E, Title 50](#)). However, there are no coordinates for a 100 fm and the 150 fm depth contours around Lasuen Knoll defined in Federal regulations because the area between the 100 fm and 150fm depth contour is too narrow to be effectively enforced. Without a defined 100 fathom boundary line, the 100-150

fm closure around Lasuen Knoll is not enforceable. There are no rockfish species of concern that require protection around Lasuen Knoll, therefore, the 150 fm line is not needed and could be removed to reduce regulatory complexity and confusion among fishermen regarding whether or not the knoll is open to fishing. As reference, the Council adopted a similar measure in November 2023 for Osborne Bank, which is another protected bank in southern California with enforcement concerns. The GMT noted in their statement, [Agenda Item E.9.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, November 2023](#), “to reduce regulatory complexity the GMT does not find it necessary to implement the 150 fathom RCA around Osborn Bank at this time”.

For clarification and simplification of Federal regulations, options to change the language in the citation are presented below (red underlined text indicates GMT-proposed addition):

- **Option 1 (SQ):** “100 fm line – 150 fm line (also applies around islands and banks).”
- **Option 2:** “100 fm line–150 fm line (also applies around islands and banks except for Lasuen Knoll and Osborne Bank).”

RCA Regulatory Text

Federal non-trawl trip limit tables text would also need to be changed to reflect the proposed revision (i.e., [Table 2a \(North\) to Part 660, Subpart E, Title 50, Table 2a \(South\) to Part 660, Subpart E, Title 50, Table 3a \(North\) to Part 660, Subpart F, Title 50, Table 3a \(South\) to Part 660, Subpart F, Title 50](#)). These tables state, “see appropriate state regulations for state closures,” however, the states generally have designed their regulations to extend some Federal regulations (including waypoints) into state waters using their respective authority to govern state waters. The circular regulatory language is confusing to stakeholders and could create enforcement challenges. Options to clarify the regulatory text follow (red underlined text indicates proposed replacement):

- Option 1: Maintain the current language in the Federal non-trawl trip limit tables “*The Non-Trawl RCA is an area closed to fishing with particular non-trawl gear types, as defined at [§ 660.11](#). Non-Trawl RCA boundaries apply in the EEZ only; see appropriate state regulations for state closures. Non-Trawl RCA boundaries may be revised via inseason action; therefore, users should refer back to this table throughout the year.*”
- Option 2: Revise the language in the Federal non-trawl trip limit tables to “*The Non-Trawl RCA is an area closed to fishing with particular non-trawl gear types, as defined at [§ 660.11](#). Non-Trawl RCA boundaries apply in the EEZ only; ~~see appropriate state regulations for state closures~~, however state regulations may enforce RCA boundaries in state waters; see appropriate state regulations. Non-Trawl RCA boundaries may be revised via inseason action; therefore, users should refer back to this table throughout the year.*”

The regulation text, paired with changes to state regulations, would allow for continuous management of fathom-based RCA lines across jurisdictions. Fishery participants would then be able to download the fathom lines from a single site and enforcement could continue to enforce the RCA single unit as opposed to two separate closures. These changes would provide positive impacts to industry as it simplifies regulatory language.

3. Action Item 3: Annual Catch Limit Deductions

ACL deductions, called off-the-top deductions (hereinafter called set-asides), are an estimated amount of yield from an actively managed stock or stock complex to account for groundfish mortality in the Pacific Coast Treaty Tribe fisheries, scientific research, non-groundfish target fisheries (hereinafter, incidental open access fisheries), and, as necessary, EFPs. These amounts are estimated each biennium, as described below. The Council does not directly manage these fisheries and has not identified specific management measures that could be implemented in the case where a set-aside is exceeded, with the exception that EFP activities may be terminated by NMFS if a set-aside for a species is reached. However, for the non-groundfish fisheries, the total attainment of a set-aside may not be known until the following year when the annual groundfish mortality report (i.e., the GEMM) is produced.

3.1 No Action

The 2025 methodology to calculate off-the-top set asides is briefly described below. Full details are available in the [2025-26 Council analytical document](#). Table 3-1 presents the set asides under No Action

Tribal Fishery: Tribal fishery values are established under Treaty provisions as well as specific requests.

Exempted Fishing Permits: EFP set-asides are estimated and requested by the EFP permit holder to cover anticipated EFP-specific groundfish mortality. EFP set-asides were not requested for the 2025-26 biennium, therefore all amounts are 0 mt.

Research: Research set-asides are adopted to account for anticipated groundfish mortality in research fisheries, which include the NMFS trawl survey, International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) longline survey, and other Federal and state research. Research set-asides are set based on a ten-year rolling maximum,⁴ which is derived from the GEMM data.

Incidental Open Access (IOA): IOA set-asides are for commercial fisheries⁵ that do not target, but catch groundfish incidentally.⁶ Under No Action, the IOA set-asides are a ten-year rolling maximum,⁷ which is derived from the GEMM data.

⁴ See pcouncil.org/documents/2023/11/e-7-a-supplemental-gmt-report-2-2.pdf for additional detail.

⁵ IOA fisheries on the west coast include California state managed species (e.g., California halibut), coastal pelagic species, highly migratory species, salmon troll, Pacific halibut, Dungeness crab, pink shrimp, ridgeback prawn.

⁶ Longnose and big skate were managed within complexes until 2009 and 2015, respectively, and therefore, the maximums are from only those years where sorting was required.

⁷ pcouncil.org/documents/2023/11/e-7-a-supplemental-gmt-report-2-2.pdf for additional detail.

Table 3-1. No Action: 2025 off-the-top deduction set-asides in for tribal, exempted fishing permits (EFP), research, incidental open access (IOA), and the set-aside totals metric tons (mt) for each managed stock and stock complex and fishery management unit (FMU).

Stock	FMU	Tribal (mt)	EFP (mt)	Research (mt)	IOA (mt)	Sum (mt)
QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	California	0.0	0.0	0.1	0	0.1
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	8.0	0.0	2.92	3.9	14.82
Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	2,041.0	0.0	13	41	2,095
Big skate	Coastwide	15.0	0.0	5.5	38.9	59.4
Black rockfish	Washington	18.0	0.0	0.6	0	18.6
Black rockfish	California	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.2	1.3
Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	5.6	2.2	7.8
Cabazon	S of 42° N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0	0.6	0.6
California scorpionfish	S of 34°27' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.2	2
Canary rockfish	Coastwide	50.0	0.0	10.1	2.8	62.9
Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	14.1	13.2	27.3
Cowcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.1	10.1
Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	5.0	0.0	8.5	10.7	24.2
Dover sole	Coastwide	1,497.0	0.0	61.9	25.2	1,584.1
English sole	Coastwide	200.0	0.0	8	6.6	214.6
Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	250.0	0.0	17.7	13.4	281.1
Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	3.2	8.7	11.9
Longnose skate	Coastwide	220.0	0.0	14.7	15.9	250.6
Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	30.0	0.0	18.4	1.3	49.7
Longspine thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.2	1.5
Pacific cod	Coastwide	500.0	0.0	0.8	0.6	501.4
Pacific Ocean perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	130.0	0.0	5.4	10.1	145.5
Pacific spiny dogfish	Coastwide	275.0	0.0	41.9	6.7	323.6
Pacific whiting b/	Coastwide	51,716	0.0	750	1500	53,996
Petrale sole	Coastwide	290.0	0.0	24.1	4.4	318.5
<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>N of 36° N. lat.</i>	See Section 9.1.1				
<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>S of 36° N. lat.</i>	See Section 9.3.1				
Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	50.0	0.0	16.3	5.7	
Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	11.2	2.9	
Starry flounder	Coastwide	2.0	0.0	0.6	14.1	
Widow rockfish	Coastwide	200.0	0.0	17.3	1	
Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,000.0	0.0	20.6	4.5	
Stock Complexes						
Nearshore rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1.5	0.0	0.5	1.1	3.1
Nearshore rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.7	1.8	2.5
Shelf rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	30.0	0.0	15.3	20.5	65.8
Shelf rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	15.1	11.5	26.6
Slope rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	36.0	0.0	10.5	11.5	58.0

Stock	FMU	Tribal (mt)	EFP (mt)	Research (mt)	IOA (mt)	Sum (mt)
Slope rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	18.2	0.9	19.1
Other fish complex	Coastwide	0.0	0.0	0.1	9.7	9.8
Other flatfish complex	Coastwide	60.0	0.0	23.6	87.7	171.3
OR black/blue/deacon rockfish	Oregon	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.5	1.6
OR cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.7	0.8
WA cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	2.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	2.4

3.2 Alternative 1:

The Council approved a new methodology to calculate research and IOA set-asides as described in [Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025](#) and summarized in the text below. The preliminary draft 2027-28 off-the-top deductions are shown in Table 3-2. All values shown are subject to revision.

Tribal Fishery: The Treaty Tribe 2027-28 set-asides ([Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 1, November 2025](#)) were adopted by the Council in November 2025. The amounts are the same as No Action except for yelloweye rockfish. For that stock, the Tribes are requesting an increase from 8 mt to 16 mt under Alternative 1.

Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP): For the 2027-28 biennium, no EFP set-asides were requested for any stock or stock complex.

Research: The Council adopted a 5-year rolling median research mortality as the 2027-28 research set-aside for individual stocks and stock complexes ([Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Reports 1](#) and [Report 4, November 2025](#)) with the exception of yelloweye rockfish. The Council adopted the GMT recommendation to set the yelloweye rockfish research set-aside as 2.92 mt to accommodate research needs. The research set-aside values were obtained from the most recent GEMM([Agenda Item G.1.b, NWFSR Report 2, September 2025](#)).⁸

IOA: The Council adopted a 5-year rolling median research mortality, as reported in the GEMM, as the 2027-28 research set-aside for individual stocks and stock complexes ([Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Reports 1](#) and [Report 4, November 2025](#)

Table 3-2. Alternative 1: Draft 2027-28 off-the-top deduction set-asides in for tribal, exempted fishing permits (EFP), research, incidental open access (IOA) in metric tons (mt). All values are considered preliminary

Stock	FMU	Tribal (mt)	EFP (mt)	Research (mt)	IOA (mt)	Sum (mt)
QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	California	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0
YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	16.0	0.0	2.92	1.4	20.3
Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	2,041.0	0.0	8	18.9	2,067.9
Big skate	Coastwide	15.0	0.0	2.6	31.6	49.2
Black rockfish	Washington	18.0	0.0	0.6	0	18.6

⁸ The GEMM product reports estimated mortality based on the most recently completed full year, i.e., 2024 is reported in 2025. These estimates are used as guidance for setting of the next biennium's off the top set asides.

Stock	FMU	Tribal (mt)	EFP (mt)	Research (mt)	IOA (mt)	Sum (mt)
Black rockfish	California	0.0	0.0	0	0.3	0.3
Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.6	3.3
Cabazon	S of 42° N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0	0.6	0.6
California scorpionfish	S of 34°27' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.7
Canary rockfish	Coastwide	50.0	0.0	4.4	2.1	56.5
Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	5.4	0.3	5.7
Cowcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.5	0	0.5
Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	5.0	0.0	2.5	13.7	21.2
Dover sole	Coastwide	1,497.0	0.0	44.6	4.9	1,546.5
English sole	Coastwide	200.0	0.0	4.8	7.2	212.0
Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	250.0	0.0	6.7	12.1	268.8
Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.4	2.2
Longnose skate	Coastwide	220.0	0.0	12.3	10.2	242.5
Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	30.0	0.0	14.4	0	44.4
Longspine thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.2	1.0
Pacific cod	Coastwide	500.0	0.0	0.1	0	500.1
Pacific Ocean perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	130.0	0.0	3.8	2	135.8
Pacific spiny dogfish	Coastwide	275.0	0.0	8	4.9	287.9
Pacific whiting b/	Coastwide	-	-	750	750	1,500.0
Petrale sole	Coastwide	322.0	0.0	15.7	3.2	340.9
<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>N of 36° N. lat.</i>	See § 9.1.1				
<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>S of 36° N. lat.</i>	See § 9.3.1				
Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	50.0	0.0	9.3	3.4	62.7
Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	4.1	0	4.1
Starry flounder	Coastwide	2.0	0.0	0	12.7	14.7
Widow rockfish	Coastwide	200.0	0.0	0.5	0.1	200.6
Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,000.0	0.0	4.9	2	1,006.9
Stock Complexes						
Nearshore rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.6	2.2
Nearshore rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.4	1.9
Shelf rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	30.0	0.0	8.9	9.7	48.6
Shelf rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	9.4	0.4	9.8
Slope rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	36.0	0.0	5.0	9.1	50.1
Slope rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.2	1.5
Other fish complex	Coastwide	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	4.0
Other flatfish complex	Coastwide	60.0	0.0	18.6	46.9	125.5
OR black/blue/deacon rockfish	Oregon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5
OR cabazon/kelp greenling	Oregon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
WA cabazon/kelp greenling	Washington	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0

3.3 *Alternative 2*

The Alternative 2 off-the-top deductions are the same as under Alternative 1

3.4 *Comparison of Off-the Top Deductions under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2*

Between No Action and Alternative 1, changes were made to Tribal, research, and IOA set-asides. Tribal set-asides are discussed in Chapter 4. The Groundfish Management Team analyzed the needs of the fishery for the 2027-28 biennium in [Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 4, November 2025](#), which is incorporated by reference, and determined modifications were needed to the research and IOA set-asides. The GMT, based on that analysis, recommended reducing research and IOA set-asides as shown in Table 3-3

Table 3-3. Comparison of the No Action and Alternative 1 research and IOA set-asides, including the percent increase and estimated tonnage to the fishery. total GMT. Research and IOA Set-asides summed for conciseness.

Species	Area	No Action Research + IOA (mt)	Alt 1 Research + IOA (mt)	% incr./decr.	Resultant Additional Tonnage to Fishery HG (mt)
QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	California	0.1	0.0	-100.0%	+0.1
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	6.7	4.3	-35.8%	+2.4
Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	54.3	26.9	-50.5%	+27.4
Big skate	Coastwide	53.6	34.2	-36.2%	+19.4
Black rockfish	California	1.2	0.3	-75.0%	+0.9
Black rockfish	Washington	1.0	0.6	-40.0%	+0.4
Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	7.7	3.3	-57.1%	+4.4
Cabazon	S of 42° N. lat.	1.5	0.6	-60.0%	+0.9
California scorpionfish	S of 34°27' N. lat.	2.3	0.7	-69.6%	+1.6
Canary rockfish	Coastwide	13.9	6.5	-53.2%	+7.4
Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat.	27.2	5.7	-79.0%	+21.5
Cowcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	10.1	0.5	-95.0%	+9.6
Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	17.8	16.2	-9.0%	+1.6
Dover sole	Coastwide	87.1	49.5	-43.2%	+37.6
English sole	Coastwide	20.7	12.0	-42.0%	+8.7
Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	36.5	18.8	-48.5%	+17.7
Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	8.9	2.2	-75.3%	+6.7
Longnose skate	Coastwide	37.4	22.5	-39.8%	+14.9
Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	19.7	14.4	-26.9%	+5.3
Longspine thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	1.8	1.0	-44.4%	+0.8
Pacific cod	Coastwide	0.9	0.2	-77.8%	+0.8
Pacific ocean perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	9.3	5.8	-37.6%	+3.5

Species	Area	No Action Research + IOA (mt)	Alt 1 Research + IOA (mt)	% incr./decr.	Resultant Additional Tonnage to Fishery HG (mt)
Pacific spiny dogfish	Coastwide	52.8	12.9	-75.6%	+39.9
Petrale sole	Coastwide	28.9	18.9	-34.6%	+10.0
Sablefish b/	N of 36° N. lat.	59.3	40.7	-31.4%	+18.6
Sablefish	S of 36° N. lat.	27.7	12.0	-56.7%	+15.7
Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	29.6	12.7	-57.1%	+16.9
Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	14.1	4.1	-70.9%	+10.0
Starry flounder	Coastwide	24.4	12.7	-48.0%	+11.7
Widow rockfish	Coastwide	18.3	0.6	-96.7%	+17.7
Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	25.0	6.9	-72.4%	+18.1
Stock Complexes					
Nearshore rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1.3	0.7	-46.2%	+0.6
Nearshore rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	3.4	1.9	-44.1%	+1.5
Shelf rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	71.0	18.6	-73.8%	+52.4
Shelf rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	25.7	13.4	-47.9%	+12.3
Slope rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	23.2	14.1	-39.2%	+9.2
Slope rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	19.0	1.5	-92.1%	+17.5
Other fish complex	Coastwide	10.3	4.0	-61.2%	+6.3
Other flatfish complex	Coastwide	110.9	65.5	-40.9%	+45.5
OR black/blue/deacon rockfish	Oregon	1.3	0.5	-61.5%	+0.8
OR cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	0.8	0.2	-75.0%	+0.6
WA cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	0.4	0.0	-100.0%	+0.4

4. Action Item 4: Tribal Management Measures

4.1 No Action

The Washington Coastal Tribes (Makah, Quileute, Hoh, and Quinault) conducted their groundfish fisheries in 2025 with the allocations and management measures as described in Table 4-1. Under No Action, all tribal fisheries are managed not to exceed set-asides. Trip limits are subject to inseason adjustments in order to utilize tribal allocations and HGs. Full rockfish retention programs, where all overfished and marketable rockfish are retained, as well as a Makah trawl observer program, were in place to provide catch accountability. Federal publications regarding tribal management measures for 2025 & 2026 are found in [50 CFR 660.50](#) and are summarized in Table 4-1. The No Action tribal allocations, set-asides, and estimated 2025 mortality are outlined in Table 4-2. For more information on the relation of tribal fisheries to the council process, consult sections 6.2.5 and 6.3.2.1 of the [Groundfish Fishery Management Plan](#).

Table 4-1. No Action. Tribal fishery management measures and regulations.

Tribal Management Measures
<u>Black rockfish</u>: For the commercial harvest of black rockfish off Washington State, the treaty Indian Tribes' harvest guideline is set at 30,000 lbs. for the area north of Cape Alava, WA (48°09.50' N. lat.) and 10,000 lbs. for the area between Destruction Island, WA (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Point, WA (46°38.17' N. lat.). This harvest guideline applies and is available to the Pacific Coast treaty Indian Tribes. There are no tribal harvest restrictions for black rockfish in the area between Cape Alava and Destruction Island. <u>Sablefish</u>: The sablefish allocation to Pacific coast treaty Indian Tribes is 10 percent of the sablefish ACL for the area north of 36° N. lat. and is reduced by 1.9 percent for estimated discard mortality. <u>Pacific whiting</u>: the tribal allocation is 17.5% of the United States Total Allowed Catch (TAC). <u>Arrowtooth flounder</u>: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 2,041 mt. <u>Big skate</u>: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 15 mt. <u>Canary rockfish</u>: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 50 mt. <u>Washington cabezon/kelp greenling complex</u>: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 2 mt. <u>Darkblotched rockfish</u>: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 5mt. <u>Dover sole</u>: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 1,497 mt. <u>English sole</u>: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 200 mt. <u>Lingcod</u>: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 250 mt. <u>Longnose skate</u>: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 220 mt. <u>Longspine thornyhead</u>: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 30 mt. <u>Nearshore rockfish</u>: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 1.5 mt. <u>Other Flatfish</u>: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 60 mt <u>Pacific cod</u>: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 500 mt.

Pacific ocean perch: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 130 mt.

Pacific spiny dogfish: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 275 mt.

Petrale sole: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 290 mt.

Shelf rockfish: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 30 mt.

Shortspine thornyhead: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 50 mt.

Slope rockfish: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 36 mt.

Starry flounder: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 2 mt.

Yelloweye rockfish: are managed to an annual tribal harvest guideline of 8mt.

Yellowtail rockfish: Yellowtail rockfish taken in the directed tribal mid-water trawl fisheries are subject to a catch limit of 1,000 mt for the entire fleet, per year.

Widow rockfish: Widow rockfish taken in the directed tribal midwater trawl fisheries are subject to a catch limit of 200 mt for the entire fleet, per year.

Specific Management Measures & Trip Limits

Rockfish: Full retention. Rockfish taken during open competition tribal commercial fisheries for Pacific halibut would not be subject to trip limits.

Makah Tribe bottom trawl fisheries: Bottom trawl vessels are restricted to small footrope trawl gear.

Nearshore rockfish: 300 lb. per trip limit per species or species group, or to the non-tribal LE trip limit for those species if those limits are less restrictive than 300 lb. per trip.

Shelf rockfish and slope rockfish: Redstripe rockfish are subject to an 800 lb. trip limit. Shelf (excluding redstripe rockfish), and Slope Rockfish groups are subject to a 300 lb. trip limit per species or species group, or to the non-tribal LEFG trip limit for those species if those limits are less restrictive than 300 lb. per trip. LEFG trip limits are specified in the regulations (Table 2 (North) in 660.00 Subpart E)

Other rockfish: 300 lb. per trip limit per species or species group, or to the non-tribal LE trip limit for those species if those limits are less restrictive than 300 lb. per trip.

Flatfish and other fish (small footrope bottom trawl): For Dover sole, English sole, other flatfish, and arrowtooth flounder trip limits will be established in tribal regulation only and adjusted in-season to stay within the overall harvest targets and overfished species limits.

Spiny dogfish are managed within the LE trip limits for non-tribal fisheries.

Yelloweye rockfish: All tribal fisheries are subject to a 200 lb. trip limit.

EFH: EFH closures in tribal U&A fishing areas do not apply to tribal fisheries

RCA: RCA closures in tribal U&A fishing areas do not apply to tribal fisheries

Monitoring: The Makah Tribe operates a shoreside observer program in the Tribal whiting fishery and an at-sea observer program in the Tribal midwater and bottom trawl fisheries to monitor and enforce Makah management measures.

Reporting: VMS declarations are required for Tribal trawl vessels only.

4.1.1 Impacts

Under No Action, set-asides were not exceeded.

The projected groundfish mortality for 2025 is shown in Table 4-2

Table 4-2. No Action: Projected 2025 groundfish mortality in tribal fisheries.

Species	Treaty HGs and set-asides (2025) (mt)	2025 Total Mortality (mt)
Arrowtooth flounder	2,041	.4
Black rockfish (WA) a/	18.14	.01
Big Skate	15	.4
Canary rockfish b/	50	8.2
Darkblotched rockfish	5	0
Dover sole	1,497	1.3
English sole	200	0
Lingcod	250	90.6
Longnose skate	220	7.6
Longspine thornyhead	30	0
Pacific cod	500	39
Pacific ocean perch	130	0.4
Pacific whiting	51,716 (17.5% of TAC)	525
Petrale sole b/	290	289.4
Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.	2,869 (10% of TAC)	600.1
Shortspine thornyhead b/	50	4.1
Starry flounder	2	0
Pacific spiny dogfish	275	18.8
Widow rockfish	200	14.7
Yellowtail rockfish	1,000	41.8
Yelloweye rockfish	8	4.2
Nearshore rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat.	1.5	.1
Slope rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat.	30	3.2
Shelf rockfish complex, north of 40°10' N. lat.	36	5.8
Other flatfish complex	60	.1
Cabezon/kelp greenling complex (WA)	2	0

a/ The treaty harvest guideline of black rockfish is set at 30,000 lbs. north of Cape Alava and 10,000 lbs. between Destruction Island and Leadbetter Point ([50 CFR 660.50\(f\)\(1\)](#)).

b/ In 2026, the treaty harvest guidelines of canary rockfish, petrale sole, and shortspine thornyhead were increased from the listed values to 54.7 mt, 322.5 mt, and 54.4 mt respectively; per the emergency rule published on January 21st, 2026 ([91 FR 2714](#))

4.2 *Alternative 1*

Under Alternative 1, the Council would adopt the Tribe's requested treaty harvest guidelines and set-asides for 2027 & 2028. Since their submission in November 2025 under briefing book items [F.8.a Supplemental Tribal Report 1](#) and [F.8.a Supplemental Tribal Report 2](#), the requested treaty harvest guidelines and set-asides for 2027 and 2028 have been further refined. Currently, the harvest guidelines are identical to the No Action for all fisheries, with the exception of yelloweye rockfish and petrale sole.

In November 2025, the Tribes requested that their set-aside for petrale sole be kept at the level set in 2026, per the emergency rule published on January 21st, 2026 ([91 FR 2714](#)). The Tribes also

requested that their set-aside for yelloweye rockfish be increased to 16mt, which is twice the amount adopted for the 2025-26 biennium, with recognition of the projected rebuilding of this species. Additionally, the species-specific management measure for yelloweye rockfish increases the landing limit from 100 lbs for commercial sale and 100 lbs for Ceremonial and Subsistence use, to 400 lbs for commercial sale and 100 lbs for Ceremonial and Subsistence use.

Table 4-3 displays the requested treaty harvest guidelines and set-asides as currently intended by the Tribes. Alternative 1 would implement these set-asides and harvest guidelines in 2027 - 28, though the exact values for Pacific whiting and sablefish would be updated with the new harvest specifications for 2027-28

Under Alternative 1, all tribal fisheries will be managed as under No Action, i.e., not to exceed set-asides. Trip limits will be subject to inseason adjustments in order to utilize tribal allocations and HGs. Full rockfish retention programs, where all marketable rockfish are retained, as well as a Makah trawl observer program, will remain in place to provide catch accountability. Federal publications regarding tribal management measures for 2027-28 will be identical to those found in [50 CFR 660.50](#) and summarized in Table 4-1, apart from pertinent updates as discussed in this Alternative.

Table 4-3. Alternative 1. Requested Treaty harvest guidelines and set-asides for 2027-28.

Species	Treaty HGs and set-asides (2025) (mt)
Arrowtooth flounder	2,041
Black rockfish (WA) a/	18.14
Big Skate	15
Canary rockfish	50
Darkblotched rockfish	5
Dover sole	1,497
English sole	200
Lingcod	250
Longnose skate	220
Longspine thornyhead	30
Pacific cod	500
Pacific ocean perch	130
Pacific whiting	17.5% of TAC
Petrale sole	322
Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.	10% of TAC
Shortspine thornyhead	50
Starry flounder	275
Pacific spiny dogfish	2
Widow rockfish	100
Yellowtail rockfish	1,000
Yelloweye rockfish	16
Nearshore rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat.	1.5
Slope rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat.	36
Shelf rockfish complex, north of 40°10' N. lat.	30

Other flatfish complex	60
Cabezon/kelp greenling complex (WA)	2

a/ The treaty harvest guideline of black rockfish is set at 30,000 lbs. north of Cape Alava and 10,000 lbs. between Destruction Island and Leadbetter Point ([50 CFR 660.50\(f\)\(1\)](#)).

b/ Treaty fisheries for yelloweye rockfish will be subject to a 500 lb. trip limit; 400 lbs for commercial sale and 100 lbs for Ceremonial and Subsistence use.

5. Action Item 5: Harvest Guidelines

The ACL minus the off-the-top deductions (i.e., Tribal, estimated research catch, estimated IOA, and EFP catches) results in the fishery HG for the stock or complex. An HG is a specified numerical harvest objective and not a quota. Attainment of a HG does not require closure of a fishery.

5.1 No Action

The 2025 HGs for all stocks (except sablefish) and stock complexes and their estimated attainments are shown in Table 5-1. Sablefish information is presented in Chapter 9. Of the 30 species managed as single stocks, attainment was greater than 50 percent of the HG for seven stocks and of the 11 stock complexes, attainment was greater than 50 percent of the HG for three complexes

Table 5-1. No Action: 2025 fishery harvest guideline (HG) in metric tons (mt) compared to preliminary estimated mortality. ACL values rounded to nearest mt to reflect tables above. HGs rounded to nearest tenth of a mt for improved accuracy of ACL reduction. Estimated mortality reported by PacFIN (1/5/2026)

Stock	FMU	HG (mt)	Est. Mortality (mt)	% of HG
QUILLBACK ROCKFISH b/	California	1.2	3.6	300.0%
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH b/	Coastwide	41.2	23.2	56.3%
Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	9,098	960.4	10.6%
Big skate	Coastwide	1,164.6	68.7	5.9%
Black Rockfish	Washington	226.4	157	69.3%
Black Rockfish	California	232.7	182.7	78.5%
Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,673.2	617	36.9%
Cabazon	California	161.4	38.8	24.0%
California Scorpionfish	S of 34°27' N. lat.	242	196	81.0%
Canary Rockfish	Coastwide	508.1	341.6	67.2%
Chilipepper	Coastwide	2,787.7	1,039.80	37.3%
Cowcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	66.5	10.9	16.4%
Darkblotched Rockfish	Coastwide	729.8	240.9	33.0%
Dover Sole	Coastwide	45,839.9	3,707.00	8.1%
English Sole	Coastwide	8,669.4	227	2.6%
Lingcod North	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,349.9	1,071.40	32.0%
Lingcod South	S of 40°10' N. lat.	736.1	326.9	44.4%
Longnose Skate	Coastwide	1,365.4	511.5	37.5%
Longspine Thornyhead North	N of 34°27' N. lat.	2,000.7	27.2	1.4%
Longspine Thornyhead South	S of 34°27' N. lat.	646.0	3.5	0.5%
Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,098.6	44.6	4.1%
Pacific Ocean Perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,182.5	300.3	9.4%
Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Coastwide	1,037.4	241.7	23.3%

Stock	FMU	HG (mt)	Est. Mortality (mt)	% of HG
Pacific whiting a/	Coastwide	243,054	239,881.60	98.7%
Petrale Sole	Coastwide	2,035.5	2,354.00	115.6%
<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>N of 36° N. lat.</i>	See §9.1.2		
<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>S of 36° N. lat.</i>	See §9.3.2		
Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	743	405.2	54.5%
Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,493.9	31.8	2.1%
Starry flounder	Coastwide	375.3	17.3	4.6%
Widow rockfish	Coastwide	11,018.7	10,079.80	91.5%
Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	5,215.9	2,025.70	38.8%
Stock Complexes				
Nearshore rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	84.7	58.8	69.4%
Nearshore rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	929.3	381.6	41.1%
Shelf rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,263.8	343.5	27.2%
Shelf rockfish complex south	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,430.5	462.1	32.3%
Slope rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1430.0	322.2	22.5%
Slope rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	674.1	129.9	19.3%
Other fish complex	Coastwide	213.2	18.6	8.7%
Other flatfish complex	Coastwide	7,802.7	428.9	5.5%
Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	Oregon	421.4	382.3	90.7%
OR cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	176.2	41.5	23.6%
WA cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	12.6	8.5	67.5%

a/ Pacific whiting ACLs are set through an annual US/Canada treaty process external to the Council

5.2 Alternative 1

The 2027-28 draft Alternative 1 HGs for all non-sablefish stocks and stock complexes are shown Table 5-2. Sablefish information is detailed below in Section 9. As a reminder, the HG is the ACL minus the sum of the set-aside for the stock or stock complex.

Table 5-2. Alternative 1: Draft 2027-28 annual catch limits (ACL) and fishery harvest guideline (HG) under default harvest control rules in metric tons (mt). All values are considered draft. ACL values rounded to nearest mt to reflect Table 5-1 above. HGs rounded to nearest tenth of a mt for improved accuracy.

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)	HG (mt)
2027	QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	California	12	11.6
2028	QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	California	12	11.9
2027	YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	113	92.6
2028	YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	113	92.8
2027	Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	7,947	5,879.5
2028	Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	7,131	5,062.8
2027	Big skate	Coastwide	1,155	1,105.8
2028	Big skate	Coastwide	1,122	1,072.8

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)	HG (mt)
2027	Black Rockfish	Washington	240	221.7
2028	Black Rockfish	Washington	249	248.8
2027	Black Rockfish	California	241	222.3
2028	Black Rockfish	California	261	260.7
2027	Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,288	2,284.9
2028	Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,185	2,182.1
2027	Cabazon	California	150	149.6
2028	Cabazon	California	146	145.4
2027	California Scorpionfish	S of 34°27' N. lat.	233	232.5
2028	California Scorpionfish	S of 34°27' N. lat.	229	228.6
2027	Canary Rockfish	Coastwide	606	549.5
2028	Canary Rockfish	Coastwide	623	566.5
2027	Chilipepper	Coastwide	2,986	2,980.6
2028	Chilipepper	Coastwide	2,870	2,864.1
2027	Cowcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	74	73.3
2028	Cowcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	73	72.0
2027	Darkblotched Rockfish	Coastwide	773	751.9
2028	Darkblotched Rockfish	Coastwide	754	733.2
2027	Dover Sole	Coastwide	38,573	37,026.2
2028	Dover Sole	Coastwide	35,616	34,069.6
2027	English Sole	Coastwide	3,168	2,956.0
2028	English Sole	Coastwide	3,168	2,956.0
2027	Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,482	3,212.9
2028	Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,439	3,170.1
2027	Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	789	786.8
2028	Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	796	793.8
2027	Longnose Skate	Coastwide	1,546	1,303.8
2028	Longnose Skate	Coastwide	1,515	1,272.4
2027	Longspine Thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,878	1,833.9
2028	Longspine Thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,834	1,789.3
2027	Longspine Thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	593	592.1
2028	Longspine Thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	579	578.1
2027	Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600	1,099.9
2028	Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600	1,099.9
2027	Pacific Ocean Perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,123	2,987.6
2028	Pacific Ocean Perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	3,036	2,900.3
2027	Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Coastwide	1,278	990.2
2028	Pacific Spiny Dogfish	Coastwide	1,240	952.5
2027	Pacific whiting c/	Coastwide	-	-
2028	Pacific whiting c/	Coastwide	-	-
2027	Petrale Sole	Coastwide	2,449	2,108.4

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL (mt)	HG (mt)
2028	Petrale Sole	Coastwide	2,423	2,082.1
	<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>N of 36° N. lat.</i>	See §9.1.2	
	<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>S of 36° N. lat.</i>	See §9.3.2	
2027	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	847	784.3
2028	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	856	793.3
2027	Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	620	615.9
2028	Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	620	615.9
2027	Starry flounder	Coastwide	393	377.8
2028	Starry flounder	Coastwide	393	377.8
2027	Widow rockfish a/	Coastwide	4,796	4,595.4
2028	Widow rockfish a/	Coastwide	4,998	4,797.4
2027	Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	4,723	3,715.8
2028	Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	4,540	3,533.4
Stock Complexes				
2027	Nearshore rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	85	82.3
2028	Nearshore rockfish complex north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	83	81.0
2027	Nearshore rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	928	925.6
2028	Nearshore rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	924	921.7
2027	Shelf rockfish complex north c/	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,342	1,293.3
2028	Shelf rockfish complex north c/	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,333	1,284.1
2027	Shelf rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,457	1,446.7
2028	Shelf rockfish complex south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,453	1,453.2
2027	Slope rockfish complex north d	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,623	1,572.7
2028	Slope rockfish complex north d/	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,602	1,601.8
2027	Slope rockfish complex south d/	S of 40°10' N. lat.	699	697.7
2028	Slope rockfish complex south d/	S of 40°10' N. lat.	696	696.0
2027	Other fish	Coastwide	223	218.5
2028	Other fish	Coastwide	223	218.5
2027	Other flatfish	Coastwide	6,577	6,451.7
2028	Other flatfish	Coastwide	6,193	6,067.7
2027	Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	Coastwide	448	447.5
2028	Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	Coastwide	452	451.7
2027	OR cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	174	173.5
2028	OR cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	173	172.9
2027	WA cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	14.5	12.4
2028	WA cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	14.4	12.5

a/ Pacific whiting harvest limits are set through an annual bilateral treaty process external to the Council

b/ Widow rockfish harvest specifications have not been adopted, the Alternative 1 ACLs represent the results of the October 2025 assessment, as shown in Table 16, of [Agenda Item F.3. GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)

c/ chilipepper north of 40°10' N. lat. is managed under the shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. and their individual contributions are not subject to set-asides, hence are not shown.

d/ Rougheye/blackspotted rockfishes are managed under the slope rockfish complexes and their individual contributions are not subject to set-asides, hence are not shown.

5.3 *Alternative 2*

The 2027-28 draft HGs for stocks and stock complexes considered under Alternative 2 are shown Table 5-3. Widow rockfish harvest specifications are draft and represent a bookend scenario for analytical purposes only.

Table 5-3. Alternative 2: Draft 2027-28 annual catch limits (ACL) and fishery harvest guideline (HG) under Alternative 2 harvest control rules in metric tons (mt). All values are considered draft. ACL values rounded to nearest mt to reflect Table 5-1above. HGs rounded to nearest tenth of a mt for improved accuracy of ACL reduction.

Year	Stock	FMU	ACL	HG (mt)
2027	YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	85	64.7
2028	YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	85	64.7
2027	Canary Rockfish	Coastwide	643	586.5
2028	Canary Rockfish	Coastwide	664	607.5
2027	Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,966	1,960.3
2028	Chilipepper.	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,966	1,960.3
2027	Petrals Sole	Coastwide	2,489	2,148.1
2028	Petrals Sole	Coastwide	2,489	2,148.1
2027	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	902	839.3
2028	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	902	839.3
2027	Widow rockfish a/	Coastwide	9,755	9,553.9
2028	Widow rockfish a/	Coastwide	9,255	9,054.6
2027	Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	5,050	4,043.1
2028	Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	4,730	3,723.1
Stock Complexes				
2027	Shelf rockfish complex north b/	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,265	1,216.5
2028	Shelf rockfish complex north b/	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,265	1,216.1
2027	Slope rockfish complex north c	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,090	1,039.4
2028	Slope rockfish complex north c/	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,086	1,036.2
2027	Slope rockfish complex south c/	S of 40°10' N. lat.	688	686.8
2028	Slope rockfish complex south c/	S of 40°10' N. lat.	686	684.0

a/ Widow rockfish harvest specifications have not been adopted, the Alternative 1 ACLs represent the results of the 2023 assessment, as shown in Table 16, of [Agenda Item F.3. GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)

b/ chilipepper north of 40°10' N. lat. is managed under the shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. and their individual contributions are not subject to set-asides, hence are not shown.

c/ Rougheye/blackspotted rockfishes are managed under the slope rockfish complexes and their individual contributions are not subject to set-asides, hence are not shown.

5.4 *Comparison of Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 HGs*

The HG is As shown in Table 5-4, the HGs for petrale sole, shortspine thornyhead,. increase under Alternative 2 when compared to Alternative 1 for both 2027 and 2028.

Table 5-4. A comparison of the harvest guideline (HG) for stocks/stock complexes considered under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. Stocks with higher HGs under Alternative 2 are in bold.

Year	Stock	FMU	Alt 1 HG (mt)	Alt 2 HG (mt)	Difference (mt)	% incr./decr
2027	YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	92.6	72.7	-19.9	-21.5%
2028	YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	92.8	72.7	-20.1	-21.7%
2027	Canary rockfish	Coastwide	549.5	586.5	+37	+6.7%
2028	Canary rockfish	Coastwide	566.5	607.5	+41	+7.2%
2027	Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat	2,980.6	1,960.3	-1020.3	-34.2%
2028	Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat	2,864.1	1,960.3	-903.8	-31.6%
2027	Petrale sole	Coastwide	2,108.4	2,148.1	+39.7	+1.9%
2028	Petrale sole	Coastwide	2,082.1	2,148.1	+66	+3.2%
2027	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	784.3	839.3	+55	+7.0%
2028	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	793.3	839.3	+46	+5.8%
2027	Widow rockfish	Coastwide	4,595.4	9,553.9	+4,958.5	+107.9%
2028	Widow rockfish	Coastwide	4,797.4	9,054.6	+4,257.2	+88.7%
2027	Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat	3,715.8	4,043.	+327.2	+8.8%
2028	Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat	3,533.4	3,723.1	+189.7	+5.4%
2027	Shelf rockfish complex north b/	N of 40°10' N. lat	1,293.3	1,216.5	-76.8	-5.9%
2028	Shelf rockfish complex north b/	N of 40°10' N. lat	1,284.1	1,216.1	-68	-5.3%
2027	Slope rockfish complex north c	N of 40°10' N. lat	1,563.7	1,309.4	-254.3	-16.3%
2028	Slope rockfish complex north c/	N of 40°10' N. lat	1,542.6	1,306.2	-236.4	-15.3%
2027	Slope rockfish complex south c/	S of 40°10' N. lat	680.1	686.8	+6.7	+1.0%
2028	Slope rockfish complex south c/	S of 40°10' N. lat	676.9	684	+7.1	+1.0%

a/ Widow rockfish harvest specifications have not been adopted, These are the 'bookend' values noted above.

6. Action Item 6: Annual Catch Target

An annual catch target (ACT)⁹ is an accountability measure that can be used to set a harvest target below the ACL (see §4.7 of [PFMC, 2023](#)). This is distinct from a fishery HG, which is the ACL as reduced by specified off-the-top deductions for tribal, research, EFP, and IOA harvest. An ACT is a useful management tool for cases where there is high uncertainty in inseason catch monitoring, if there is concern regarding exceeding an ACL, and other conservation concerns. Since the ACT is a target and not a limit, it can be used in lieu of HGs or strategically to accomplish other management objectives. ACTs are set for recreational copper rockfish south of 34°27' N. lat., shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat., and yelloweye rockfish. The yelloweye ACT is discussed in the context of the allocation structure for that stock in Section 10.1

6.1 Recreational Copper Rockfish South of 34° 27' N. lat.

6.1.1 No Action

Copper rockfish south of 34° 27' N. lat. is subject to a recreational sector ACT equal to the “sub-ACL South” value specific to this area, as produced by the 2023 copper rockfish stock assessment (Wetzel et al., 2023)¹⁰. Table 6-1 shows the 2025 harvest specifications and the estimated, preliminary, mortality information. An estimated 92 percent of the ACT was attained

Table 6-1. No Action: 2025 California copper rockfish south of 34°27' N. lat. recreational preliminary estimated mortality compared to the recreational annual catch target (ACT). As reference, the total estimated mortality of the copper rockfish contribution to the nearshore rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat. and the overall complex mortality of the annual catch limit (ACL) of the nearshore rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat. are included. Values in metric tons (mt). Data from PacFIN and CDFW 2/12/2026.

	2025 (mt)	2025 mortality (mt)	Percent attainment (%)
Nearshore Rockfish Complex S of 40°10' N. lat.			
ACL	929	456	49%
<i>Copper rockfish ACL Contribution</i>	125	51	41%
Recreational ACT south of 34°27' N. lat.	15.8	14.6	92%

6.1.2 Alternative 1

The recreational ACTs for copper rockfish south of 34° 27' N. lat. under Alternative 1 are shown in Table 6-2. As discussed above at Section 6.1, this ACT is set equal to a “sub-ACL” which is proportional to the stock’s estimated biomass south of 34°27' N. lat. For 2027 the estimated biomass is 20.1 mt and in 2028 it is 22.0 mt. (Table 30, Wetzel et al, 2023)¹¹.

⁹ [50 CFR 660.11](#) and [50 CFR 600.310\(g\)\(4\)](#)

¹⁰ Wetzel, C.R., M.H. Monk, J. Coates. 2023. Status of copper rockfish (*Sebastes caurinus*) along the U.S. California coast south of Point Conception in 2023. Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland, Oregon. 323 p.

¹¹ Wetzel, C.R., M.H. Monk, J. Coates. 2023. Status of copper rockfish (*Sebastes caurinus*) along the U.S. California coast south of Point Conception in 2023. Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland, Oregon. 323 p.

Table 6-2. Alternative 1: Draft California copper rockfish south of 34°27' N. lat. recreational annual catch target (ACT) in respect to the Alternative 1 overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catches (ABC) for the nearshore rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat. Values in metric tons (mt).

Nearshore Rockfish Complex S of 40°10' N. lat.	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
OFL	1,145	1,145
ABC	929	924
ACL	928	924
HG	925.6	921.7
<i>Copper rockfish ACL Contribution</i>	127.8	129.1
ACT south of 34°27' N. lat.	20.1	22.0

6.1.3 Alternative 2

Copper rockfish is not considered under Alternative 2

6.2 Shortspine Thornyhead North of 34° 27' N. lat.

6.2.1 No Action

The non-trawl ACT for shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat. is 25 percent of the coastwide non-trawl allocation ([Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2024](#)), which equated to 67 mt in 2025 (Table 6-3). The ACT was not exceeded for shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat. based on preliminary data (1/06/2026).

Table 6-3. No Action: Preliminary estimated mortality of shortspine thornyhead as compared to the non-trawl allocation and the annual catch target (ACT) for the non-trawl sector north of 34°27' N. lat. PacFIN 1/06/2026

Shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat.	2025 (mt)	2025 mortality (mt)	Percent attainment (%)
Coastwide non-trawl allocation	267	106.7	40%
Non-trawl ACT north of 34°27' N. lat.	67	56.2	84%

6.2.2 Alternative 1

The non-trawl ACT for shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat. under Alternative 1 is the same as No Action, 25 percent of the coastwide non-trawl allocation ([Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2024](#)), which equates to 56.9 mt and 57.5 mt for 2027 and 2028, respectively (Table 6-4).

Table 6-4. Alternative 1: 2027-28 shortspine thornyhead annual catch target for the non-trawl sector north of 34°27' N. lat. Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a metric ton (mt).

Shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat.	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
Coastwide non-trawl allocation	227.4	230.1
Non-trawl ACT north of 34°27' N. lat.	56.9	57.5

6.2.3 Alternative 2

The non-trawl ACT for shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat. under Alternative 2 is the same as Alternative 1 (and No Action). The ACT is 25 percent of the coastwide non-trawl allocation ([Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2024](#)), which equates to 60.9 mt for 2027 and 2028, respectively (Table 6-5).

Table 6-5. Alternative 1: 2027-28 shortspine thornyhead annual catch target for the non-trawl sector north of 34°27' N. lat. Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a metric ton (mt).

Shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat.	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
Coastwide non-trawl allocation	243.4	243.4
Non-trawl ACT north of 34°27' N. lat.	60.9	60.9

6.2.4 Comparison of Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 Shortspine Thornyhead ACTs

Under Alternative 2, the ACT is higher by 4 mt and 3.4 mt for 2027 and 2028, respectively, than Alternative 1 (Table 6-6). The higher ACTs are a result of higher ACLs under Alternative 2 for shortspine thornyhead. The higher ACTs may improve flexibility for the industry in a similar vein as the higher ACLs do too.

Table 6-6. Comparison of the 2027-28 shortspine thornyhead annual catch target for the non-trawl sector north of 34°27' N. lat. under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a metric ton (mt).

Shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat.	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
Alternative 1	56.9	57.5
Alternative 2	60.9	60.9
Difference (mt)	+4	+3.4
% increase	+7.0%	+5.9%

Conclusion: Alternative 2 provides an estimated seven percent and six percent increase in the ACT to the non-trawl sector relative to Alternative 1, which is expected as the ACL is higher under Alternative 2 when compared to Alternative 1

6.3 Recreational Quillback Rockfish off California ACT

During the overwinter analysis, California recreational season structure Options were analyzed where an ACT for quillback rockfish may prove beneficial to help ensure this stock meets but does not exceed the federal harvest limits. Therefore, options for a recreational ACT for quillback rockfish off California were analyzed for Council consideration.

Quillback rockfish off California is currently managed as a single California stock. The current 2025-26 (i.e., No Action) harvest specification for California quillback rockfish is set using an HCR of ABC = ACL. There is no formal allocation scheme to distribute the ACL to the fishery sectors; therefore, the ACL is shared between the commercial and recreational sectors. The 2025-

26 Fishery HG (the ACL minus the set-aside) for quillback rockfish off California is 1.16 mt and 1.37 mt, respectively (Table 6-7). At the time of this writing, both Alternatives 1 and 2 for 2027-28, the 2025 quillback rockfish stock assessment will be used to set harvest specifications using an HCR of ABC = ACL with no set-asides and no formal sector allocations. Therefore, the fishery HGs for 2027-28 are 11.6 and 11.9, respectively.

Table 6-7. 2025-2026 California quillback rockfish stock harvest specifications in metric tons (mt)

Specification	2025 (mt)	2026 (mt)
OFL	1.5	1.8
ABC	1.3	1.5
ACL	1.3	1.5
Fishery HG	1.2	1.4

The 2025 commercial and recreational mortality of the California quillback rockfish stock are shown in Table 6-8. In 2025, approximately 117 percent of the fishery HG was caught (Table 6-8). The recreational fishery accounts for the majority of the mortality. Approximately 93 percent of the mortality can be attributed to the recreational fishery in 2025 based on the data shown in Table 24 (note, these percentages are not shown in the table).

Table 6-8. 2025 California quillback rockfish Fishery HG, estimated commercial (comm.) and recreational (rec.) mortality, and percent of mortality relative to the Fishery HG. (PacFIN, RecFIN, and CRFS, data pulled 2/19/2026)

	Fishery HG	Comm. mortality (mt)	Rec. mortality (mt)	Sum of mortality (mt)	percent (%) of Fishery HG
42° - Mexico	1.2	0.1	1.3	1.4	117%

Over the last five years, the recreational fishery, on average, has been responsible for approximately 61 percent of total mortality off California and 93 percent in the last two years (Table 6-9). Given this information, it could be reasonably expected that the recreational fishery is the main driver of quillback rockfish mortality off California. Therefore, an ACT specific to the recreational sector may reduce the risk exceeding the ACL..

Table 6-9. Quillback rockfish recreational and commercial fixed gear estimated mortality off California. Commercial values from 2021-2024 are total mortality from the GEMM. 2025 mirror 2024 values because there are no landings and regulations remain similar. Total recreational mortality data are from CRFS and RecFIN. Recreational estimates from 2025 are preliminary year-end totals.

	2021 (mt)	2022 (mt)	2023 (mt)	2024 (mt)	2025 (mt)	2025 HG (mt)
Commercial Fixed Gear	4.7	8.6	2.0	0.1	0.1	1.2
Recreational	10.6	9.2	2.3	1.2	1.3	

6.3.1 No Action

Under No Action, quillback rockfish would not have an ACT and would be managed utilizing the shared commercial and recreational Fishery HG for quillback rockfish off California.

6.3.2 Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, the California recreational fishery will consider a quillback rockfish ACT. Historically, the quillback rockfish ACL has been distributed to the fishery using an informal sharing arrangement between the recreational and commercial non-trawl sectors off California. Therefore, to facilitate this analysis, it is assumed that this informal historical sharing arrangement will continue and the recreational quillback rockfish ACT off California will be set as 7.1 mt for both 2027-28. The breakdown with the recreational ACT for 2027-28 are shown in Table 6-10

Table 6-10. Alternative 1: Draft California quillback rockfish recreational annual catch target (ACT) with respect to the Alternative 1 overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC), annual catch limit (ACL), and fishery Harvest Guideline (HG) in mt

CA Quillback Rockfish	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
OFL	12.8	13.3
ABC	11.6	11.9
ACL	11.6	11.9
HG	11.6	11.9
<i>Recreational ACT</i>	7.1	7.1

ACT Considerations

The Council did not recommend a range of ACTs for analysis; therefore, the following range for a recreational California quillback rockfish ACT is proposed: No ACT (status quo), and a recreational ACT of 7.1 mt based on the informal historical sharing agreement. This analysis assumes the fishery HGs for quillback rockfish off California for 2027-28 are 11.6 mt and 11.9 mt, respectively. (Table 6-11). shows the ACTs based on the proposed options.

Proposed Options:

- **Option 1:** Status Quo. Quillback rockfish would not have an ACT and would be managed utilizing the shared commercial and recreational 2027-28 Fishery HG for quillback rockfish off California.
- **Option 2:** A quillback rockfish ACT would be established for the recreational sector off California. The recreational ACT would be 7.1 mt for both 2027 and 2028. If the ACT is exceeded, or projected to be exceeded, the Council will consider recreational management measures to mitigate impacts on quillback rockfish off California and determine if inseason adjustments are necessary.

If the ACT were exceeded/projected to be exceeded, the expectation is that the Council would be notified at the relevant Council meeting under the groundfish inseason agenda item by the GMT and/or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Table 6-11. Proposed ACT Options for quillback rockfish off California for the 2027-28 biennial period.

Option	Year	Fishery HG (mt)	Rec ACT (mt)
Option 1: Status Quo: No Change from No Action	2027	11.6	NA
	2028	11.9	NA
Option 2: Recreational California ACT	2027	11.6	7.1
	2028	11.9	7.1

Option 1 would maintain the status quo and a recreational ACT for quillback rockfish off California would not be created. The Council would only be notified if the fishery HG was exceeded or projected to be exceeded. Option 1 may be more desirable if the Council takes a precautionary approach in setting the California recreational seasons. Option 2 would institute the recreational ACT and may be more desirable if the Council takes a less restrictive approach in setting the California recreational seasons. Option 2 would allow the Council to more closely monitor recreational fishery mortality and consider inseason responses, if needed. Option 2 does not specify what, if any, inseason response will be taken but all routine inseason management measures would be available (bag limit including no retention, depth, season closure, etc.).

6.3.3 Alternative 2

Under Alternative 2, the quillback rockfish ACT is the same as described under Alternative 1.

6.4 Recreational Vermilion/Sunset Rockfish South of 40° 10' N. lat. ACT

During the overwinter analysis, California recreational season structure options were analyzed where an ACT for vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. may help ensure this stock meets but does not exceed federal harvest guidelines. Options for a recreational ACT for vermilion/sunset rockfish were analyzed for Council consideration.

Vermilion/sunset rockfish is managed as part of the shelf rockfish complexes north and south of 40° 10' N. lat.; however, off California, vermilion and sunset rockfishes are a cryptic species pair and defined together as a stock complex off California. Both species contribute to the shelf rockfish complexes for the areas from 42° to 40° 10' N. lat. and south of 40° 10' N. lat. The ACL contribution to the shelf complexes are shared between the commercial and recreational sectors. The 2025-26 (No Action) vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. ACL contribution to complex is 274.3 mt and 271.5 mt, respectively (Table 6-12). Under both Alternatives 1 and 2 for 2027-28, the ACL contributions are 268.0 mt and 264.4 mt, respectively.

Table 6-12. 2025-2026 Shelf rockfish S. of 40°10' N lat. harvest specifications.

Shelf rockfish S of 40°10' N lat.	2025	2026
OFL	1828	1827
ABC/ACL	1457	1455
Vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. ACL contribution to complex	274.3	271.5

The 2025 non-trawl commercial and recreational mortality for vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. are shown in Table 6-13. In 2025, approximately 105 percent of the ACL contribution to the complex was caught (Table 6-13). Approximately 64 percent of the mortality can be attributed to the recreational fishery based on the data shown in Table 6-13(note, these percentages are not shown in the table).

Table 6-13. 2025 Shelf complex and vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. estimated non-trawl commercial (comm.) and recreational (rec.) mortality, and percent of mortality relative to the non-trawl share of the fishery HG or ACL contribution to the complex. (PacFIN, RecFIN, and CRFS, data pulled 2/19/2026). Commercial values do not include discard mortality.

	Limit	Comm. mortality (mt)	Rec. mortality (mt)	Sum of mortality (mt)	Percent (%) of limit
Non-trawl share of shelf rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. HG	1,256	136.9	377.1	514.0	41%
Vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. ACL contribution to Complex	274.3	104.4	183.1	287.5	105%

Over the last five years, the recreational fishery, on average, has been responsible for approximately 70 percent of total mortality S. of 40°10' N. lat. (Table 6-14). Given this information, it could be reasonably expected that the recreational fishery is the main driver of vermilion/sunset rockfish mortality off California. Therefore, an ACT specific to the recreational sector may reduce the risk of negative impacts to this stock.

Table 6-14. Vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. recreational and non-trawl commercial estimated mortality off California. Commercial values from 2021-2024 are total mortality from the GEMM. 2025 are landings without discards from PacFIN. Total recreational mortality data are from CRFS and RecFIN. Recreational estimates from 2025 are preliminary year-end totals.

Vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat.	2021 (mt)	2022 (mt)	2023 (mt)	2024 (mt)	2025 (mt)	2025 ACL contribution to the complex (mt)
Non-Trawl Commercial	67.9	85.3	106.7	93.4	104.4	274.3
Recreational	234.2	208.7	291.2	160.0	183.1	

6.4.1 No Action

Vermilion/sunset rockfish remain in the shelf rockfish complex, north and south of 40°10' N. lat. Table 6-15 shows the 2025 harvest specifications and the estimated, preliminary, mortality information. The ACL contribution to the complex was exceeded by an estimated 13.1 mt, or 105 percent.

Table 6-15. No Action: 2025 Shelf rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat. and vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat. recreational and commercial preliminary estimated mortality compared to the applicable harvest limits. For the shelf complex, the limit is the non-trawl HG. For vermilion/sunset rockfish, the limit is the ACL contribution to the shelf complex. Values in metric tons (mt). Data from PacFIN and CDFW 1/6/2026.

	2025 Limit (mt)	2025 mortality (mt)	Percent attainment (%)
Shelf rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat.			
Shelf rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat.	1,256	514.0	41%
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. ACL contribution to Complex</i>	274.3	287.4	105%

6.4.2 Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, an ACT is considered for vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. In recent biennium, the vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. ACL contribution to the complex has been informally split between the non-trawl commercial and recreational fisheries. The historical sharing arrangement will continue and the recreational vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. Under option 1, the ACT will be set as the ACL contribution to the complex minus 100 mt. The breakdown with the recreational ACT for 2027-28 are shown in Table 6-16

Table 6-16. Alternative 1: Draft vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat. recreational annual catch target (ACT) with respect to the Alternative 1 overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) for the shelf rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat. Values in metric tons (mt).

Shelf Rockfish Complex S. of 40°10' N. lat.	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
OFL	1,832	1,831
ABC	1,457	1,453
ACL	1,456	1,453
HG	1,446	1,443
<i>Vermilion/Sunset rockfish ACL Contribution</i>	268.0	264.4
ACT south of 40°10' N. lat.	168.0	164.4

ACT Considerations

The Council did not recommend a range of ACTs for analysis; therefore, the following range for a vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. ACT is proposed for initial consideration: No ACT (status quo), and a recreational ACT set as the ACL contribution to the complex minus the anticipated 100 mt non-trawl commercial mortality (Table 6-17). This analysis assumes the vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. ACL contributions are 268.0 mt and 264.4 mt in 2027-28, respectively.

Proposed Options:

- **Option 1:** Status Quo. A vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. ACT would not be established for the recreational sector. All sectors would utilize the shared vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. ACL contribution to the shelf rockfish complex.
- **Option 2:** A vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. ACT would be established for the recreational sector south of 40° 10' N. lat. The recreational ACT will be set as the ACL contribution to the complex minus the anticipated 100 mt of non-trawl commercial mortality. Therefore, the ACT would be 168.0 mt in 2027 and 164.4 mt in 2028. If the ACT is exceeded, or projected to be exceeded, the Council will consider recreational management measures to mitigate impacts on vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. and determine if inseason adjustments are necessary.

If the ACT were exceeded/projected to be exceeded, the expectation is that the Council would be notified at the relevant Council meeting under the groundfish inseason agenda item by the GMT and/or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Table 6-17 shows the calculated ACTs based on the proposed options.

Table 6-17. Proposed ACT Options for vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. for the 2027-28 biennial period based on the proposed vermilion/sunset rockfish ACL contribution to the shelf rockfish complex S. of 40°10' N. lat. minus 100 mt.

Options	Year	ACL contribution to Complex (mt)	ACT (mt)
Option 1: Status Quo: No Change from No Action	2027	268.0	NA
	2028	264.4	NA
Option 2: Recreational ACT	2027	268.0	168.0
	2028	264.4	164.4

Option 1 would maintain the status quo and a recreational ACT for vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat. would not be created. The Council would only be notified if the shelf rockfish complex S. of 40°10' N. lat. fishery HG was exceeded or projected to be exceeded. Option 1 may be more desirable if the Council takes a precautionary approach in setting the California recreational seasons. Option 2 would institute the recreational ACT and may be more desirable if the Council takes a less restrictive approach in setting the California recreational seasons. Option 2 would allow the Council to more closely monitor recreational fishery mortality and consider inseason responses, if needed. Option 2 does not specify what, if any, inseason response will be taken but all routine inseason management measures would be available (bag limit including no retention, depth, season closure, etc.).

6.4.3 Alternative 2

Under Alternative 2, the vermilion/sunset rockfish ACT is the same as described under Alternative

6.5 Recreational Lingcod South of 40° 10' N. lat. ACT

During the overwinter analysis, California recreational season structure options were analyzed where an ACT for lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat. may prove beneficial to help ensure this stock meets but does not exceed federal harvest guidelines. Options for a recreational ACT for lingcod were analyzed for Council consideration.

Lingcod is currently managed as a single stock south of 40° 10' N. lat. The allocation for lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat. is split between trawl and non-trawl with 60% to non-trawl. There is no formal allocation scheme to distribute the non-trawl portion to the fishery sectors; therefore, the non-trawl fishery HG is shared between the non-trawl commercial and recreational sectors. The 2025-26 non-trawl Fishery HG for lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat. is 441.8 mt and 456.9 mt, respectively (Table 6-18). At the time of this writing, Alternatives 1 and 2 are the same for lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat. The 2027-28 non-trawl Fishery HGs are 472.1 and 476.3, respectively.

Table 6-18. 2025-2026 Lingcod S. of 40°10' N lat. harvest specifications.

Lingcod S of 40°10' N lat.	2025	2026
OFL	897	937
ABC	768	795
ACL	748	773
Fishery HG	736.4	761.5
Non-trawl allocation	441.8	456.9

The 2025 non-trawl commercial and recreational mortality for lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat. are shown in Table 6-19. In 2025, approximately 82.8 percent of the non-trawl HG was caught (Table 6-19). The recreational fishery accounts for the majority of mortality. Approximately 85.6 percent of the mortality can be attributed to the recreational fishery based on the data shown in Table 6-19 (note, these percentages are not shown in the table). Given this information, it could be reasonably expected that the recreational fishery is the main driver of lingcod mortality S. of 40°10' N. lat. Therefore, an ACT specific to the recreational sector may reduce the risk of exceeding the ACL.

Table 6-19. 2025 lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat. estimated non-trawl commercial (comm.) and recreational (rec.) mortality, and percent of mortality relative to the non-trawl share of the fishery. (PacFIN, RecFIN, and CRFS, data pulled 2/19/2026). Commercial values do not include discard mortality.

	Limit	Comm. mortality (mt)	Rec. mortality (mt)	Sum of mortality (mt)	Percent (%) of limit
Non-trawl allocation lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat. HG	441.8	52.5	313.5	366	82.8%

6.5.1 No Action

Under No Action, lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat. would not have an ACT and would be managed utilizing the shared commercial and recreational non-trawl Fishery HG for lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat.

6.5.2 Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, the California recreational fishery will consider a lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat. ACT. Historically, the lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat. non-trawl fishery HG has been distributed to the fishery using an informal sharing arrangement between the recreational and commercial non-trawl sectors S. of 40°10' N. lat. Therefore, to facilitate this analysis, it is assumed that this informal historical sharing arrangement will continue and the recreational lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat. ACT will be set as 387.1 mt for 2027 and 391.3 mt for 2028. The breakdown with the recreational ACT for 2027-28 are shown in Table 6-20

Table 6-20. Alternative 1: Draft lingcod S of 40°10' N. lat. recreational annual catch target (ACT) with respect to Alternative 1 overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), annual catch limit (ACL), and the fishery harvest guideline for non trawl.

Lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat.	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
OFL	966	984
ABC	812	820
ACL	789	796
Non-trawl Fishery HG	472.1	476.3
<i>Recreational ACT</i>	387.1	391.3

ACT Considerations

The Council did not recommend a range of ACTs for analysis; therefore, the following range for a recreational lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat. ACT is proposed: No ACT (status quo), and a recreational ACT of 387.1 mt for 2027 and 391.3 mt for 2028 based on the informal historical sharing agreement. This analysis assumes the non-trawl Fishery HGs for lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat. for 2027-28 are 472.1 mt and 476.3 mt, respectively. Table 6-21 shows the ACTs based on the proposed options.

Proposed Options:

- **Option 1:** Status Quo. lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat. would not have an ACT and would be managed utilizing the shared commercial and recreational 2027-28 non-trawl Fishery HG for lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat.
- **Option 2:** A lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat. would be established for the recreational sector S. of 40°10' N. lat. The recreational ACT would be 387.1 mt for 2027 and 391.3 mt for 2028 based on the informal historical sharing agreement. If the ACT is exceeded, or projected to be exceeded, the Council will consider recreational management measures to mitigate impacts on lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat. and determine if inseason adjustments are necessary.

If the ACT were exceeded/projected to be exceeded, the expectation is that the Council would be notified at the relevant Council meeting under the groundfish inseason agenda item by the GMT and/or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Table 6-21. Proposed ACT Options for lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat. for the 2027-28 biennial period.

Option	Year	Fishery HG (mt)	Rec ACT (mt)
Option 1: Status Quo: No Change from No Action	2027	472.1	NA
	2028	476.3	NA
Option 2: Recreational California ACT	2027	472.1	387.1
	2028	476.3	391.3

Option 1 would maintain the status quo and a recreational ACT for lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat. would not be created. The Council would only be notified if the non-trawl fishery HG was exceeded or projected to be exceeded. Option 1 may be more desirable if the Council takes a precautionary approach in setting the California recreational seasons. Option 2 would institute the recreational ACT and may be more desirable if the Council takes a less restrictive approach in setting the California recreational seasons. Option 2 would allow the Council to more closely

monitor recreational fishery mortality and consider inseason responses, if needed. Option 2 does not specify what, if any, inseason response will be taken but all routine inseason management measures would be available (bag limit including no retention, depth, season closure, etc.).

6.5.3 Alternative 2

Under Alternative 2, the lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat. ACT is the same as described under Alternative 1.

7. Action Item 7: Allocations

7.1 Amendment 21 and Biennial Allocations

The Council allocates the fishery HGs for most stocks and stock complexes to the trawl and non-trawl sectors via formal ([Amendment-21](#), A21) or biennial allocation structures, as detailed in Section 6.3 of the FMP. In general, the allocations are considered “hard caps.” In that, if a sector’s allocation is projected to be exceeded or is exceeded, the Council may contemplate management actions to mitigate overages for that sector and species, which can include closing the sector.

7.1.1 No Action

Table 7-1 shows the 2025 allocation attainment for Amendment 21 and biennial stocks and stock complexes. Of the allocated stocks and stock complexes, trawl allocation attainment of greater than 50 percent was achieved for six stocks; whereas, non-trawl allocation of greater than 50 percent was achieved for three stocks. The majority, as shown in Table 7-1, of stocks and stock complexes for both the trawl and non-trawl sectors attained less than 40 percent of their allocation in 2025.

Table 7-1. No Action: 2025 Amendment 21 and biennial trawl/non-trawl allocation percentages (%) and allocation amounts in metric tons (mt) (source PacFIN 1/6/2026)

Stock/Stock Complex	FMU	Trawl				Non-Trawl			
		%	2025 Alloc. (mt)	2025 Attain (mt)	% Attain	%	2025 Alloc. (mt)	2025 Attain (mt)	% Attain
Yelloweye rockfish	CW	8	3.3	1.2	36.4%	92	37.9	16.9	44.8%
Arrowtooth flounder	CW	95	8,643.1	928.2	10.7%	5	454.9	24.1	5.3%
Big skate	CW	95	1,106.4	30.9	2.8%	5	58.2	5.0	8.6%
Bocaccio	S of 40°10' N. lat.	39	652.5	367.7	56.3%	60	1,020.7	249.3	24.4%
Canary rockfish	CW	72.3	367.4	226.7	61.7%	27.7	140.7	105.0	74.6%
Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat.	75	2,090.8	901.6	43.1%	25	696.9	141.0	20.2%
Cowcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	36	23.9	5.2	21.8%	64	42.6	1.3	3.1%
Darkblotched rockfish	CW	95	693.3	236.4	34.1%	5	36.5	4.1	11.2%
Dover sole	CW	95	43,547.9	3,674.6	8.4%	5	2,292.0	3.0	0.1%
English sole	CW	95	8,235.9	218.7	2.7%	5	433.5	0.0	0.0%
Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	45	1,507.5	384.6	25.5%	55	1,842.4	591.6	32.1%
Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	40	294.4	57.3	19.5%	60	441.7	267.5	60.5%
Longnose skate	CW	90	1,228.9	451.5	36.7%	10	136.5	40.1	29.4%
Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	95	1,901.0	24.4	1.3%	5	100.1	2.5	2.5%
Pacific cod	CW	95	1,043.7	3.5	0.3%	5	54.9	2.2	4.0%
Pacific Ocean perch	N of 40°10' N. lat.	95	3,023.4	305.0	10.1%	5	159.1	0.4	0.3%
Pacific whiting	CW	100	243,054	238,792.5	81.4%	0	0	0.5	-
Petrale sole a	CW	-	2,005.5	2,011.2	100.2%	-	30	36.7	125.6%
Sablefish	N. of 36 N. lat.		See §9.1.1						

Stock/Stock Complex	FMU	Trawl				Non-Trawl			
		%	2025 Alloc. (mt)	2025 Attain (mt)	% Attain	%	2025 Alloc. (mt)	2025 Attain (mt)	% Attain
Sablefish	N. of 36 N. lat.		See §9.3.1						
Shortspine thornyhead	CW	71	475.7	269.5	56.7%	29	267.5	104.3	39.0%
Splitnose rockfish	S of 40°10' N. lat.	95	1,419.2	31.7	2.2%	5	74.7	0.0	0.0%
Starry flounder	CW	50	187.7	0.3	0.01%	50	187.7	1.0	0.5%
Widow rockfish a/	CW	-	10,718.7	10,049.8	93.8%	-	300.0	21.6	7.2%
Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat.	88	4,590.2	1,880.8	41%	12	625.9	108.2	17.3%
Stock Complexes									
Other flatfish	CW	90	7,022.4	270.8	3.9%	10	780.3	44.5	5.7%
Shelf rockfish north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	60.2	761.0	249.2	32.8%	39.8	503.2	33.7	6.7%
Shelf rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	12.2	174.5	39.5	22.6%	87.8	1,255.9	396.9	31.6%
Slope rockfish north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	81	1,158.3	235.1	20.3%	19	271.7	40.0	14.7%
Slope rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	-	424.6	52.3	12.3%	-	249.3	74.0	29.7%

7.1.2 Alternative 1

Table 7-2 shows the draft 2027-28 Alternative 1 trawl/non-trawl allocations based on default HCR specifications for Amendment 21 and biennial stocks and stock complexes. The trawl/non trawl allocation percentages (Table 7-2) are the same as under No Action.

The Council is considering changes to the widow rockfish and slope rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat., see §7.2 and §7.3, respectively.

Table 7-2. Alternative 1: Draft 2027-28 Amendment 21 and biennial trawl/non-trawl allocation percentages (%) and allocation amounts in metric tons (mt) derived from the Alternative 1 fishery harvest guidelines (HG). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Year	Stock/Stock Complex	Management Area	Fishery HG (mt)	Allocation Type	Trawl		Non-Trawl	
					%	mt	%	mt
2027	YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	92.6	Biennial	8	7.4	92	85.2
2028	YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	92.8	Biennial	8	7.4	92	85.4
2027	Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	5,879.5	A-21	95	5,585.5	5	294.0
2028	Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	5,062.8	A-21	95	4,809.7	5	253.1
2027	Big skate	Coastwide	1,105.8	Biennial	95	1,050.5	5	55.3
2028	Big skate	Coastwide	1,072.8	Biennial	95	1,019.2	5	53.6
2027	Bocaccio	south of 40°10' N. lat.	2,284.9	Biennial	39	891.9	60	1,393.8
2028	Bocaccio	south of 40°10' N. lat.	2,182.1	Biennial	39	851.0	60	1,331.1
2027	Canary rockfish	Coastwide	549.5	Biennial	72.3	397.3	27.7	152.2
2028	Canary rockfish	Coastwide	566.5	Biennial	72.3	409.6	27.7	156.9
2027	Chilipepper	south of 40°10' N. lat.	2,980.6	A-21	75	2,235.5	25	745.2
2028	Chilipepper	south of 40°10' N. lat.	2,864.1	A-21	75	2,148.1	25	716.0
2027	Cowcod	south of 40°10' N. lat.	73.3	Biennial	36	26.4	64	46.9

Year	Stock/Stock Complex	Management Area	Fishery HG (mt)	Allocation Type	Trawl		Non-Trawl	
					%	mt	%	mt
2028	Cowcod	south of 40°10' N. lat.	72.0	Biennial	36	25.9	64	46.1
2027	Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	751.9	A-21	95	714.3	5	37.6
2028	Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	733.2	A-21	95	696.6	5	36.7
2027	Dover sole	Coastwide	37,026.2	A-21	95	35,174.9	5	1,851.3
2028	Dover sole	Coastwide	34,069.6	A-21	95	32,366.1	5	1,703.5
2027	English sole	Coastwide	2,956.0	A-21	95	2,808.2	5	147.8
2028	English sole	Coastwide	2,956.0	A-21	95	2,808.2	5	147.8
2027	Lingcod	north of 40°10' N. lat.	3,212.9	A-21	45	1,445.8	55	1,767.1
2028	Lingcod	north of 40°10' N. lat.	3,170.1	A-21	45	1,426.6	55	1,743.6
2027	Lingcod	south of 40°10' N. lat.	786.8	Biennial	40	314.7	60	472.1
2028	Lingcod	south of 40°10' N. lat.	793.8	Biennial	40	317.5	60	476.3
2027	Longnose skate	Coastwide	1,303.8	Biennial	90	1,173.4	10	130.4
2028	Longnose skate	Coastwide	1,272.4	Biennial	90	1,145.2	10	127.2
2027	Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,833.9	A-21	95	1,742.2	5	91.7
2028	Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,789.3	A-21	95	1,699.9	5	89.5
2027	Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,099.9	A-21	95	1,044.9	5	55.0
2028	Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,099.9	A-21	95	1,044.9	5	55.0
2027	Pacific Ocean perch	north of 40°10' N. lat.	2,987.6	A-21	95	2,838.2	5	149.4
2028	Pacific Ocean perch	north of 40°10' N. lat.	2,900.3	A-21	95	2,755.3	5	145.0
2027	Pacific whiting a/	Coastwide	-	A-21	100	-	0	-
2028	Pacific whiting a/	Coastwide	-	A-21	100	-	0	-
2027	Petrale sole b/	Coastwide	2,108.4	Biennial	-	2,078.4	-	30
2028	Petrale sole b/	Coastwide	2,082.1	Biennial	-	2,052.1	-	30
	<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>north of 36° N. lat.</i>	See §9.1.2					
	<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>south of 36° N. lat.</i>	See § 9.3.2					
2027	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	784.3	Biennial	71	556.9	29	227.4
2028	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	793.3	Biennial	71	563.2	29	230.1
2027	Splitnose rockfish	south of 40°10' N. lat.	615.9	A-21	95	585.1	5	30.8
2028	Splitnose rockfish	south of 40°10' N. lat.	615.9	A-21	95	585.1	5	30.8
2027	Starry flounder	Coastwide	377.8	A-21	50	188.9	50	188.9
2028	Starry flounder	Coastwide	377.8	A-21	50	188.9	50	188.9
2027	Widow rockfish b/ c/	Coastwide	4,595.4	Biennial	-	4,295.4	-	300.0
2028	Widow rockfish b/ c/	Coastwide	4,797.4	Biennial	-	4,497.4	-	300.0
2027	Yellowtail rockfish	north of 40°10' N. lat.	3,175.8	A-21	88	3,269.9	12	445.9
2028	Yellowtail rockfish	north of 40°10' N. lat.	3,533.4	A-21	88	3,109.4	12	424.0
Stock Complexes								
2027	Shelf rockfish north	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,293.3	Biennial	60.2	778.6	39.8	514.7
2028	Shelf rockfish north	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,284.1	Biennial	60.2	773.0	39.8	511.1
2027	Shelf rockfish south	south of 40°10' N. lat.	1,446.7	Biennial	12.2	176.5	87.8	1,270.2
2028	Shelf rockfish south	south of 40°10' N. lat.	1,453.2	Biennial	12.2	176.1	87.8	1,267.3

Year	Stock/Stock Complex	Management Area	Fishery HG (mt)	Allocation Type	Trawl		Non-Trawl	
					%	mt	%	mt
2027	Slope rockfish north	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,572.8	A-21	81	1,273.9	19	298.8
2028	Slope rockfish north	north of 40°10' N. lat..	1,256.9	A-21	81	1,256.9	19	294.8
2027	Slope rockfish south d/	south of 40°10' N. lat.	697.0	Biennial	-	537.5	-	140.4
2028	Slope rockfish south d/	south of 40°10' N. lat.	696.0	Biennial	-	537.1	-	139.8
2027	Other flatfish	Coastwide	6,451.7	A-21	90	5,806.5	10	645.2
2028	Other flatfish	Coastwide	1,293.3	A-21	90	5,460.9	10	606.8

a/ Pacific whiting harvest limits are set through an annual bilateral treaty process external to the Council.

b/ Petrale sole and widow rockfish are allocated at 30mt and 300 mt, respectively, to the non-trawl sector and the remainder to the trawl sector

c/ Widow rockfish harvest specifications have not been adopted; these values are the 2025 results and are used for preliminary analysis and represent the low 'bookend'.

d/ Slope rockfish allocation process shown at §3.5.2

7.1.3 Alternative 2

Table 7-3 shows the draft 2027-28 Amendment 21 and biennial allocations for stocks and stock complexes considered under Alternative 2. Within-non-trawl allocations are discussed in Section 1.6 below. The Alternative 2 allocation percentages shown in Table 7-3 are the same as under Alternative/ The Council is considering revisions to the widow rockfish and slope rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat, which are detailed in Sections 7.2 and 7.3, respectively.

Table 7-3. Alternative 2: Amendment 21 and biennial trawl/non-trawl allocation types, percentages (%) and allocation amounts in metric tons (mt) under Alternative 2 harvest control rules. Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Year	Stock/Stock Complex	Management Area	Fishery HG (mt)	Allocation Type	Trawl		Non-Trawl	
					%	mt	%	mt
2027	YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	72.7	Biennial	8	5.8	92	66.9
2028	YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	72.7	Biennial	8	5.8	92	66.9
2027	Canary rockfish	Coastwide	586.5	Biennial	72.3	424.0	27.7	162.5
2028	Canary rockfish a	Coastwide	607.5	Biennial	72.3	439.2	27.7	168.3
2027	Chilipepper	south of 40°10' N. lat.	1,960.3	A-21	75	1,470.2	25	490.1
2028	Chilipepper	south of 40°10' N. lat.	1,960.3	A-21	75	1,470.2	25	490.1
2027	Petrable sole a/	Coastwide	2,148.1	Biennial		2,118.1	-	30
2028	Petrable sole a/	Coastwide	2,148.1	Biennial	-	2,118.1	-	30
2027	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	839.3	Biennial	71	585.9	29	243.4
2028	Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	839.3	Biennial	71	585.9	29	243.4
2027	Widow rockfish a/ b/	Coastwide	9,553.9	Biennial	-	9,253.9	-	300
2028	Widow rockfish a/ b/	Coastwide	9,054.6	Biennial	-	8,754.6	-	300
2027	Yellowtail rockfish	north of 40°10' N. lat.	4,043.1	A-21	88	3,557.9	12	485.2
2028	Yellowtail rockfish	north of 40°10' N. lat.	3,723.1	A-21	88	3,276.3	12	446.8
Stock Complexes								
2027	Shelf rockfish	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,216.5	Biennial	60.2	732.4	39.8	484.2
2028	Shelf rockfish	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,216.1	Biennial	60.2	732.4	39.8	484.0

Year	Stock/Stock Complex	Management Area	Fishery HG (mt)	Allocation Type	Trawl		Non-Trawl	
					%	mt	%	mt
2027	Slope rockfish north	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,039.4	A-21	81	841.9	19	197.5
2028	Slope rockfish north	north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,036.2	A-21	81	831.3	19	196.9
2027	Slope rockfish south c/	south of 40°10' N. lat	686.8	Biennial	-	528.2	-	139.5
2028	Slope rockfish south c/	south of 40°10' N. lat.	684.0	Biennial	-	526.2	-	138.7

a/ Petrale sole and widow rockfish are allocated at 30mt and 300 mt, respectively, to the non-trawl sector and the remainder to the trawl sector

b/ Widow rockfish harvest specifications have not been adopted; these values are the 2023 update assessment results and are used for preliminary analysis and represent the high 'bookend'.

c/ Slope rockfish allocation process shown at §4.3.2

7.1.4 Comparison of Alternative 1 to Alternative 2 Allocations.

Table 7-4 shows the trawl/non-trawl allocations for stocks/stock complexes considered under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. The pattern of increase and decrease of allocations is linked to the pattern of increase and decrease of the ACLs and HGs.

Table 7-4. Comparison of trawl and non-trawl allocations for stocks considered under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 showing the percent (%) increase of Alternative 2 relative to Alternative 1.

Year	Stock	Trawl				Non-trawl			
		Alt 1 (mt)	Alt 2 (mt)	Diff (mt)	% inc/dec. Trawl	Alt 1 (mt)	Alt 2 (mt)	Diff (mt)	% inc/dec non-trawl
2027	YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	7.4	5.8	-1.6	-21.6%	85.2	66.9	-18.3	-21.5%
2028		7.4	5.8	-1.6	-21.6%	85.4	66.9	-18.5	-21.7%
2027	Canary rockfish	397.3	424	26.7	+6.7%	152.2	162.5	+10.3	+6.8%
2028		409.6	439.2	29.6	+7.2%	156.9	168.3	+11.4	+7.3%
2027	Chilipepper S of 40°10' N. lat.	2,235.5	1470.2	-765.3	-34.2%	745.2	490.1	-255.1	-34.2%
2028		2,148.1	1,470.2	-677.9	-31.6%	716	490.1	-225.9	-31.6%
2027	Petracle sole	2,078.4	2,118.1	+39.7	+1.9%	30.0	30.0	0.0	0.0%
2028		2052.1	2,118.	+65.9	+3.2%	30.0	30.0	0.0	0.0%
2027	Shortspine thornyhead	556.9	585.9	+29.0	+5.2%	227.4	243.4	+16.0	+7.0%
2028		563.2	585.9	+22.7	+4.0%	230.1	243.4	+13.3	+5.8%
2027	Widow rockfish	4,295.4	9,253.9	+4,958.5	+115.4%	300.0	300.0	0.0	0.0%
2028		4497.4	8,754.6	+4,257.2	+94.7%	300.0	300.0	0.0	0.0%
2027	Yellowtail rockfish N of 40° 10' N. lat.	3,254.0	3,557.9	+303.9	+9.3%	443.7	485.2	+41.5	+9.4%
2028		3,093.5	3,276.3	+182.8	+5.9%	421.8	446.8-	+25.0	+5.9%
2027	Shelf rockfish N of 40°10' N. lat.	778.6	732.4	-46.2	-5.9%	514.7	484.2	-30.5	-5.9%
2028		773	732.1	-40.9	-5.3%	511.1	484.0	-27.1	-5.3%
2027	Slope rockfish N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,273.9	841.9	-432.0	-33.9%	298.8	197.5	-101.3	-33.9%
2028		1,256.9	831.3	-425.6	-33.9%	294.8	196.9	-97.9	-33.2%
2027	Slope rockfish S of 40°10' N. lat.	439.5	432.7	-6.8	-1.5%	258.1	254.1	-4.0	-1.5%
2028		437.5	430.9	-6.6	-1.5%	257	253.1	-3.9	-1.5%

Conclusion

The trawl/non-trawl allocation amounts for yelloweye rockfish, chilipepper rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat., the shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat., and the slope rockfish complexes north and south of 40°10' N. lat. are higher under Alternative 1 than Alternative 2. Whereas, the allocation amounts for canary, and yellowtail (north of 40°10' N. lat.) rockfishes, and shortspine thornyhead are higher under Alternative 2 than Alternative 1. The Trawl allocation for widow rockfish and petrale sole are higher under Alternative 2 than Alternative 1, noting the non-trawl allocation is static and does not change for these stocks.

7.2 Widow Rockfish Allocation Considerations

7.2.1 Background

At the November 2025 Council meeting ([Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2](#)), the GMT identified that the 2027-28 widow rockfish trawl allocations are expected to be lower than that sector's mortality in recent years under any potential annual catch limit (ACL; Table 7-5 and Table 7-6). At the time of development of this analysis, the Council has yet to adopt the harvest specifications for widow rockfish for 2027-28 due to ongoing consideration of the stock assessment. Therefore, based on the Council's guidance in November, the GMT analyzed two wide “bookends” to encompass the impacts from a low and high ACL (see Table 7-5). The low bookend is from the October 2025 “Proposed new widow rockfish base model and changes from August 2025 (Table 4 in [Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 3, November 2025](#))”. The high bookend is from the [2023 Catch-only Projection](#). Once the Council has adopted an assessment for use in management, and thus default and alternative harvest specifications are available, this analysis will be updated as appropriate.

During the 2021-22 biennial process, the Council adopted an allocation change to widow that changed the non-trawl sector allocation from 9 percent of the fishery HG to a fixed amount of 400 mt, with the remaining amount allocated to trawl. Per [Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 2, April 2020](#), the reason for this change in allocation structure was “to shift more allocation to the IFQ sector where attainments are high, but at the same time to provide enough cushion for the non-trawl sector as to not constrain them.” In the 2025-26 biennial process, the Council lowered the non-trawl allocation to 300 mt on the recommendation of the [GAP](#) and [GMT](#), with the 100 mt reallocated to trawl. Thus, the No Action 2025 allocation of the widow rockfish fishery harvest guideline (HG) is 300 mt to the non-trawl sector and the remainder allocated to the trawl sector.

All sectors of the groundfish fishery catch widow rockfish. The majority of widow rockfish mortality is attributed to the IFQ sector since it is a main target species of the midwater rockfish trawl fishery. The at-sea and shoreside whiting fisheries also encounter them as bycatch species. Both the commercial and recreational non-trawl fisheries catch widow rockfish as well.

In recent years, catch controls on some groundfish (e.g., canary and quillback rockfishes) have led to increased landings of widow rockfish in the commercial non-trawl fishery with the allowance of non-bottom contact gear, as well as an expansion of the deepwater or long-leader recreational fisheries in Oregon, and use of offshore-only seasons in the California recreational fishery. Offshore-only fisheries require that anglers fish seaward of a designated RCA line, likely increasing effort in areas where widow rockfish are more frequently encountered. Expanding

access to additional depths in the California recreational fishery is also likely to increase mortality of widow rockfish in the recreational sector. Since mortality estimates for widow rockfish in the Washington recreational fishery were only produced beginning in 2023, there is limited information for Washington recreational impacts. However, the estimates that are available since 2023 are less than 10 mt, so they have minimal impact on overall non-trawl projections.

7.2.2 Trawl/Non-trawl Allocation

Although widow rockfish mortality in the commercial non-trawl and recreational fisheries has been increasing, non-trawl mortality has continued to be well below the 300 mt allocation (Table 7-6). Therefore, with the high likelihood of over 90 percent attainment of the trawl allocation, the following options were analyzed for the 2027-28 widow rockfish trawl/non-trawl allocations:

- **Option 1 Status Quo:** a fixed 300 mt of the fishery HG is allocated to the non-trawl sector and the remainder is allocated to trawl.
- **Option 2:** a fixed 150 mt of the fishery HG is allocated to the non-trawl sector and the remainder is allocated to trawl.

Table 7-5. Two-year trawl/non-trawl allocation options for widow rockfish in 2027 and 2028 using two bookends for the widow rockfish ACL (mt). Values are rounded to the nearest whole number for clarity.

Bookends	Option	2027			2028		
		HG (mt)	Trawl allocation (mt)	Non-trawl allocation (mt)	HG (mt)	Trawl allocation (mt)	Non-trawl allocation (mt)
No Action (2025)		11,019	10,719	300	-	-	-
Alternative 1 October 2025 “new widow rockfish base model”, Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 3, November 2025 (ABC = ACL, P* 0.45)	Option 1	4,595	4,295	300	4,797	4,497	300
	Option 2		4,445	150		4,647	150
Alternative 2 2023 Catch-only Projection (ABC = ACL, P* 0.45)	Option 1	9,554	9,254	300	9,055	8,755	300
	Option 2		9,404	150		8,905	150

Table 7-6. Trawl/non-trawl allocations, mortality, and attainments for widow rockfish from 2019-2025. GF = Groundfish. For commercial non-trawl total mortality in 2025, a 3-year-average of discard mortality from the GEMM was added to PacFIN 2025 landings. Values are rounded to the nearest whole number. Data Source: GEMM total mortality, PacFIN, NPAC, and RecFIN.

Year	ACL	Fishery HG (mt)	Total Directed GF Mort. (mt)	Trawl			Non-trawl		
				Alloc. (mt)	Total Mort. (mt)	Attain. (%)	Alloc. (mt)	Total Mort. (mt)	Attain. (%)
2019	11,831	11,583	9,552	10,540	9,523	90	1,042	29	3
2020	11,199	10,951	8,428	9,965	8,418	84	986	10	1

Year	ACL	Fishery HG (mt)	Total Directed GF Mort. (mt)	Trawl			Non-trawl		
				Alloc. (mt)	Total Mort. (mt)	Attain. (%)	Alloc. (mt)	Total Mort. (mt)	Attain. (%)
2021	14,725	14,477	10,881	14,077	10,869	77	400	12	3
2022	13,788	13,540	12,141	13,140	12,120	92	400	21	5
2023	12,624	12,386	11,028	11,986	10,996	92	400	31	8
2024	11,482	11,244	9,732	10,844	9,704	89	400	27	7
2025	11,237	11,019	10,096	10,719	10,057	94	300	39	13

Impacts

7.2.3 Trawl Fishery

Widow rockfish is an important target species in the midwater rockfish fishery, which is a portion of the Shorebased IFQ fishery (Chapter 12). It is also caught in sizable amounts as bycatch in the shoreside whiting fishery. Trawl attainment (IFQ and at-sea combined) from 2019 through 2025 has averaged 88 percent of past trawl allocations, equating to approximately 10,000 mt per year (Table 7-6). For perspective, the Alternative 1 low bookend value, under either allocation option, is approximately half of the average mortality for the trawl sector in the past seven years (4,295 mt under Option 1 and 4,445 mt under Option 2; Table 7-5). The recent trawl mortality still exceeds the proposed ACL under Alternative 2, the high bookend value, suggesting that the trawl fishery is likely to be constrained even under the higher ACL (under either allocation option) compared to recent years.

Table 7-9 shows the projected widow catch in the IFQ fisheries with a low and high projection corresponding to the results of the lowest and highest possible IFQ allocations, respectively, based on the range of trawl/non-trawl allocation options and at-sea set-aside options. Refer to Tables A-11 through A-14 in Appendix B, Widow rockfish for more in-depth examination of impacts to the trawl sector (particularly midwater). The proposed low bookend HCR is likely to result in significant constraints to the trawl fishery and may result in either or both of the IFQ and trawl allocations being exceeded in 2027-28 (Table 7-9 below and Table A-11 in Appendix B, Widow rockfish). In contrast, the high HCR bookend (i.e., Alternative 2) is less constraining regardless of the allocation option.

Option 1 does not alter the allocation structure and provides no additional tonnage to the sector. Option 2 increases the total trawl allocation by 150 mt, which is approximately a three percent increase to the trawl sector allocation under Alternative 1. While this Option provides minimal tonnage to the sector when compared to the scale of the trawl allocation, it is measurable and may provide relief to some IFQ participants. Incremental increases to quota pound (QP) accounts have the potential to provide more fluidity in the QP market compared to Option 1, which could provide more flexibility for fishery participants. In addition, the shoreside whiting fleet would have more flexibility to prosecute their fishery in a less risk averse manner under Option 2, given that the fleet has caught an annual 440-932 mt of widow rockfish bycatch in any given year since 2019 (Table 7-8). However, based on an analysis of IFQ annual vessel limit differences under the two options as described in Table A-14 in Appendix B, Widow rockfish), it would likely require both the allocation shift (Option 2) and a lowering of the at-sea set aside to lessen the impacts from IFQ annual vessel limit constraints.

Ultimately, the impacts to the trawl fishery related to widow rockfish are more driven by the ACL alternative than the allocation alternative. While the additional tonnage reallocation under allocation Option 2 could provide some flexibility to the trawl fleet (e.g., provide more fluidity in the QP market), the main driver is the overall scale of widow rockfish available.

7.2.4 Non-Trawl Fishery

Table 7-11 shows the projected widow catch in the non-trawl fisheries with a low, medium, and high projection corresponding to the results of different Options in the non-trawl commercial trip limits and the recreational season and bag limits.

Commercial

The commercial non-trawl sector would see no difference in impacts compared to No Action under Option 1 under either ACL alternative. However, Option 2 represents a 50 percent reduction to the HG, which has the possibility of constraining this sector but is dependent on the continued expansion potential of the non-trawl fishery. Widow rockfish harvest in the commercial non-trawl fishery has steadily increased in recent years with the allowance of groundfish troll gear within the non-trawl RCA, especially in the Open Access (OA) sector (Table 7-10). Discussions with GAP members have indicated that further expansion of the commercial non-trawl fishery is expected in future years, but the degree to which it will expand is uncertain. Establishing markets and learning new gears (i.e., non-bottom contact) can take time. Opportunities in other fisheries like salmon may also continue to drive effort into the fishery, particularly off northern California. GAP members have also mentioned that OA groundfish opportunities, such as trolling for widow rockfish, are crucially important in northern California ports. These ports are constrained by the lack of a salmon fishery to which other areas along the West Coast have access.

Recreational

In the recreational sectors, widow rockfish catch is highly driven by RCA depth limits off California, indicating that if recreational anglers can access the areas where widow rockfish are found, mortality would increase. For example, the 5-year high of mortality for the California recreational fishery occurred in 2023 (Table 7-7, below). This high of 11.1 mt coincides with the offshore and brief all-depth opportunities in the fishery that year. As the Council considers expanding recreational access to additional depths in California, further increases in widow rockfish mortality is likely.

The long-leader fishery (660.351, 660.360(c)(2)(1)(B), and 660.360(c)(2)(iii)(B)) off Oregon had been increasing in popularity amongst Oregon anglers over the years. This recreational fishery offers anglers higher bag limits seaward of the 40-fathom regulatory line. Rockfish primarily caught in this fishery include canary, widow and yellowtail rockfishes. In 2025, interest in this fishery decreased, as a one-fish sub-bag limit of canary rockfish had been implemented. As such, total mortality of widow rockfish from the Oregon recreational fishery decreased in 2025 (Table 7-73).

Table 7-7. Widow rockfish estimated recreational mortality from Washington, Oregon, and California, from 2021 – 2025. Data are from GEMM (2021-2024) and RecFIN (2025).

Year	WA	OR	CA
2021	NA	3.5	3.6
2022	NA	4.2	7.5
2023	3.4	8.2	11.1
2024	6.9	4.1	3.0
2025 a/	2.2	3.6	5.3

a/ data from 2025 are preliminary for Oregon.

With only three years of species-specific removals data for widow rockfish from Washington recreational fisheries, there is not enough data to infer trends or even assess year-to-year variability. Fishing effort in the Washington recreational sector has been relatively stable over the last decade with only a mild increasing trend, but it is always possible for effort to increase in the future or for the removals of any particular species to increase as availability to the fishery for other species changes.

Table 7-8 Widow rockfish landings, ex-vessel revenue, average price per pound, and number of vessels in each IFQ trawl fishery between 2019-2025. Average price per pound is calculated using only fish sold for human consumption and not personal use. Note that there may be overlap in the number of vessels between each fishery since one vessel may participate in all three of these IFQ trawl fisheries and thus count towards each fishery in which it participates. Data source: PacFIN accessed on 2/12/2026.

Year	IFQ bottom trawl & non-trawl				IFQ Shorebased whiting				IFQ Midwater rockfish			
	Landings (mt)	Ex Ves. Rev. (AFI)	Ave. Price per lb.	Vessels	Landings (mt)	Ex Ves. Rev. (AFI)	Ave. Price per lb.	Vessels	Landings (mt)	Ex Ves. Rev. (AFI)	Ave. Price per lb.	Vessels
2019	37.2	\$32,394	\$0.38	44	902.6	\$464,821	\$0.24	27	8,344.6	\$6,038,004	\$0.45	27
2020	79.8	\$58,893	\$0.31	44	660.6	\$187,250	\$0.12	28	7,531.6	\$4,094,128	\$0.28	28
2021	106.3	\$72,927	\$0.30	39	501.8	\$190,030	\$0.10	25	10,137.8	\$6,123,198	\$0.31	25
2022	118.3	\$86,629	\$0.36	43	931.6	\$384,102	\$0.15	26	10,854.7	\$7,371,946	\$0.35	26
2023	85.8	\$57,837	\$0.34	43	466.7	\$188,028	\$0.12	27	10,225.4	\$6,289,002	\$0.34	27
2024	29.7	\$22,644	\$0.36	37	438.4	\$196,907	\$0.16	23	9,157.4	\$4,853,127	\$0.32	23
2025	44.2	\$39,690	\$0.43	38	666.8	\$322,742	\$0.09	25	9,276.5	\$5,196,278	\$0.33	25

Table 7-9. Projections of widow rockfish catch in the combined IFQ trawl fisheries under each alternative and option for 2027 and 2028 compared to No Action (2025). The “LOW” and “HIGH” projections represent the lowest and highest possible IFQ allocations, respectively, based on the range of trawl/non-trawl allocation options and at-sea set-aside options. Data Source: Catch projections are based on data from the [NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database](#); see more details in Table A-23 Appendix B, Widow rockfish.

No Action (2025)		IFQ Catch (mt)		IFQ Attainment	
		10,021		96%	
Bookends		2027		2028	
		Projected Catch (mt)	Projected Attainment	Projected Catch (mt)	Projected Attainment
Alternative 1	LOW	4,260	107%	4,295	106%
	HIGH	4,529	105%	4,497	105%
Alternative 2	LOW	8,704	97%	8,257	98%
	HIGH	8,928	97%	8,526	97%

Table 7-10.. Widow rockfish landings, ex-vessel revenue, average price per pound, and number of vessels in each commercial non-trawl fishery between 2019-2025. Average price per pound is calculated using only fish sold for human consumption and not personal use. Note that for a vessel to be considered “Limited Entry” it must have a registered limited entry permit with either a longline or pot/trap endorsement (50 CFR 660.211 “Limited entry fixed gear fishery”). Data Source: PacFIN accessed on 2/12/2026.

Year	LE Non-Trawl				OA Non-Trawl			
	Landings (mt)	Ex Ves. Rev. (AFI)	Ave. Price per lb.	Vessels	Landings (mt)	Ex Ves. Rev. (AFI)	Ave. Price per lb.	Vessels
2019	1.2	\$7,926	\$2.35	16	0.7	\$5,492	\$2.97	38
2020	0.7	\$3,107	\$2.00	21	1.8	\$12,575	\$2.66	60
2021	0.7	\$2,965	\$1.95	15	3.9	\$23,034	\$2.30	53
2022	1.0	\$5,015	\$2.06	14	7.5	\$37,535	\$2.82	59
2023	0.5	\$1,902	\$1.25	12	6.6	\$28,368	\$2.63	63
2024	1.7	\$8,186	\$2.51	17	11.2	\$57,221	\$2.72	50
2025	1.2	\$9,951	\$2.77	20	11.0	\$59,226	\$2.52	65

Table 7-11. Non-trawl projected mortality and attainment for widow rockfish for 2027-2028 with high and low bookends. All values are in metric tons (mt) unless otherwise specified. Commercial projections are based on the non-trawl trip limit options in Chapter13, Widow Rockfish section. Recreational projections are based GEMM mortality in the last 5 years. Data Source: GEMM, PacFIN, and RecFIN. Data accessed 2/20/2026.

Option	Commercial			Recreational			Total Mortality			Non-Trawl Alloc.	Attainment (%)		
	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Med.	High		Low	Med.	High
Option 1 (SQ)	15.3	20.6	44.3	5.7	15	37.2	21	35.6	81.5	300	7	12	27
Option 2	15.3	20.6	44.3	5.7	15	37.2	21	35.6	81.5	150	14	24	54

7.2.5 Tradeoffs

As previously stated, the trawl fishery will likely be constrained by a reduction in the widow rockfish ACL regardless of allocation option chosen. Individual vessels that target midwater rockfish will likely be heavily impacted by this reduction, as well as shoreside whiting vessels that catch widow rockfish as bycatch. Option 2 provides some relief to the fishery by slightly increasing the amount of quota pounds available in IFQ accounts, which could lead to more fluidity in the QP market. Additional quota available on the market under Option 2 may allow shoreside whiting vessels to operate in a less risk averse manner. This may result in shoreside whiting vessels being less likely to hold onto quota to insure themselves against high bycatch amounts late in the season, in turn resulting in a more liquid quota market for widow rockfish. However, for vessels targeting and catching the largest amounts of widow rockfish, the 2027 IFQ vessel limit would still constrain 13 vessel accounts from catching what they caught in 2025 even under Option 2 (Table A-1 Appendix B, Widow rockfish). Under Option 1, 14 vessel accounts would be constrained, indicating that Option 2 would allow one additional vessel account to catch their 2025 amount of widow rockfish. Additionally, Option 2 is unlikely to prevent an exceedance of the IFQ or trawl allocation if the ACL is set at a very low amount (Alternative 1), as the IFQ model projects the widow rockfish IFQ allocation being exceeded under the lowest HCR bookend regardless of management option.

While Option 2 (150 mt from the current non-trawl allocation to trawl) is only a three percent increase to the trawl allocation under ACL Alternative 1 (the October 2025 “new widow rockfish base model”), it is also a 50 percent reduction in the non-trawl allocation. Therefore, while the 150 mt increase could provide a small benefit to the trawl sector, it could also potentially limit non-trawl fisheries; depending on the degree of expansion in those fisheries. Looking at a range of projections based on different effort levels and recent mortality, Table 13-29 in Chapter 13 indicate that 150 mt would be sufficient for non-trawl expansion within this biennium.

However, these projections only depict a retroactive analysis of landings/catch from current participants and are inherently limited. For example, if five more non-trawl Limited Entry (LE) commercial participants were to enter the fishery and attain 80 percent of the SQ trip limit, then the 150 mt would be exceeded. As previously stated above, discussions with industry indicate participants may have been slow to utilize the non-bottom contact gear to fish within the RCA, but use of this gear to target widow rockfish is expected to increase. Currently, there are less than three vessels that have attained 80 or more percent of the SQ trip limit, but that could change with shifts in markets and the ability to fish in areas that have been closed. If widow rockfish effort and/or participation appeared to increase in the non-trawl fishery, the GMT would consider whether trip limit adjustments are necessary to stay within the non-trawl allocation. This would be the case under Option 1 or Option 2. Since widow rockfish trawl/non-trawl allocations are reviewed on a biennial cycle, further non-trawl expansion in future biennia could be considered in those allocation discussions. Should the non-trawl sector be constrained by widow rockfish in future biennium because of this allocation shift, any amount moved from non-trawl to trawl could be returned to the non-trawl sector in future allocation discussions.

7.3 Status Quo Allocation of Slope rockfish Complex South of 40° 10' N. lat. and Informal Sharing Agreement for Blackgill Rockfish.

The Council is reconsidering the allocation methodology for Slope Rockfish Complex south of 40° 10' N. lat. (hereinafter “SRCS”) under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. The following assumes status quo (i.e., No Action) allocation methods as detailed in the Appendix to this section.

7.3.1 Background

Following the results of the 2011 benchmark assessment for blackgill rockfish (Field and Pearson, 2011), the Council began an action to remove blackgill rockfish from the SRCS under Amendment 26. The Council considered Amendment 26 in 2021; however, ultimately, under final action in November 2021, the amendment was not adopted. To address concerns raised during the Amendment 26 process relating to trawl and non-trawl targeting of blackgill rockfish and other slope species, the Council adopted a specialized allocation method in the 2021-22 biennial specification cycle. The allocation approach was intended to address differing sector needs. The non-trawl sector, historically, landed a greater proportion of blackgill rockfish, while the trawl sector relied more heavily on the other species within the slope rockfish complex (Table 1). In order to ensure a system that equitably apportioned these stocks to the sectors, the GMT developed an allocation method that utilizes an informal sharing process of blackgill rockfish and the other rockfish species in the SRCS, as detailed in [Agenda Item H.8.a Supplemental GMT Report 2, November 2019](#), which is incorporated by reference. The methodology uses a series of proportional calculations to determine the allocations.

The 2025-26 allocation was 79.2 percent trawl and 20.8 percent non-trawl for the SRCS; however, during the 2027-28 overwinter analysis, Staff noticed an error in the calculations. In brief, the calculation process used for allocation of the SRCS. mistakenly placed the off-the-top set aside below the fishery HG based on the sharing agreement. The off-the-top process, as noted in the FMP, is intended for off-the-top set-asides to be removed from the ACL and not the HG. Staff corrected the methodology as detailed in the Appendix. Briefly, the corrected method subtracts the off-the-top amount from the SRCS ACL and then the “blackgill math” is integrated into the allocation process. The revised version of these calculations results in no functional difference in amounts, i.e., less than .001 mt.

7.3.2 No Action

The No Action allocation of the slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat. and informal shares of blackgill rockfish is shown in Table 7-12 (corrected allocation method).

Table 7-12. No Action 2025 slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat. (SRCS) biennial allocations in metric tons (mt) as a complex and as shares of blackgill rockfish and the other slope rockfish complex component species using the status quo sharing agreement percentages (%) for the trawl (T) and non-trawl (NT) sectors. Annual catch limit = ACL

Step	Category	2025 calculations
1	SRCS ACL (mt)	693.1
2	Blackgill Rockfish (RF) ACL contribution (mt)	163.7
3	SRCS ACL - Blackgill RF ACL contribution (mt)	529.4
4	Percent of blackgill RF in SRCS (%)	23.6%

Step	Category	2025 calculations	
5	Percent of other slope RF in SRCS (%)	76.4%	
6	SRCS set-aside (mt)	19.1	
7	Estimated blackgill RF set-aside (mt)	4.5	
8	Estimated other slope RF in the SRCS complex set-aside (mt)	14.6	
9	Blackgill RF share (mt) “HG”	159.2	
10	Other slope RF complex share (mt) “HG”	514.8	
		T	NT
11	Blackgill RF allocation of HG: 41% T, 59% NT (mt)	65.3	93.9
12	Slope RF allocation of HG: 91% T, 9% NT (mt)	468.5	46.3
13	Allocation of the SRCS (mt)	533.7	140.3
14	Allocation of the SRCS (%)	79.2%	20.8%

It is important to note that in the 2025-26 biennium, this allocation scheme defaulted to the allocation scheme prior to 2021 of 63 percent trawl and 37 non-trawl. However, the low trawl and non-trawl attainments of this complex, on the order of 10 percent for trawl and 30 percent for non-trawl, did not result in overages.

7.3.3 Alternative 1

The Alternative 1 allocation/sharing agreement for SRCS and blackgill rockfish (within the slope complex) is the same as No Action. The trawl/non-trawl allocation, as detailed in Table 7-13, is 79.3 percent trawl and 20.7 percent non-trawl in 2027 and 79.4 percent trawl and 20.6 percent non-trawl in 2028.

Table 7-13. Alternative 1: 2027-28 draft trawl (T) and non-trawl (NT) slope rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. biennial allocations in metric tons (mt) as a complex. Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Step	Category	2027		2028	
1	SRCS ACL (mt)	699.2		696.0	
2	Blackgill Rockfish (RF) ACL contribution (mt)	163.6		162.2	
3	SRCS ACL - Blackgill RF ACL contribution (mt)	535.6		533.8	
4	Percent of blackgill RF in SRCS (%)	23.4%		23.3%	
5	Percent of other slope RF in SRCS (%)	76.7%		76.7%	
6	SRCS set-aside (mt)	1.5		1.5	
7	Estimated blackgill RF set-aside (mt)	0.4		0.3	
8	Estimated other slope RF in the SRCS complex set-aside (mt)	1.1		1.2	
9	Blackgill RF share (mt) “HG”	163.3		161.9	
10	Other slope RF complex share (mt) “HG”	534.4		532.7	
		T	NT	T	NT
11	Blackgill RF allocation of HG: 41% T, 59% NT (mt)	66.9	96.3	66.4	95.5
12	Slope RF allocation of HG: 91% T, 9% NT (mt)	486.4	48.1	484.7	47.9
13	Allocation of the SRCS (mt)	553.3	144.4	551.0	143.4
14	Allocation of the SRCS (%)	79.3%	20.7%	79.4%	20.7%

7.3.4 Alternative 2

The Alternative 2 biennial trawl/non-trawl allocation method is the same as No Action. The alternative HCR for rougheye/blackspotted rockfish reduce the overall ACL for the complex and thus change the allocation to the sectors (Table 7-14). The trawl/non-trawl allocation is 79.1 percent trawl and 20.9 percent non-trawl in 2027. In 2028, the trawl allocation is 79.2 percent and non-trawl allocation is 20.8 percent

Table 7-14. Alternative 2: 2027-28 draft trawl and non-trawl blackgill rockfish and slope rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. biennial allocations and estimated blackgill rockfish and 'other rockfish' slope complex shares in metric tons (mt) using methods described at 2.5.1.

Step	Category	2027		2028	
1	SRCS ACL (mt)	688.3		685.5	
2	Blackgill Rockfish (RF) ACL contribution (mt)	163.6		162.2	
3	SRCS ACL - Blackgill RF ACL contribution (mt)	524.7		523.3	
4	Percent of blackgill RF in SRCS (%)	23.8%		23.7%	
5	Percent of other slope RF in SRCS (%)	76.2%		76.3%	
6	SRCS set-aside (mt)	1.5		1.5	
7	Estimated blackgill RF set-aside (mt)	0.36		0.36	
8	Estimated other slope RF in the SRCS complex set-aside (mt)	1.1		1.2	
9	Blackgill RF share (mt) "HG"	163.2		161.9	
10	Other slope RF complex share (mt) "HG"	523.6		522.2	
		T	NT	T	NT
11	Blackgill RF allocation of HG: 41% T, 59% NT (mt)	66.9	96.3	66.4	95.5
12	Slope RF allocation of HG: 91% T, 9% NT (mt)	476.4	47.1	475.2	47.0
13	Allocation of the SRCS (mt)	543.4	143.4	541.5	142.5
14	Allocation of the SRCS (%)	79.1%	20.9%	79.2%	20.8%

7.3.5 Comparison of Allocations under the Alternatives

As shown in Table 7-15, under the alternatives, the blackgill rockfish contribution to the SRCS is the same under both alternatives. The difference in allocation amounts is a result of the different contributions of rougheye/blackspotted rockfish to the complex under the Alternatives. Under Alternative 1, rougheye/blackspotted rockfish contributes 17 mt to the complex; whereas, under Alternative 2, rougheye/blackspotted rockfish contributes 6 mt to the complex. Thus, the overall difference is under Alternative 1 the trawl non-trawl allocations are higher than under Alternative 2. However, the difference between the two alternative is less than two percent for trawl and less than 1 percent for non-trawl.

Table 7-15. Comparison of 20207-28 blackgill rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat. and other slope rockfish complex shares, as derived from the allocation scheme for these groups, under all Alternatives.

Year	Alt 1 Allocations (mt)		Alt 2 Allocations (mt)		Alt 1/Alt 2 % diff.	
	T	NT	T	NT	T	NT
2027	553.3 (79.3%)	144.4 (20.7%)	543.4 (79.1%)	143.4 (20.8%)	1.8%	0.7%
2028	551.0 (79.4%)	143.4 (20.7%)	541.5 (79.2%)	142.5 (20.7 %)	1.7%	0.6%

Conclusion: The two alternatives differ by 11 mt overall, which is equivalent to the difference between the rougheye/blackspotted rockfish contributions under the Alternatives. This amount translates into the Alternative 1 trawl allocation being 10mt higher than the Alternative 2 trawl allocation. For non-trawl, the difference between the two non-trawl allocations is about a metric ton. The allocation percentages are similar across the alternatives, with about a 0.1 percent difference in the trawl and non-trawl allocations

7.3.1 Allocation Option Considerations for the slope rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat and blackgill rockfish

7.4 Allocation Options 2027-28

The Council is considering whether the current allocation method for the SRCS still serves its intended purpose or whether it can be improved. The current method is detailed under §1.1.1. The Council is currently considering three options; note, the options were reorganized from the motion to remain consistent with the alternatives under consideration

- Option 1: Status quo, 63 percent trawl, 37 percent non-trawl
- Option 2: “Blackgill math” status quo methodology
- Option 3: 52 percent trawl, 48 percent non-trawl
- Option 4 “Blackgill math” using five year mortality average

For clarity, the 2027-28 SRCS ACL and blackgill rockfish contribution to this complex are shown Table 7-16

Table 7-16: 2027-28 slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat. annual catch limit (ACL) and blackgill rockfish contribution to this complex in metric tons under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2

Year	Alternative	Slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat. ACL (mt)	Blackgill rockfish ACL contribution (mt)	Other Rockfish in slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat. ACL (mt)
2027	1	699.2	163.6	535.6
2028		696.0	162.2	533.8
2027	2	688.3	163.6	524.7
2028		685.5	162.2	523.3

Recent mortality, is shown in Table 7-17. Comparison of the trawl/non-trawl allocations (Table 7-16) to the five-year mortality (Table 7-17) reveals that mortality for both sectors has been well under the allocation amounts projected under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2.

Table 7-17. Recent total mortality of the slope complex (other slope) south of 40°10' N. lat. by sector (GEMM, 2025).

Year	Trawl (mt)	Non-trawl (mt)
2020	44	23
2021	48	33
2022	66	34
2023	29	55
2024	46	79
Average	47	45

The allocation methodology, i.e., ‘blackgill math,’ is designed to address the concerns of the non-trawl sector regarding blackgill rockfish . When this allocation methodology was developed, non-trawl targeted blackgill rockfish more so than the other species in the SRCS Table 7-18 shows the estimated mortality of blackgill rockfish and the other species in the SRCS for 2020-24.

Table 7-18. Recent mortality of blackgill rockfish and other species excluding blackgill rockfish in the slope complex (other slope) south of 40°10' N. lat. by sector (GEMM, 2025).

Year	Trawl Mortality				Non-Trawl Mortality			
	Blackgill RF (mt)	Blackgill RF%	Other Slope RF (mt)	Other Slope RF %	Blackgill RF (mt)	Blackgill RF %	Other Slope RF (mt)	Other Slope RF%
2020	9	32%	35	87%	18	68%	5	13%
2021	6	19%	42	89%	28	81%	5	11%
2022	38	60%	28	75%	25	40%	9	25%
2023	18	41%	11	28%	25	59%	30	72%
2024	13	24%	33	47%	42	76%	37	53%
average	17	35%	30	65%	28	65%	17	35%

Since the initial proposal of this allocation approach, non-trawl sector mortality for SRCS has increased relative to the trawl sector (Table 7-18). These changes likely reflect increased non-trawl access on the shelf for both recreational and commercial fisheries, along with a shift of trawl effort north of 40°10' N. lat. ([Agenda Item F.7, Attachment 1, November 2025](#)).

7.4.1 Option 1: 63 percent trawl, 37 percent non-trawl

Option 1 is the allocation although never formally adopted by the Council was used for the 2025-26 biennium and is a straight-forward approach to the allocation. The allocation would be 63 percent trawl and 37 percent non-trawl of the SRCS HG. The allocation amounts of the SRCS, including the blackgill rockfish and the other slope rockfish “shares” under Option 1, compared to recent mortality, are shown in Table 7-19 under the alternatives.

The analysis of Option 1 indicates that the trawl shares blackgill rockfish would be approximately six times higher than the five-year average trawl sector mortality (Table 7-17) and the non-trawl shares would be approximately three times higher than recent non-trawl five-year average mortality (Table 7-17). The other rockfish shares in the trawl and non-trawl sectors are about 15 times higher than the five-year average mortality (Table 7-17). However, these mortality percentages were based on historic mortality prior to 2020 and the fisheries have changed in recent years as indicated and the basis for Option 3 presented below.

Table 7-19. Estimated allocation amounts in metric tons of blackgill rockfish shares and ‘other’ slope rockfish shares under the Alternatives for Option 1 (63 percent trawl/37 percent non-trawl) compared to the five-year average sector specific mortality for these components of the slope rockfish complex south of 40°10’ N. lat.

	Alternative 1				Alternative 2			
	2027		2028		2027		2028	
	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)
<i>Blackgill rockfish ‘shares’</i>								
Opt 1	103.1	60.5	102.2	60.0	103.1	60.5	102.2	60.0
5 yr ave. mort.	17	28	17	28	17	28	17	28
<i>Other slope rockfish ‘shares’</i>								
Opt 1	337.4	198.2	336.3	197.5	330.6	194.1	329.7	193.6
5 yr ave mort.	30	17	30	17	30	17	30	17

7.4.2 Option 2: Blackgill Math

Option 2 reflects the current allocation methodology, as described in the Appendix. This method takes into account blackgill rockfish and the ‘other’ slope rockfish species in the SRCS as separate components when allocating the complex. Comparison of the five year average mortality of blackgill rockfish and the ‘other’ slope rockfish to the estimated trawl and non-trawl shares (Table 7-20) shows that the estimated allocations are well above the average mortality of blackgill rockfish and the ‘other’ slope rockfish in the SRCS

Across the alternatives, blackgill rockfish shares are nearly four times more than the five-year average mortality (Table 7-17) in the trawl sector and three time higher than five-year average (Table 7-17) for non-trawl. Under Option 2, the shares of ‘other’ slope rockfish for trawl and non-trawl are approximately 16 times higher in the trawl sector and three times higher in the non-trawl sector than five-year average mortality (Table 7-17)

Table 7-20. Estimated allocation amounts in metric tons of blackgill rockfish shares and ‘other’ slope rockfish shares under the Alternatives for Option 2 compared to the five-year average sector specific mortality

	Alternative 1				Alternative 2			
	2027		2028		2027		2028	
	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)
<i>Blackgill rockfish ‘shares’</i>								
Opt 2	66.9	96.3	66.4	95.5	66.9	96.3	66.4	95.5

	Alternative 1				Alternative 2			
	2027		2028		2027		2028	
	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)
5 yr ave mort.	17	28	17	28	17	28	17	28
<i>Other slope rockfish 'shares'</i>								
Opt 2	486.4	48.1	484.7	47.9	476.4	47.1	475.2	47.0
5 yr ave mort.	30	17	30	17	30	17	30	17

7.4.3 Option 3: 52 percent trawl and 48 percent non-trawl

Option 3 is a straight-forward allocation approach in which trawl would be allocated 52 percent and non-trawl would be allocated 48 percent of the SRCS fishery HG. The percentages calculated using the most recent five year trawl/ non-trawl average mortality of the slope complex south of 40° 10' N. lat. The Option 3 allocations compared to five-year average are shown in Table 7-21 under the alternatives. The analysis of Option 3 indicates that the trawl shares of blackgill rockfish are approximately six times higher than the five-year average mortality for blackgill rockfish and about three times higher for the non-trawl sector. The shares of the other slope stocks are about 10 times higher than the five-year average in the trawl sector and about 15 times higher in the non-trawl sector. Option 3 is not expected to constrain the fishery but does take the changes in the fishery into account when compared to Option 1.

Table 7-21. Estimated allocation amounts in metric tons of blackgill rockfish shares and ‘other’ slope rockfish shares under the Alternatives for Option 3 compared to the five-year average sector specific mortality

	Alternative 1				Alternative 2			
	2027		2028		2027		2028	
	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)
<i>Blackgill rockfish 'shares'</i>								
Opt 3	85.1	78.5	84.3	77.9	85.1	78.5	84.3	77.9
5 yr ave mort.	17	28	17	28	17	28	17	28
<i>Other slope rockfish 'shares'</i>								
Opt 3	278.5	257.1	277.6	256.2	272.1	251.9	272.1	251.2
5 yr ave mort.	30	17	30	17	30	17	30	17

7.4.4 Option 4: “Blackgill Math” using five year mortality average

The GMT recommended a new Option for Council consideration. This Option uses the ‘blackgill math method as presented in Option 2 but modifies the allocation of blackgill rockfish and the allocation of other rockfish in the SRCS (i.e., rows 11 and 12). Since the initial proposal of this unique allocation approach, non-trawl sector mortality for slope rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat. has increased relative to the trawl sector (Table 178). These changes likely reflect increased non-trawl access on the shelf for both recreational and commercial fisheries, along with a shift in trawl effort north of 40°10' N. lat. (Agenda Item F.7, Attachment 1, November 2025). Therefore, the modified allocation is calculated by using the average five year mortality of the stocks in the

fishery to generate the allocation percentages. Blackgill rockfish allocations, under Option 4, are 35 percent trawl and 65 percent non-trawl. The other slope rockfish in the SRCS are 65 percent trawl and 35 percent non-trawl. The overall SRCS allocation is shown in Table 7-22.

Table 7-22. Estimated allocation amounts in metric tons of blackgill rockfish shares and ‘other’ slope rockfish shares under the Alternatives for Option 4 compared to the five-year average sector specific mortality

	Alternative 1				Alternative 2			
	2027		2028		2027		2028	
	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)
<i>Blackgill rockfish ‘shares’</i>								
Opt 4	57.1	106.1	56.6	105.2	57.1	106.1	56.6	105.2
5 yr ave mort.	17	28	17	28	17	28	17	28
<i>Other slope rockfish ‘shares’</i>								
Opt 4	347.4	187.0	346.2	186.4	340.3	183.2	339.4	182.8
5 yr ave mort.	30	17	30	17	30	17	30	17

7.5 Comparison of Options

The allocation percentages under the Options are shown in Table 7-23. A key concept to remember is Option 2 and Option 4 rely on complex methods to generate the shares of blackgill rockfish and the other rockfish in the SRCS that is respective of past fishing mortalities. Option 1 and Option 3 are simple, straightforward percentages and do not take into account the dynamics of the trawl and non-trawl fisheries at the target stock level; whereas, Option 2 and Option 4 are reflective of the fishery behavior. Option 4 retains the previously adopted allocation structure while updating the proportions for blackgill rockfish and the “other slope rockfish” complex using the most recent five-year average mortality by sector (Table 722). This approach best meets the needs of each sector by allocating the majority of the other slope rockfish complex to the trawl sector and the majority of blackgill rockfish to the non-trawl sector. As shown in Table 718, mortality of the slope complex is trending toward an even (50/50) distribution between sectors, and the GMT may analyze a simplified allocation structure during the next biennium. None of the options are intended to constrain the fisheries, although this could change with upcoming stock definitions or future stock assessments.

Table 7-23. Allocation percentages (%) for the slope rockfish complex south of 40°10’ N. lat. under the Options and Alternatives.

Option	Trawl	Non Trawl
1	63%	37%
2	79%	21%
3	52%	48%
4	58%	42%

Table 7-24 compares the estimated blackgill rockfish shares under the Options and the Alternatives. Option 1 provides the most blackgill rockfish to the trawl sector; whereas, Option 4 provides the most blackgill rockfish to the non-trawl sector.

Table 7-24. Estimated amount of blackgill rockfish to the trawl and non-trawl sectors under the Alternatives and the allocation Options in metric tons (mt)

Option	Alternative 1				Alternative 2			
	2027		2028		2027		2028	
	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl(mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)
1	103.1	60.5	102.2	60.0	103.1	60.5	102.2	60.0
2	66.9	96.3	66.4	95.5	66.9	96.3	66.4	95.5
3	85.1	78.5	84.3	77.9	85.1	78.5	84.3	77.9
4	57.1	106.1	56.6	105.2	57.1	106.1	56.6	105.2

Table 7-25 compares the estimated shares of the other slope rockfish in the SRECS under the Options and the Alternatives. Option 2 provides the most other slope rockfish in the SRCS to the trawl sector; whereas, Option 1 provides the most other slope rockfish in the SRCS to the non-trawl sector.

Table 7-25. Estimated amount of other slope rockfish in the slope rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat. to the trawl and non-trawl sectors under the Alternatives and the allocation Options in metric tons (mt)

Option	Alternative 1				Alternative 2			
	2027		2028		2027		2028	
	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl(mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)	Trawl (mt)	Non Trawl (mt)
1	337.4	198.2	336.3	197.5	330.6	194.1	329.7	193.6
2	486.4	48.1	484.7	47.9	476.4	47.1	475.2	47.0
3	278.5	257.1	277.6	256.2	272.1	251.9	272.1	251.2
4	374.4	187.0	346.2	186.4	340.3	183.2	339.4	182.8

Appendix to Section 7.3

Corrected Allocation Methodology:

This following is the method used to support the allocation structure of Option 1. The allocation method is a complex process that established trawl/non-trawl shares of blackgill rockfish and trawl/non-trawl shares of the remaining rockfish in the SRCS based on the Amendment 26 allocation design. The Table A-1 below uses No Action harvest specifications for SRCS and its component stocks as reference.

In brief, the process to calculate the allocation and relies on a proportional sharing agreement of a blackgill rockfish component within the SRCS and the remaining rockfish stocks in that complex. Table A-1 shows the 2025 calculated trawl and non-trawl shares for blackgill rockfish and other slope species within the SRCS. The corrected method is shown below

The blackgill rockfish ABC/ACL contribution to slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat.

- 1) The SRCS ACL
- 2) The blackgill rockfish ABC/ACL contribution to the Slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N.
- 3) Subtract blackgill rockfish ABC/ACL from SRCS to obtain the ABC/ACL of non-blackgill (other) rockfish in the complex
- 4) Calculate the proportion of blackgill rockfish in the SRCS (Divide #1 by #2)
- 5) Calculate the proportion of the remaining slope rockfish in the SRCS (Divide #3 by #2)
- 6) The total set-aside for the Slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat
- 7) Calculate the set aside of blackgill rockfish set-aside –(multiply #1 by #4)
- 8) Calculate the set aside of other stocks in slope rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat. – (multiply #3 by #5)
- 9) Calculate the blackgill rockfish “shares”–(subtract #7 from #1)
- 10) Calculate the “shares” of the other stocks in slope rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat. (subtract #8 from #3)
- 11) Calculate the shares allocation of blackgill rockfish – 41% trawl, 59% non-trawl
- 12) Calculate the shares allocation of other slope rockfish – 91% trawl, 9 % non-trawl
- 13) Overall metric tons of SRCS total trawl and non-trawl allocations (adding #11 to #12, but sector)
- 14) Overall percentages of the trawl and non-trawl allocations for the SRCS (sector amount/summed sector amounts X 100)

Table A-1. 2025 Slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat. biennial allocations in metric tons (mt) as a complex and as shares of blackgill rockfish and the other slope rockfish complex component species using the status quo sharing agreement percentages (%). Values rounded to nearest 10th of a metric ton. Annual catch limit = ACL; RF=rockfish

Step	Category	2025 calculations
1	SRCS ACL	693.1

Step	Category	2025 calculations	
2	Blackgill rockfish ABC/CL contribution (mt)	163.7	
3	SRCS ACL - Blackgill rockfish ABC/ACL (mt)	529.4	
4	Percent of blackgill rockfish in slope rockfish complex (%)	23.6%	
5	Percent of other slope rockfish in SRCS (%)	76.4%	
6	SRCS ACL set-aside (mt)	19.1	
7	Estimated blackgill rockfish set-aside (mt)	4.5	
8	Estimated other slope rockfish (mt)	14.6	
9	Blackgill rockfish share (mt) "HG"	159.2	
10	Other slope rockfish complex share (mt) "HG"	514.8	
		Trawl	Non-trawl
11	Blackgill rockfish allocation of HG: 41% T, 59% NT (mt)	65.3	93.9
12	Slope rockfish allocation of HG: 91% T, 9% NT (mt)	468.5	46.3
13	Allocation of the SRCS (mt)	533.7	140.3
14	Allocation of the SRCS (%)	79.2%	20.8%

The allocation of the Slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat., based on the above method, is 79.2 percent trawl to 20.8 percent non-trawl.

In past biennia, the set-asides, as shown in rows 6, 7, and 8, were placed below rows 11 and 12.

INCORRECT Methodology

The following is the method used to support the allocation structure for slope rock fish complex south of 40°10' N. The allocation method is a complex process that established trawl/non-trawl shares of blackgill rockfish and trawl/non-trawl shares of the remaining rockfish in the slope rock fish complex south of 40°10' N. lat. based on the Amendment 26 action. Table A-2 below uses No Action harvest specifications for SRCS and its component stocks as reference.

- 1) The SRCS ACL
- 2) The blackgill rockfish ABC/ACL contribution to slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' n. lat.,
- 3) Calculate the sector 'shares' of blackgill rockfish at 41 percent to the trawl sector and 59 percent to the non-trawl sector.
- 4) Calculate the "other" slope rockfish ABC/ACL by subtracting the blackgill rockfish ABC/ACL from SRCS ACL
- 5) Calculate the sector 'shares' the other rockfish in the slope complex at 91 percent trawl and 9 percent non trawl
- 6) Estimate the trawl/non-trawl allocation of slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' n. lat by subtotalling Rows 3 and 4, the
- 7) Calculate the proportion of the blackgill rockfish ACL contribution to the SRCS
- 8) Set-aside for the slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' n. lat.,
- 9) The trawl/non-trawl percentages are multiplied against #8 to calculate the off the top for each sector and are subtracted from trawl/non-trawl subtotals (i.e., #6-#9)
- 10) The result is the SRCS allocation in mt
- 11) The proportion of trawl to non-trawl, in percent, allocations is calculated for the SRCS

The first step is to determine the blackgill rockfish contribution to the SRCS. The allocation percentages generated under Amendment 26 are applied to that amount (41 percent trawl, 59 percent non-trawl). The contribution of the remaining rockfish stocks in the complex are summed and the allocation percentages developed in Amendment 26 (91 percent trawl, 9 percent non-trawl) are applied. The result generates estimated “shares” of blackgill rockfish and other slope rockfish for trawl and non-trawl. These amounts are combined, by sector, constituting the trawl/non-trawl “HG.” The allocation is, using this method, 79.2 percent trawl and 20.8 percent non-trawl allocation. In order to take the off-the-top set-aside into account, these percentages are applied to the set-aside. The resulting amounts are subtracted from the allocation “HG” resulting in the total allocation, by weight, for the trawl/non-trawl sectors, for the complex and apportion it to the sectors based on the allocation amounts, or 533.7 mt and 140.3 mt, respectively.

Table A-2. Trawl (T) and non-trawl (NT) slope rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. biennial allocations in metric tons (mt) as a complex.

Step	Category	2025 (mt)	
1	Slope rockfish complex south ACL	693.1	
2	Blackgill rockfish ACL contribution (mt)	163.7	
3	Blackgill RF allocation of HG: 41% T, 59% NT (mt)	67.1 (trawl)	96.6 (non-trawl)
4	Slope rockfish complex south ACL - Blackgill rockfish ACL (mt)	529.4	
5	Other Slope rockfish allocation of HG: 91% T, 9% NT (mt)	481.8 (trawl)	47.6 (non-trawl)
6	Subtotal (mt)	548.9 (trawl)	144.2 (non-trawl)
7	Percent of ACL	79.2%	20.8%
8	Slope rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat. set aside (mt)	19.1	
9	Proportioned off the top, by sector (mt)	15.1	4.0
10	Final Trawl/Non-trawl Allocation (mt)	533.7	140.3
11	Final Trawl/Non-trawl Allocation percentages	79.2%	20.8%

- 1) The SRCS ACL
- 2) The blackgill rockfish ABC/ACL contribution to SRCS,
- 3) Calculate the sector ‘shares’ of blackgill rockfish at 41 percent to the trawl sector and 59 percent to the non-trawl sector.
- 4) Calculate the “other” slope rockfish ABC/ACL by subtracting the blackgill rockfish ABC/ACL from SRCS ACL
- 5) Calculate the sector ‘shares’ the other rockfish in the slope complex at 91 percent trawl and 9 percent non trawl
- 6) Estimate the trawl/non-trawl allocation of slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' n. lat by subtotaling Rows 3 and 4, the
- 7) Calculate the proportion of the blackgill rockfish ACL contribution to the SRCS
- 8) Set-aside for the slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' n. lat.,
- 9) The trawl/non-trawl percentages are multiplied against #8 to calculate the off the top for each sector and are subtracted from trawl/non-trawl subtotals (i.e., #6-#9)
- 10) The result is the SRCS allocation in mt
- 11) The proportion of trawl to non-trawl, in percent, allocations is calculated for the SRCS

8. Action Item 8: Further Allocations

Beyond the trawl/non-trawl allocations, there are be within-trawl and within-non-trawl allocations and sharing agreements. below HGs can be developed for specific sectors for single stocks and/or for stocks within a complex. The Council has developed HGs for stocks within complexes and state sharing agreements. HGs are a discretionary AM that do not require action if exceeded ([FMP §2.2](#)). Sharing agreements are generally an informal method of apportioning an HG to sub-sectors, e.g., commercial and recreational fisheries within the non-trawl sector. They are helpful in understanding sector, or state, specific impacts on a stock and/or a stock complex.

8.1 Cowcod

The within non-trawl cowcod south of 40°10' N. lat. is a 50:50 commercial/recreational sharing agreement (Table 8-1). The non-trawl sector attained almost 15 percent of the non-trawl cowcod south of 40°10' N. lat allocation. The commercial sector attained approximately 3.2 percent more than the recreational sector.

8.1.1 No Action

Table 8-1. No Action: 2025 cowcod south of 40°10' N. lat. annual catch limit (ACL), harvest guideline (HG), and within non-trawl sector allocations in metric tons (mt) to the commercial and recreational fisheries using the status quo sharing agreement percentages (%) and the attainments for each sector. PacFIN 2/12/2026.

Sector	2025 (mt)	2025 attainment (mt)	2025 attainment %
Non-Trawl (64%)	42.6	7.0	16.4%
Commercial (50%)	21.3	4.4	20.6%
Recreational (50%)	21.3	2.6	12.2%

8.1.2 Alternative 1

The Alternative 1 cowcod south of 40°10' N. lat. commercial non-trawl and recreational sharing agreement is shown in Table 8-2. The sharing agreement is the same as No Action

Table 8-2. Alternative 1: Draft 2027-28 cowcod south of 40°10' N. lat. annual catch limit (ACL), harvest guideline (HG), and within non-trawl sector allocations in metric tons (mt) to the commercial and recreational fisheries using the status quo sharing agreement percentages (%). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Sector	2025 (mt)	2026 (mt)
Non-Trawl (64%)	46.9	46.1
Commercial (50%)	23.5	23.1
Recreational (50%)	23.5	23.1

8.1.3 Alternative 2

Cowcod is not considered under Alternative 2

8.2 Bocaccio South of 40° 10' N. lat. Non-trawl Sharing Agreement

The within non-trawl allocation sharing agreement for bocaccio south of 40°10' N. lat. is 69.1 percent to California recreational fisheries and 30.9 percent to commercial fixed gear fisheries (Table 8-3). The commercial sector attained 62 percent of the non-trawl sharing agreement; whereas, the recreational sector attained 20 percent. The non-trawl allocation was not exceeded.

8.2.1 No Action

Table 8-3. No Action: 2025 bocaccio south of 40° 10' N. lat. within non-trawl for harvest guideline (HG) in metric tons (mt) for the commercial non-trawl and recreational sector using the status quo sharing agreement percentages (%). and the attainments for each sector. PacFIN 2/12/2026

Sector	2025 (mt)	2025 attainment (mt)	2025 attainment %
Non-trawl HG	1,020	342.2	28.4%
Commercial (30.9%)	315	127.6	40.5%
Recreational (69.1%)	705	162.5	23.1%

8.2.2 Alternative 1

The 2027-28 non-trawl commercial and recreational sharing agreement amounts for bocaccio south of 40°10' N. lat under Alternative 1 are shown in Table 8-4.

Table 8-4. Alternative 1: Draft 2027-28 bocaccio south of 40° 10' N. lat. within non-trawl for harvest guideline (HG) in metric tons (mt) for the commercial non-trawl and recreational sectors south of 40°10' N. lat. using the status quo sharing agreement percentages (%). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Sector	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
Non-trawl HG	1,393.8	1,331.1
Commercial (30.9%)	430.7	411.3
Recreational (69.1%)	963.1	919.8

8.2.3 Alternative 2

Cowcod is not considered under Alternative 2

9. Action Item 9: Sablefish

Sablefish is managed north and south of 36° N. lat. The dispersal of the harvest specifications for this stock is presented for clarity due to the importance of this stock and complexity of its allocation structure

9.1 Sablefish North of 36° N. lat.

Sablefish north of 36° N. lat. has tribal, EFP, research, and recreational set-asides per the [Amendment 6 \(A6\)](#) allocation framework (Figure 2), which is also described in [Section 6.3.2.1](#) of the FMP. Tribal set-asides are set at 10 percent of the sablefish north of 36° N. lat. ACL. EFP and research set-asides are set via the methods described above in Section 3. The recreational set-asides are adjusted biennially. Figure 2 provides the harvest disbursement to the non-tribal commercial fishery.

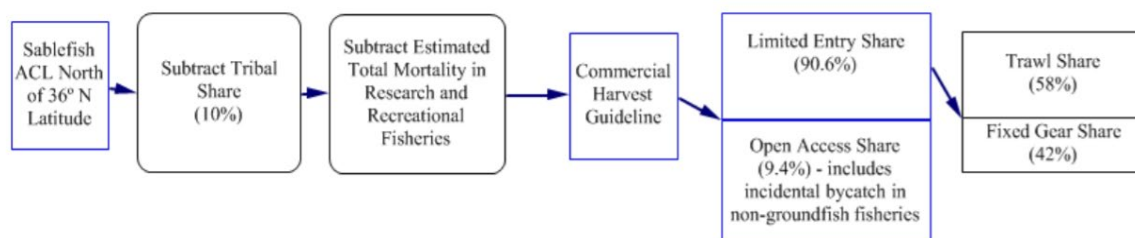


Figure 9-1. Allocation structure for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. (source Groundfish Fishery Management Plan

9.1.1 No Action

Table 9-1 provides the 2025 sablefish N of 36° N. lat. allocation and attainments of the non-tribal commercial fishery under No Action. Overall, the non-tribal commercial fishery attained less than 50 percent of the non-tribal HG. The recreational sector attained over 100 percent of their set-aside of 30 mt. The ACL was not exceeded for this stock.

Table 9-1. No Action: 2025 sablefish north of 36° N. lat annual catch limit (ACL), status quo tribal, exempted fishing permits (EFP), research, recreational (Rec) set-aside values and the resulting non-tribal commercial harvest guideline in metric tons (mt). PacFIN 2/06/2026.

Year	ACL (mt)	Tribal (mt)	EFP (mt)	Research (mt)	Rec. (mt)	Set-Aside Sum (mt)	Non-Tribal Commercial HG (mt)
2025	28,688	2,869	0.0	59.3	30	2,958.3	25,729.9
Attain(mt)	11,977.2	526.0	0.0	0	33.6	559.6	12,536.8
Attain %	41.7%	18.3%	0	0	112%	18.9%	48.7%

Table 9-2 shows the 2025 allocations of the draft non-tribal commercial HG to the limited entry (LE) fisheries and the open access fishery (OA) within the limited entry HG for sablefish north of 36° N. lat.. The non-tribal commercial harvest guideline is divided into the LE and OA shares

(90.6 percent and 9.4 percent, respectively). The LE Share is allocated to the LE Trawl sector 58 percent and the LEFG at 42 percent. The LEFG Share is further allocated to the Primary (i.e., Tier) fishery and the LEFG daily trip limit (DTL) fishery, at 85 percent and 15 percent, respectively. The Trawl sector allocation is reduced by an at-sea whiting set-aside, which generates the quota amount distributed to the IFQ holders. As noted in Table 9-1, below, the LE trawl fishery, specifically the IFQ fishery, attained 49 percent of their allocation whereas the LEFG fishery attained 51 percent of its allocation

Table 9-2. No Action: 2025 non-tribal sablefish north of 36° N. lat. commercial harvest shares guidelines (HG) and limited entry (LE) fisheries– LE trawl and LE fixed gear (LEFG) – primary tier, LEFG trip limit, and open access (OA) fishery allocations as percentages (%) and metric tons (mt). PacFIN 2/06/2026,

	Percent	2025 Allocation (mt)	2025 Attainment (mt)	2025 Attainment %
Non-Tribal Commercial HG	-	25,729.9	11,954.2	46.5%
LE Share	90.6%	23,311	11,514.4	49.4%
LE Trawl a/	58%	13,521	6,525.5	48.3%
At-sea Set Aside	-	429	96.4	22.5%
IFQ	-	13,092	6,429.1	49.1%
LEFG	42%	9,791	4,989.4	51.0%
Primary Share	85%	8,322	4,792.9	57.6%
LEFG Daily Trip limit Share	15%	1,469	196.4	13.4%
OA Share	9.4%	2,419	439.4	18.2%

9.1.2 Alternative 1

The Alternative 1 sablefish north of 36° N. lat. allocation structure is the same as No Action, which is detailed above in Section 9.1. Table 9-3 shows the draft Alternative 1 2027-28 ACL, off-the-top set-asides, and the non-tribal commercial HG. As noted above at §3.2.1, the Council adopted a 5-year rolling median to calculate the 2027-28 research set-aside for individual stocks and stock complexes, which includes sablefish north of 36° N. lat. The 2027-28 research set-aside for this stock under that method is 40.7 mt.

The Council is also considering changes to the sablefish north of 36° N. lat. recreational set-aside to accommodate increases in mortality to the stock from the recreational fishery. That analysis is found in below §9.1.2

Table 9-3. Alternative 1: Draft 2027-28 sablefish north of 36° N. lat annual catch limit (ACL), status quo tribal, exempted fishing permits (EFP), research, recreational (Rec) set-aside values and the resulting non-tribal commercial harvest guideline in metric tons (mt).

Year	ACL (mt)	Tribal (mt)	EFP (mt)	Research (mt)	Rec. (mt)	Set-Aside Sum (mt)	Non-Tribal Commercial HG (mt)
2027	10,962	1,096	0.0	40.7	30	70.7	9,794.1
2028	11,856	1,186	0.0	40.7	30	70.7	10,599.6

Table 9-4 shows the allocations of the draft Alternative 1 non-tribal commercial HG to the LE fisheries (trawl and non-trawl) and the OA fishery allocations for the non-tribal commercial sablefish north of 36° N. lat.

Table 9-4. Alternative 1: Draft 2027-28 non-tribal sablefish north of 36° N. lat. commercial harvest shares guidelines (HG) and limited entry (LE) fisheries– LE trawl and LE fixed gear (LEFG) – primary tier, LEFG trip limit, and open access (OA) fishery allocations as percentages (%) and metric tons (mt). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

	Percent	2027 Allocation (mt)	2028 Allocation (mt)
Non-Tribal Commercial HG	-	9,794.1	10,599.6
LE Share	90.6%	8,874.1	9,603.2
LE Trawl a/	58%	5,147.0	5,569.9
At-Sea Set-aside	-	429	429
SB IFQ	-	4,718.0	5,140.9
LEFG	42%	3,727.1	4,033.3
Primary Share	85%	3,168.1	3,428.3
LEFG Daily Trip limit Share	15%	559.1	605.0
OA Share	9.4%	920.7	996.4

a/ At-sea set-asides for sablefish are unknown at this point and thus IFQ amounts are not shown

Table 9-5 shows the draft tier amounts for 2027-28 under Alternative 1. The primary share is divided into three tiers via a ratio, where the ratio of limits between the tiers is approximately 1 to 1.75 to 3.85 for Tier 3:Tier 2:Tier 1, respectively

Table 9-5. Alternative 1: Draft 2027-28 Tier amounts in whole pounds (lbs).

	2027 (lbs)	2028 (lbs)
Tier 1	93,962	101,682
Tier 2	42,710	46,219
Tier 3	24,406	26,411

9.1.3 Alternative 2

Sablefish N of 36° N. lat. is not considered under Alternative 2

9.2 Recreational Set-Aside Sablefish North of 36° N. lat.

The Council is considering revising the sablefish north of 36° N. lat. recreational off-the-top set aside due to the recent increase in recreationally harvested sablefish North of 36° N. lat. The allocation framework in Amendment 6 (A6) for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. specifies that anticipated recreational catches based on the maximum historical value of sablefish caught in recreational fisheries be deducted from the ACL prior to the commercial limited entry and open access allocations. The sablefish north of 36° N. lat. ACL allocation framework (see Section 6.3.2.1, Groundfish FMP) deducts set-asides from the ACL to account for anticipated mortality in tribal fisheries, research, recreational fisheries, and EFPs.

The Council increased the sablefish recreational set-aside from 6 mt to 30 mt as part of the 2025-26 biennial process to account for a trend of increasing recreational mortality across all states; however, recreational mortality of sablefish north of 36° N. lat. exceeded 30 mt in 2025 (totaling 34.5 mt)¹² as shown in Table 9-6 below. Historical data indicate that recreational sablefish north of 36° N. lat. mortality had been lower than the 6 mt set-aside between 2005-2022, with an average annual total mortality of 1.7 mt and a maximum total mortality of 4.0 mt in 2020. However, total mortality is uncertain as prior to 2023, WDFW sampling program did not estimate mortality of sablefish as an individual stock until 2023. The estimated total mortality north of 36° N. latitude has been increasing in California and Oregon since 2021 and in Washington since 2023. Overall, recreational anglers are retaining more sablefish each year. In 2023, mortality was 32.4 mt, i.e., an increase of 710 percent from the prior maximum of 4 mt in 2020. The specific drivers of this increase remain unclear and are explored more thoroughly later in this section.

Table 9-6. Recreational total mortality by state from 2021-25 for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. (RecFIN 2/19/2026)

Year	WA total mortality ^{a/} (mt)	OR total mortality (mt)	CA total mortality (mt)	Rec. total mortality (mt)	Set Aside (mt)	% attainment
2021	-	1.0	0.0	1.0	6	-
2022	-	1.9	0.6	2.4	6	-
2023	10.5	4.6	17.3	32.4	6	540%
2024	19.8	5.8	1.9	27.5	6	458%
2025 ^{b/}	27.8	2.9	3.8	34.5	30	115%

a/ Washington recreational data unavailable prior to 2023 for sablefish as the sampling program did not estimate mortality of sablefish as an individual stock until 2023.

b/ 2025 recreational data incomplete. Oregon data through November, California data through October.

At the November 2025 meeting, the Council adopted the GMT recommendation ([Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, November 2025](#)) to analyze whether the 30 mt recreational set-aside for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. should be increased for the 2027-28 biennium. Table 9-8 shows that the status quo of 30 mt would have been exceeded in two of the last three years (2023 and 2025), suggesting that recreational fisheries could be encountering more sablefish and retaining them with increased regularity. The recreational set asides relative the non-tribal HG are all less than a half of a percentage point.

Table 9-7. Recreational sablefish north of 36° N. lat. mortality relative to set-asides for 2023-25 (RecFIN 2/18/2026)

	Recreational Set-Aside (mt)	Recreational Mortality (mt) b/	Difference from 2025 set-aside (mt)	% attained	Non-tribal Commercial HG (mt)	% SA of non-tribal HG
2023 Total Mortality	6.0	32.4	+36.4	540%	7,552	0.1%
2024 Total Mortality	6.0	27.6	+21.6	460%	6,919	0.1%
2025 Total Mortality ^{a/}	30	32.9	+2.9	110%	25,729	0.1%

a/ not shown, calculation includes Tribal, research, and IOA deductions. Values rounded to nearest whole number.

b/ mortality data preliminary

¹² Preliminary data

There could be many factors driving the increase in recreationally caught sablefish, complicating any forecast modeling for 2027-28. Factors to consider include recent high recruitment years, an increase in anglers targeting sablefish, recreational access to deeper depths, and improved catch accounting in recreational fisheries.

Options

Table 9-8 provides options to increase the set-aside from 30 mt to either 40 mt (Option 1) or 50 mt (Option 2) for Council consideration.

Table 9-8. Alternative 1. Recreational mortality of sablefish north of 36° N. lat.

	Recreational Set-Aside (mt)	Difference from 2025 set-aside (mt)	Non-tribal Commercial HG (mt) ^{a/}	% SA of non-tribal HG
No Action (2025 set-aside)	30.0	0.0	9,794	0.3%
Option 1 set-aside	40.0	+10.0	9,784	0.4%
Option 2 set-aside	50.0	+20.0	9,774	0.5%

Impacts

Overall, the range of recreational set-asides have negligible impacts on the sablefish north of 36° N. lat. fishery HG (TAB). When taken on the whole, the total set-asides (i.e., tribal, research and IOA) increase with each increase of the recreational set aside. Under Alternative 1, the total set-aside increases by 14 percent over No Action and under Alternative 2, the total set-aside increases by 28 percent over No Action. The set-aside increases reduce the HG by 10 mt and 20mt under Option 2 and Option 3, respectively, when compared to Option 1 (Table 9-9)

Table 9-9. The recreational fishery set-aside options for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. and reductions of the fishery harvest guideline (HG)

Option	Rec set-aside (mt)	Total Set-aside (mt) ^{a/}	% increase from No Action	2028 Fishery HG (mt) ^{b/}	2028 Fishery HG (mt) ^{b/}
No Action	30	70.7	-	9,794	10,560
Option 1	40 (+10)	80.7	14%	9,784	10,550
Option 2	50 (+20)	90.7	29%	9,774	10,540

a/ not shown, calculation includes Tribal, research, and IOA deductions. Values rounded to nearest whole number.

b/ fishery HG is ACL – set-asides.

Across all Options, this set-aside reduces the amount of the non-tribal commercial fishery HG by less than one percent. The overall sablefish set-aside, which constitute the needs of the Tribal, research, IOA, EFP, and recreational fisheries, increase by 10 mt and 20 mt in Options 1 and 2, respectively. The recreational set-asides are not a management target, as are all set-asides. They are meant to account for non-commercial mortality and aide managers in modeling fishery impacts in order to achieve but not exceed the ACL. Increasing the recreational set-aside would allow for improved understanding of attainment of sablefish and better reflect the trend of increased mortality in the recreational sector

9.3 Sablefish South of 36° N. lat

9.3.1 No Action

The off-the-top deductions under No Action for Sablefish south of 36° N. lat. for EFP, research, and IOA set-asides are shown in Table 9-10. Each of these set-asides are adopted each biennium per the methods described above in Chapter 3.

Table 9-10. No Action: The 2025 sablefish south of 36° N. lat. annual catch limit (ACL) and estimated exempted fishing permits (EFP), research, incidental open access (IOA) set-aside values, and the resulting commercial harvest guideline in metric tons (mt). PacFIN 2/06/2026.

Year	ACL	EFP	Research	IOA	Sum	Commercial HG
2025	7,857	0.0	2.7	25	27.7	7,829.3
Attain (mt)	333.5	0	-	0.2	0.2	333.1
Attain %	4.2%	-	-	0.1%	0.1%	4.3%

The 2025 sablefish south of 36° N. lat. commercial allocations between trawl and non-trawl are 42 percent and 58 percent, respectively, per Amendment 21 (Table 9-11). Within the non-trawl allocation, a 10 metric ton set-aside is deducted from the non-trawl HG for recreational fisheries south of 36° N. lat. The non-trawl sector HG is allocated at 70 percent to the LEFG fishery and 30 percent to the OA fishery.

The trawl sector attained less than three percent of their allocation and the non-trawl sector attained 5.4 percent. The recreational set-aside attainment was 12 percent.

Table 9-11. No Action: 2025 sablefish south of 36° N. lat. commercial harvest shares guidelines (HG) and limited entry (LE) fisheries– trawl, LE fixed gear (LEFG)– and open access (OA) fishery allocations as percentages (%) and metric tons (mt). PacFIN 2/06/2026.

	Percent	2025 Allocation (mt)	2025 Attain (mt)	2025 Attain %
Commercial HG	-	7,829	335.7	4.3%
Trawl	42%	3,288	93.0	2.8%
Non Trawl	58%	4,541	242.7	5.4%
Rec set-aside	-	10	1.2	12.0%
LEFG Share	70%	3,172	196.4	6.2%
OA Share	30%	1,359	45.1	3.3%

9.3.2 Alternative 1

The Alternative 1 sablefish south of 36° N. lat allocation structure is the same as No Action, which is described above in Section 9.1.2. Table 9-12 provides the draft 2027-28 off-the-top set-asides, and the commercial HG under Alternative 1. The Council adopted a 5-year rolling median to calculate the 2027-28 IOA set-aside for individual stocks and stock complexes, which includes sablefish south of 36° N. lat. The recommended IOA set-aside is 10.5 mt for sablefish south of 36° N. lat.

Table 9-12. Alternative 1: draft 2027-28 sablefish south of 36° N. lat. annual catch limit (ACL) and estimated exempted fishing permits (EFP), research, incidental open access (IOA) set-aside values, and the resulting fishery harvest guideline in metric tons (mt).

Year	ACL	EFP	Research	IOA	Sum	Fishery HG
2027	3,002	0.0	1.5	10.5	12.0	2,990.3
2028	3,247	0.0	1.5	10.5	12.0	3,235.2

Table 9-13 shows the draft 2027-28 sablefish south of 36° N. lat. commercial allocations between trawl and non-trawl under Alternative 1.

Table 9-13. Alternative 1: Draft 2027-28 sablefish south of 36° N. lat. commercial harvest shares guidelines (HG) and limited entry (LE) fisheries– trawl, LE fixed gear (LEFG)– and open access (OA) fishery allocations as percentages (%) and metric tons (mt). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

	Percent	2027 Allocation (mt)	2028 Allocation (mt)
Fishery HG	-	2,990.3	3,235.2
Trawl	42%	1,255.9	1,358.8
Non Trawl	58%	1,734.4	1,876.4
Rec set-aside	-	10	10
Non-Trawl HG	-	1,724.4	1,866.4
LEFG Share	70%	1,207.1	1,306.5
OA Share	30%	517.3	559.9

9.3.3 Alternative 2

Sablefish south of 36° N. lat. is not considered under Alternative 2

10. Action Item: 10 Yelloweye Rockfish

10.1 Yelloweye Rockfish

Yelloweye rockfish is a classified, at present, as a rebuilding stock. The Council adopted specific non-trawl allocations at the sector and sub-sector level (e.g., recreational, commercial) to mitigate overages, if they occurred, in order to ensure the ACL was not exceeded.

10.1.1 No Action

The allocation structure for yelloweye rockfish shown in Table 10-1. The allocation structure is 92 percent non-trawl and 8 percent trawl. The non-trawl sector, including the commercial and recreational fisheries, are subject to ACTs of 78.4 percent of the HG. Additionally, the non-trawl HG is divided between the commercial non-trawl and state-specific recreational sectors through percentage-based informal sharing arrangement. The commercial non-trawl sector is allocated 29 percent of the total non-trawl HG and the Washington, Oregon, and California recreational sectors are allocated 25.6 percent, 23.3 percent, and 30.2 percent of the non-trawl HG, respectively. The HG for these fisheries are also subject to the 78.4 percent ACT

Under No Action, the attainment of yelloweye rockfish was more than 41 percent of the ACL. At the sector level, the trawl sector attained 36.4 percent and the non-trawl sector attained nearly 47 percent of the HG and 60 percent of the ACT. Within non-trawl, the commercial sector exceeded their HG and ACT. The recreational sectors for each state, on the whole, attained approximately one third of the state specific HG and ACT.

Table 10-1. No Action: 2025 status quo yelloweye rockfish calculated allowable biological catch (ABC), annual catch limit (ACL), trawl and non-trawl allocations under status quo biennial allocations, harvest guideline (HG), and annual catch target (ACT), including the within non-trawl harvest guideline and the annual catch target, in metric tons (mt) PacFIN & RecFIN (1/21/2026)

Year	2025 (mt)		2025 Attain (mt)	2025 Attain %	
ACL	55.8		25.0	44.8%	
Off-the-Top Deduction	14.8		5.2	35.1%	
Fishery HG	41.0		19	46.3%	
Trawl (8%)	3.3		1.2	36.4%	
At-Sea	0		0.2	-	
IFQ	3.3		1.0	30.3%	
	HG	ACT		HG %	ACT%
Non-trawl (92%)	37.7	29.6	17.8	47.2%	60.1%
Commercial (20.9%)	7.9	6.2	9.7	122.8%	156.5%
WA Rec (25.6%)	9.7	7.6	2.0	24.7%	31.6%
OR Rec (23.3%)	8.8	6.9	2.7	30.7%	39.1%
CA Rec (30.2%)	11.4	8.9	3.4	29.8%	38.2%

10.1.2 Alternative 1

The 2027-28 draft Alternative 1 trawl/non-trawl allocation of yelloweye rockfish are shown in Table 10-2. This allocation method is the same as under No Action.

Table 10-2. Alternative 1: Draft 2027-28 status quo yelloweye rockfish calculated annual catch limit (ACL), trawl and non-trawl allocations under status quo biennial allocation methodology, harvest guideline (HG), and annual catch target (ACT), including the within non-trawl harvest guideline and the annual catch target, in metric tons (mt). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Year	2027 (mt)		2028 (mt)	
ACL	112.9		113.1	
Off-the-Top Deduction	20.32		20.32	
Fishery HG	92.6		92.8	
Trawl (8%)	7.4		7.4	
At-Sea	0		0	
IFQ	7.4		7.4	
	HG	ACT	HG	ACT
Non-trawl (92%)	85.2	66.8	85.4	67.0
Commercial (20.9%)	17.8	14.0	17.8	14.0
WA Rec (25.6%)	21.8	17.1	21.9	17.2
OR Rec (23.3%)	19.8	15.5	19.9	15.6
CA Rec (30.2%)	25.7	20.2	25.8	20.2

10.1.3 Alternative 2

The 2027-28 draft trawl/non-trawl allocation of yelloweye rockfish under Alternative 2 are shown in Table 10-3. This allocation structure is the same as under No Action.

Table 10-3. Alternative 2: 2027-28 yelloweye rockfish trawl and non-trawl allocation, annual catch limits (ACL), trawl and non-trawl allocations, non-trawl harvest guideline (HG), within non-trawl sector specific HGs and annual catch targets (ACT) in metric tons (mt).

Year	2027 (mt)		2028 (mt)	
ACL	85		85	
Off-the-Top Deduction	20.3		20.3	
Fishery HG	64.7		64.7	
Trawl (8%)	5.2		5.2	
At-Sea	-		-	
IFQ	5.2		5.2	
	HG	HG	HG	ACT
Non-trawl (92%)	59.5	46.7	59.5	46.7
Commercial (20.9%)	12.4	9.8	12.4	9.8
WA Rec (25.6%)	15.2	11.9	15.2	11.9
OR Rec (23.3%)	13.9	10.9	13.9	10.9
CA Rec (30.2%)	18.0	14.1	18.0	14.1

10.1.4 Allocation of Yelloweye Rockfish

Comparison of the Yelloweye Rockfish Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 Allocations

The Alternative 1 yelloweye rockfish ACL is 25 percent higher than the Alternative 2 yelloweye rockfish ACL (Table 10-4). This reduction results in an approximate reduction of 29 percent to the trawl and non-trawl fisheries. The within non-trawl allocations to the commercial and state specific recreational fisheries are similarly reduced by close to 29 percent as well.

Table 10-4. Percent difference comparison of 2027-28 yelloweye Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 annual catch limit (ACL), trawl and non-trawl allocations under status quo biennial allocations, harvest guideline (HG), and annual catch target (ACT), including the within non-trawl harvest guideline and the annual catch target, in metric tons (mt) (PacFIN, 2/13/2026)

Year	Alternative 1				Alternative 2				% increase/decrease			
	2027 (mt)		2028 (mt)		2027 (mt)		2028 (mt)		2027 Alt 1/Alt 2		2028 Alt 1/Alt 2	
ACL	112.9		113.1		85		85		-24.7%		-24.8%	
Set aside.	20.3		20.3		20.3		20.3		0.0%		0.0%	
Fishery HG	92.6		92.8		64.7		64.7		-30.1%		-30.3%	
Trawl (8%)	7.4		7.4		5.2		5.2		-29.7%		-29.7%	
At-Sea	0		0		0		0		0.0%		0.0%	
IFQ	7.4		7.4		5.2		5.2		-29.7%		-29.7%	
	HG	ACT	HG	ACT	HG	ACT	HG	ACT	HG	ACT	HG	ACT
Non-trawl (92%)	85.2	66.8	85.4	66.9	59.5	46.7	59.5	46.7	-30.2%	-30.2%	-30.3%	-30.3%
<i>Comm.</i> (20.9%)	17.8	14.0	17.8	14.0	12.4	9.8	12.4	9.8	-30.3%	-30.6%	-30.3%	-30.6%
<i>WA Rec</i> (25.6%)	21.8	17.1	21.9	17.1	15.2	11.9	15.2	11.9	-30.3%	-30.3%	-30.6%	-30.3%
<i>OR Rec</i> (23.3%)	19.8	15.6	19.9	15.6	13.9	10.9	13.9	10.9	-29.8%	-30.1%	-30.2%	-30.1%
<i>CA Rec</i> (30.2%)	25.7	20.2	25.8	20.2	18.0	14.1	18.0	14.1	-30.0%	-30.1%	-30.2%	-30.1%

Conclusion

At the ACL level, there is a 25 percent difference between the Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 ACLs, with the Alternative 1 ACL being the higher of the two. Similarly, throughout the allocation of the yelloweye rockfish ACL, Alternative 1 offers the higher yield for the trawl and non-trawl sectors.

11. Action Item 11: Canary Rockfish

11.1 Canary Rockfish

Canary rockfish is a biennial allocation, with 72.3 percent of the HG to trawl and 27.7 percent of the HG to non-trawl (Table 11-1). The non-trawl HG is divided between the commercial non-trawl and state-specific recreational sectors through percentage-based informal sharing agreement. The non-trawl sharing agreement is 36 percent commercial, 12.3 percent Washington recreational, 18.5 percent Oregon recreational, and 33.2 percent California recreational.

11.1.1 No Action

Overall, the non-trawl sector did not exceed its HG, however, attainments within the non-trawl sector were high, with the commercials sector at 66.7 percent and the recreational sectors, combined, average 99.9 percent; with at least one state exceeding their non-trawl share.

Table 11-1. No Action: 2025 canary rockfish within non-trawl sector commercial non-trawl and recreational status quo share percentages in metric tons (mt). PacFIN and RecFIN (1/30/2026)

Sector	2025 (mt)	2025 Attain (mt)	2025 Attain %
Non-Trawl allocation	140.8	115.9	82.3%
<i>Commercial (36%)</i>	50.7	34.2	67.5%
<i>WA Recreational (12.3%)</i>	17.3	23.1	133.5%
<i>OR Recreational (18.5%)</i>	26	25.5	98.1%
<i>CA Recreational (33.2%)</i>	46.7	33.1	70.9%

11.1.2 Alternative 1

The 2027-28 draft Alternative 1 within non-trawl sharing agreement for canary rockfish are shown in Table 11-2. This allocation method is the same as No Action.

Table 11-2. Alternative 1: Draft 2027-28 canary rockfish within non-trawl sector commercial non-trawl and recreational status quo share percentages in metric tons (mt). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Sector	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
Non-Trawl allocation	152.2	156.9
<i>Commercial (36%)</i>	54.8	56.5
<i>WA Recreational (12.3%)</i>	18.7	19.3
<i>OR Recreational (18.5%)</i>	28.2	29.0
<i>CA Recreational (33.2%)</i>	50.5	52.1

11.1.3 Alternative 2

Table 11-3 shows the 2027-28 non-trawl sharing agreement amounts for canary rockfish under Alternative 2. The Alternative 2 non-trawl sharing agreement percentages are the same as under Alternative 1 and No Action. Under Alternative 2, there is a increase to the canary rockfish ACL.

Table 11-3. Alternative 2: Draft 2027-28 canary rockfish within non-trawl sector commercial non-trawl and recreational status quo share percentages in metric tons (mt). Amounts rounded to nearest tenth of a mt.

Sector	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)
Non-Trawl allocation	162.5	168.3
<i>Commercial (36%)</i>	58.5	60.6
<i>WA Recreational (12.3%)</i>	20.0	20.7
<i>OR Recreational (18.5%)</i>	30.1	31.1
<i>CA Recreational (33.2%)</i>	53.9	55.9

11.1.4 Comparison of Canary Rockfish Non-Trawl Shares under the Alternatives

In comparison, there is an approximately seven percent increase in the canary rockfish HG between Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. Alternative 2 has a higher ACL, thus that amount is translated throughout the allocations. In terms of metric tonnage for the non-trawl sector, Alternative 2 increases commercial non-trawl canary rockfish HG by about 4 mt, the WA recreational sector by two mt, OR recreational sector by two mt, and the California recreational sector by three mt.

Table 11-4. Percent difference comparison of 2027-28 Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 canary rockfish within non-trawl sector commercial non-trawl and recreational status quo sharing percentages in metric tons (mt).

Sector	Alt 1		Alt 2		% incr./decr.	
	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)	2027 (mt)	2028 (mt)	2027	2028
Non-Trawl allocation	152.2	156.9	162.5	168.3	+6.8%	+7.3%
<i>Commercial (36%)</i>	54.8	56.5	58.5	60.6	+6.8%	+7.3%
<i>WA Recreational (12.3%)</i>	18.7	19.3	20.0	20.7	+7.0%	+7.3%
<i>OR Recreational (18.5%)</i>	28.2	29.0	30.1	31.1	+6.7%	+7.2%
<i>CA Recreational (33.2%)</i>	50.5	52.1	53.9	55.9	+6.7%	+7.3%

Conclusion

Relative to Alternative 1, Alternative 2 offers the higher allocation amounts to the non-trawl fishery. The Alternative 2 increase is relatively low with, on average, a seven percent increase over Alternative 1.

12. Action Items 12-13: Groundfish Trawl, including At-Sea Whiting, Fishery Sectors

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Description of Fishery Sector

The trawl sector comprises two overarching sectors, the At-sea whiting fishery and the Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) fishery. The At-sea whiting fishery is further divided into the Mothership (MS) and Catcher Processor (CP) sectors. The IFQ fishery comprises midwater trawl and bottom trawl vessels, as well as “gear switchers,” which are vessels that use IFQ quota to primarily fish sablefish with non-trawl gear. [Section 1.3.1 of the Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation \(SAFE\)](#) describes the trawl sector in more detail and is incorporated by reference.

At-sea whiting vessels use midwater trawl gear to target Pacific whiting and process their catch entirely at sea. The fishery is managed under a system of private cooperatives (“co-ops”) that function similarly to a quota system, but the harvest privilege is assigned to the co-op rather than an individual vessel. The members of the co-op determine how and when the collectively held harvest privilege will be used. Currently, all at-sea vessels are part of a co-op, and thus the allocation to an At-sea sector is, essentially, an allocation to the co-op. The MS sector is comprised of catcher vessels that catch Pacific whiting and subsequently deliver to an MS processing platform, whereas vessels in the CP sector catch and process their fish on their own. Catcher vessels are required to carry one observer or valid electronic monitoring equipment onboard, and processing platforms (both MS and CP) are required to carry two observers for vessels of 125 ft. or longer, or one observer for shorter vessels.

The At-sea fishery was previously managed with bycatch allocations for overfished species or species of concern, but over the years, the Council transitioned those bycatch allocations into At-sea set-asides. Currently, there are no bycatch allocations for the At-sea fishery. Set-asides are taken off the top of the trawl allocation to account for expected At-sea bycatch mortality, and the remainder of the trawl allocation is allocated to the IFQ fishery. At-sea set-asides are managed on an annual basis, unless there is a risk of a harvest specification being exceeded, unforeseen impact to another fishery, or a conservation concern, after which inseason action may be taken ([§660.150\(c\)\(2\)\(i\)\(B\)\(I\)](#)). At-sea set-asides are published in Section 1.6.2 of the SAFE. Regulations for the MS sector can be found in the Federal regulations at [§660.150](#) and for the CP sector at [§660.160](#).

The IFQ program is a system of transferable quota shares (QS). IFQ permit owners are allocated a percentage, or QS, of the species-specific IFQ allocation and may fish up to the poundage reflected by that share within a calendar year. Regulations for the IFQ sector can be found in the Federal regulations at [§660.140](#). Both the At-sea and Shorebased IFQ sectors are subject to the trawl closures listed at [§660.130\(e\)](#). In addition, gear switchers in the IFQ fishery are subject to the Non-Trawl RCA boundaries when using non-trawl gear to harvest IFQ; boundaries of the Non-Trawl RCA are found at Tables 2a [North](#) to and [South](#) to Subpart E.

12.1 No Action

12.1.1 At-Sea Impacts

Under the No Action alternative, the at-sea set-asides used in management would be those listed as the 2025 set-asides in Table 12-1 below. No at-sea set-asides were exceeded in 2025. For nine out of the 16 stocks and stock complexes with at-sea set-asides, mortality in 2025 was lower than that of 2024 (Table 12-1). Shortspine thornyhead is the only stock or stock complex for which the recent three-year average annual mortality was higher than the 2025 set-aside. Quillback rockfish off California, which were declared overfished in the last biennium, are not caught by the at-sea fishery (i.e., zero annual mortality) and, thus, are not included in the mortality table.

Table 12-1. 2025 at-sea set-asides in regulation for non-whiting species managed in the at-sea fishery along with 2024, 2025, and average 2023-2025 mortality by the at-sea fishery. Values of “0.0” mean that there was some catch, but it was less than 0.1 mt. If there was no catch at all, “-” is shown. Data Source: PacFIN NORPAC

Species	Area	2025 Set-Aside (mt)	Mortality in At-Sea Fishery (mt)		
			2024	2025	Average 2023-2025
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	N/A	-	0.0	0.0
Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	100	37.3	39.8	43.4
Canary rockfish	Coastwide	20	1.1	3.0	8.1
Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	100	39.4	51.9	64.0
Dover sole	Coastwide	10	2.3	0.3	1.4
Lingcod	N. of 40°10' N. lat.	15	0.2	0.7	1.0
Longnose skate	Coastwide	5	2.2	1.1	2.1
Other flatfish	Coastwide	100	20.7	4.2	16.4
Pacific halibut	Coastwide	10	*	0.0	0.2
Pacific ocean perch	N. of 40°10' N. lat.	300	16.0	33.4	44.4
Petrale sole	Coastwide	5	-	-	*
Sablefish	N. of 36° N. lat.	429	220.6	96.4	159.3
Shelf rockfish	N. of 40°10' N. lat.	35	1.8	10.2	6.1
Slope rockfish	N. of 40°10' N. lat.	300	113.4	71.7	105.4
Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide	70	154.9	48.1	100.8
Widow rockfish	Coastwide	300	66.5	36.0	102.9
Yellowtail rockfish	N. of 40°10' N. lat.	360	14.5	6.9	95.9

*Confidential

In 2025, fishing activity in the at-sea sectors was distributed throughout waters off the Oregon coast, and almost all Pacific whiting were caught south of the Columbia River (Figure 12-1). Since 2022, very little at-sea fishing has occurred off of Washington. Industry presentations at the December 2025 Joint Technical Committee meeting of the Pacific Hake/Whiting Treaty process indicated that the 2025 distribution was influenced more by Pacific whiting availability than by bycatch avoidance. Industry members also commented that the availability of Pacific whiting had improved in 2025 and was more consistently available throughout the year, compared to prior years. Indeed, the 90th percentile of Pacific whiting catch per haul second in 2025 was roughly twice as high as that of 2023 and 2024, meaning the fleet caught the same amount of fish in less time and likely spent fewer operational costs to do so.

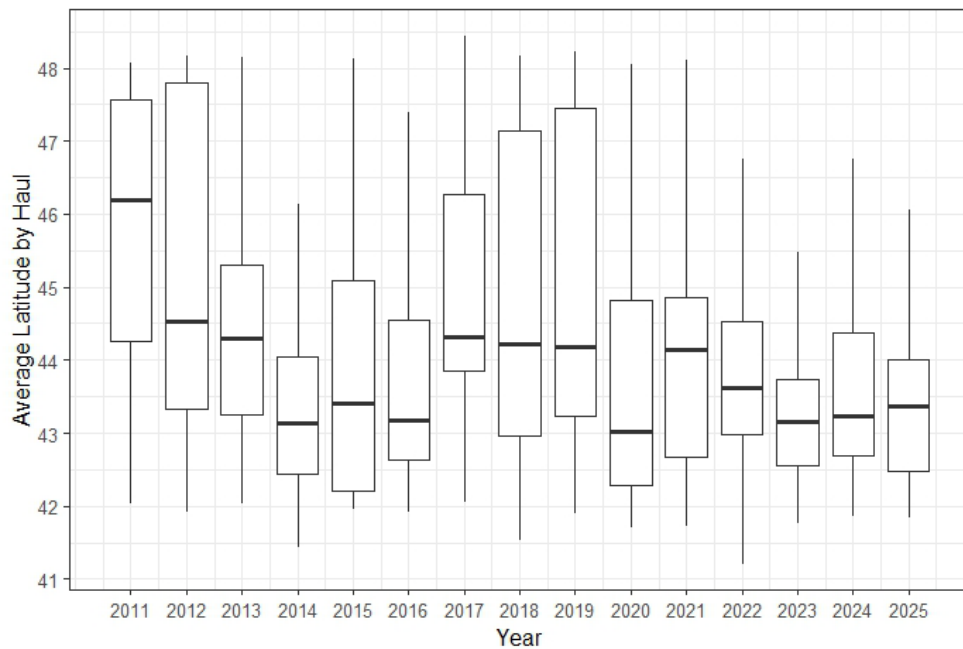


Figure 12-1. Latitudinal distribution of the at-sea whiting fishery, 2011-2025. Outliers are hidden. Data Source: PacFIN NORPAC

Only two MS platforms operated off the West Coast in 2025, but both platforms were on the grounds processing continuously from mid-June through to Fall, with one platform concluding MS operations in late September and the other in late October. Typically, at-sea processing vessels participate in the B-season Alaska pollock fishery from June 10th until their quota is caught, so they plan their Pacific whiting trips in shoulder seasons – Spring (May to early June) and Fall (September to November). GMT communication with at-sea industry representatives indicated that one company has a dedicated Pacific whiting MS platform that they purchased in 2023. The other company decided to keep their MS platform on the Pacific whiting grounds in 2025 rather than going north to Alaska as originally planned, because the fishing conditions were good. They were able to consolidate the pollock quota onto their other platform, which was possible for them because it is a new build with greater processing capacity than the vessel it replaced. Additionally, in 2025, more catcher vessels delivered to MS platforms in August than in August of the prior three years. Compared to other months, August saw the highest level of catcher vessel participation in the MS sector in both 2024 and 2025, whereas in prior years, the lowest number of catcher vessels had participated in August—if any at all.

The new pattern of consistently fishing the West Coast, also seen in 2024, along with improved Pacific whiting availability, contributed to higher 2025 Pacific whiting catches in the MS sector compared to the prior two years (Table 12-2). In both 2024 and 2025, 55 percent of all Pacific whiting caught in the MS sector was caught during the months of July and August. Catches in the CP sector were also higher in 2025 than in 2024. The higher catches for both sectors contributed to higher Pacific whiting allocation attainments, noting, however, that the allocations were also much lower in 2025. Estimates of Pacific whiting ex-vessel revenues, which are based on prices from shoreside landings, for the MS sector in 2025 (\$12.1 million) were higher than the sector’s annual average revenue since 2020 of \$8.9 million (Figure 12-2). For the CP sector, 2025 revenues

(\$21.2 million) were higher than 2024 but lower than the annual average since 2020 of \$23.5 million.

Table 12-2. Pacific whiting post-tribal reapportionment allocation, catches, and attainment by at-sea sector, 2011-2025. Data Source: PacFIN NORPAC

Year	Mothership			Catcher Processor		
	Pacific Whiting Catch (mt)	Post Re-apport. Allocation (mt)	Post Re-apport. Attainment	Pacific Whiting Catch (mt)	Post Re-apport. Allocation (mt)	Post Re-apport. Attainment
2011	50,111	53,039	94%	71,610	75,138	95%
2012	38,152	39,235	97%	55,602	55,584	100%
2013	52,479	56,170	93%	77,942	79,574	98%
2014	62,039	73,049	85%	103,267	103,486	100%
2015	27,669	71,204	39%	68,483	100,873	68%
2016	65,019	80,575	81%	108,804	114,149	95%
2017	66,257	96,884	68%	137,129	137,252	100%
2018	67,145	96,644	69%	116,049	136,912	85%
2019	52,416	96,644	54%	116,379	136,912	85%
2020	38,110	93,352	41%	111,015	132,249	84%
2021	35,912	81,276	44%	103,357	115,141	90%
2022	59,320	89,144	67%	126,449	126,287	100%
2023	32,566	102,047	31%	107,625	144,566	74%
2024	21,077	91,807	22%	61,870	130,060	47%
2025	48,938	68,345	70%	82,557	96,822	85%

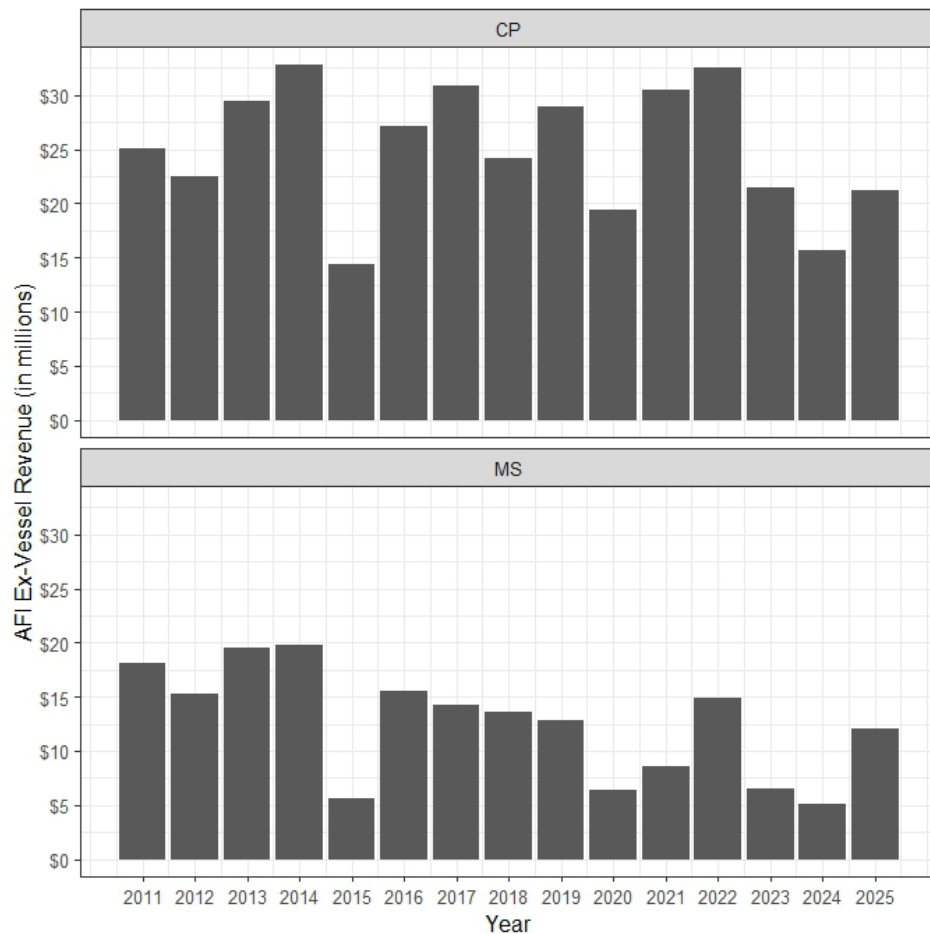


Figure 12-2. Pacific whiting ex-vessel revenue (in millions of dollars, adjusted for inflation) by at-sea sector, 2011-2025. Note that the ex-vessel revenue in this figure is based on prices from shoreside landings and does not account for Pacific whiting production value for at-sea processors; therefore, the trend should be considered more important than the actual values. Data Source: PacFIN NORPAC

12.1.2 Shorebased IFQ Impacts

Under the No Action alternative, the IFQ allocations listed as the 2025 allocations in Table 12-3 would be used in management. In 2025, 6 out of all 29 stocks and stock complexes reached greater than 50 percent attainment (Figure 12-3). Those were petrale sole, widow rockfish, Pacific whiting, canary rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, and bocaccio south of 40° 10' N. lat. The 2025 petrale sole allocation of 2,001 mt was exceeded by 5.8 mt. The 2025 petrale sole ACL is also estimated to be exceeded by 15 mt, but at the time of writing this document, final discard mortality estimates are not yet available. IFQ carryover was issued in 2025 for canary rockfish, lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat., shelf rockfish complexes north and south of 40° 10' N. lat., Pacific cod, Pacific halibut, shortspine thornyhead, and yelloweye rockfish. IFQ carryover is generally issued for stocks where the ACL is set lower than the ABC, along with a review of other factors NMFS considers, such as conservation risk to the stock. There were no quillback rockfish landings in the IFQ fishery in 2025. Less than 0.1 mt of California quillback rockfish discard mortality occurs annually in this

fishery; there was no discard mortality at all in 2024.

Table 12-3. No Action - Shorebased IFQ. Estimated mortality (mt) for IFQ stocks, stock complexes, and Pacific halibut IBQ for 2025 compared to the allocations. Data Source: NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database

IFQ Stock or Stock Complex	No Action 2025			
	Estimated Mortality (mt)	SB IFQ Allocation (mt) a/	Attainment	Ex-vessel Revenue
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	0.9	3.3	29%	\$1,124
Arrowtooth flounder	1,194.2	8,543.1	14%	\$21,715
Bocaccio rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat.	377.3	653.0	58%	\$296,180
Canary rockfish	222.9	348.0	64%	\$169,585
Chilipepper south of 40°10' N. lat.	929.6	2,091.0	44%	\$1,003,044
Cowcod south of 40°10' N. lat.	5.2	24.0	22%	\$5,817
Darkblotched rockfish	185.6	593.0	31%	\$73,388
Dover sole	3,704.2	43,538.4	9%	\$3,458,743
English sole	164.9	8,236.1	2%	\$9,605
Lingcod north of 40°10' N. lat.	378.9	1,493.0	25%	\$584,834
Lingcod south of 40°10' N. lat.	58.8	295.0	20%	\$135,611
Longspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. lat.	23.6	1,901.0	1%	\$10,177
Shelf rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat.	277.1	726.0	38%	\$99,647
Shelf rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat.	54.6	175.0	31%	\$55,791
Slope rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat.	186.3	858.0	22%	\$29,416
Slope rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat.	55.3	425.0	13%	\$65,399
Other flatfish	337.8	6,923.1	5%	\$188,589
Pacific cod	3.5	1,044.0	0%	\$2,045
Pacific halibut north of 40°10' N. lat. b/	14.9	91.1	16%	\$0
Pacific ocean perch north of 40°10' N. lat.	281.0	2,723.0	10%	\$161,067
Pacific whiting c/	108,038.1	119,604.6	90%	\$27,521,309
Petrale sole	2,006.8	2,001.0	100%	\$5,908,256
Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.	6,376.3	13,091.1	49%	\$10,138,919
Sablefish south of 36° N. lat.	93.3	3,289.0	3%	*
Shortspine thornyhead	245.5	406.0	60%	\$253,112
Splitnose rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat.	15.5	1,419.0	1%	\$277
Starry flounder	0.3	188.0	0%	*
Widow rockfish	10,020.8	10,419.1	96%	\$5,563,380
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,870.4	4,230.0	44%	\$1,087,339

*masked for confidentiality

a/ Shorebased IFQ allocations do not include surplus carryover.

b/ Pacific halibut is managed using IBQ, see regulations at §[660.140](#).

c/ Pacific whiting values include inseason allocation reapportionments.

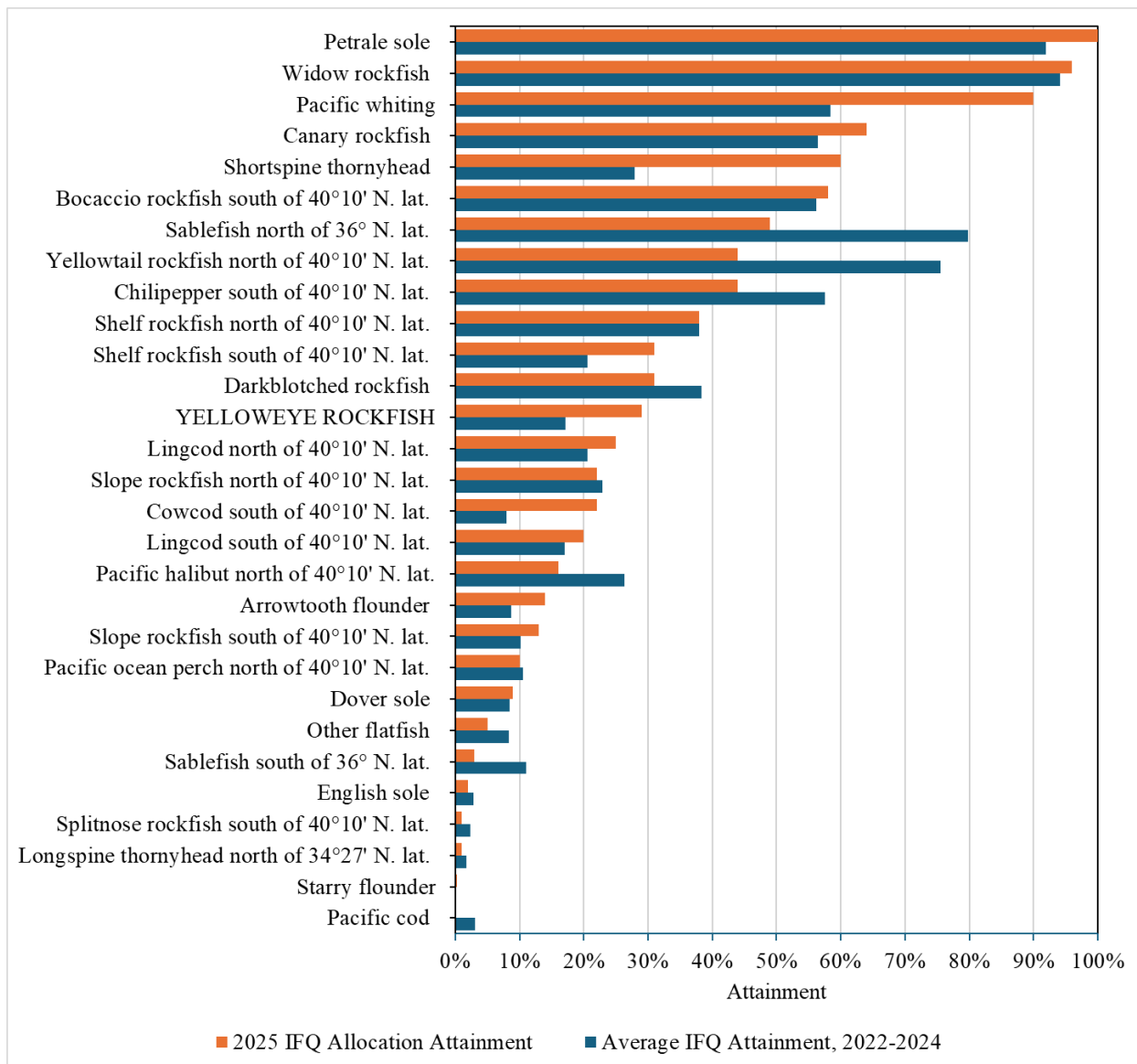


Figure 12-3. 2025 IFQ allocation attainments, by stock or stock complex, compared to the 2022-2024 average IFQ attainment. Stocks and stock complexes are ranked in order of highest to lowest 2025 attainment. Shortspine thornyhead north and south of 34°27' N. lat. are combined in 2022-2024 when calculating the average for the purpose of comparison, given the management line removal in 2025. Data Source: NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database

Effort in the IFQ fishery, measured by vessel-day trips, has been generally declining since 2020 for the whiting fleet and since the start of the IFQ program (2011) for the non-whiting fleet (Figure 12-4). For the non-whiting fleet, 2025 saw the lowest number of vessel-day trips in any year since the start of the IFQ program. For the whiting fleet, the number of vessel-day trips increased in 2025 compared to 2024.

Several changes have occurred in the IFQ fishery's shoreside processing infrastructure in recent years. As an example, one processing company shut down their Newport, Oregon and Bellingham, Washington operations in 2024, consolidating their operations into an Astoria, Oregon plant.

Landings data show that, correlated with this change in infrastructure, non-whiting IFQ landings into Newport decreased in 2024 and 2025, while Astoria landings increased in those years.

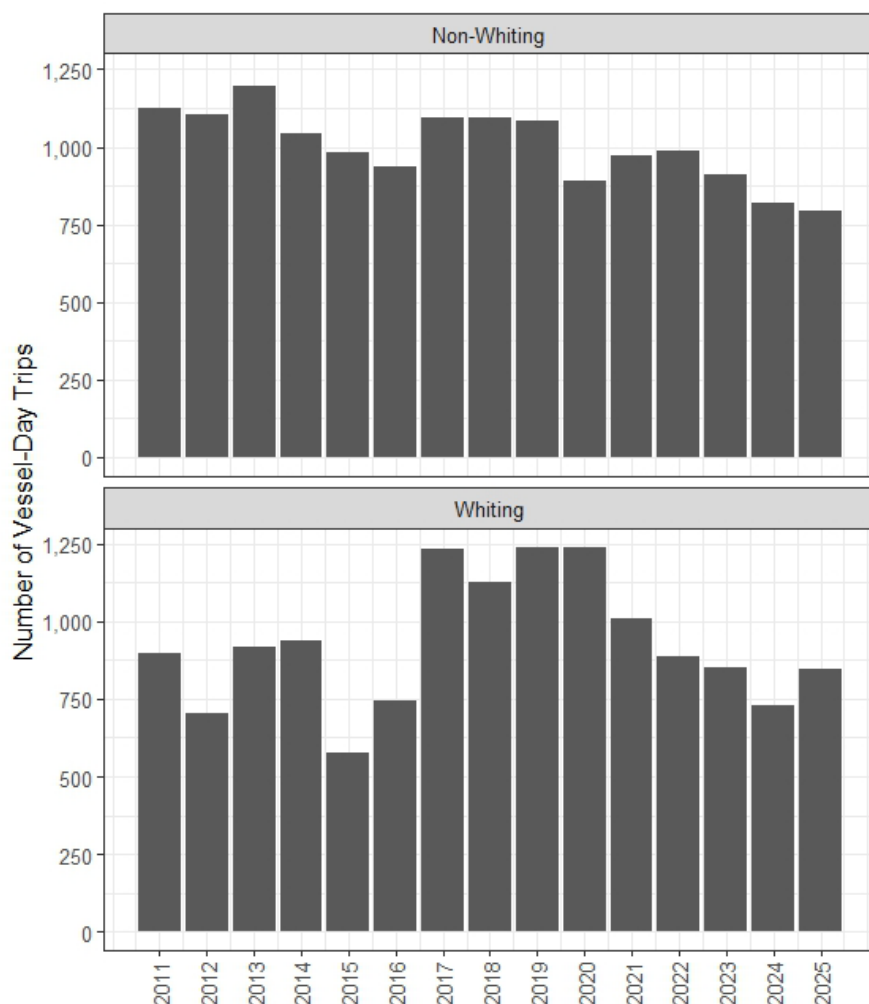


Figure 12-4. Non-whiting and whiting vessel-day trips in the IFQ fishery, 2011-2025. Data Source: PacFIN fish tickets

IFQ catches increased in 2025 by notable amounts, relative to the average of the prior 3 years, for arrowtooth flounder, sablefish north of 36° N. lat., and Pacific whiting (Figure 12-5; Table 12-4). Sablefish allocations increased roughly three-fold in 2025, but different IFQ sectors responded differently. Sablefish north of 36° N. lat. bycatch decreased by roughly 60 percent in both the midwater rockfish and shoreside whiting sectors, compared to the prior three years' average. In contrast, sablefish north of 36° N. lat. catch increased by 76 percent in the bottom trawl fleet and by 329 percent in the fixed gear IFQ fleet (i.e., “gear switchers”). The large increase in fixed gear catch in particular is likely a response to bycatch constraints from other stocks such as shortspine thornyhead, as fixed gear generally results in less bycatch.

Catches decreased by notable amounts for canary rockfish, Dover sole, petrale sole, widow rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat., most of which are economically important

target stocks. For petrale sole, widow rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish north – all target stocks – 2025 catches were over 800 mt lower in 2025 compared to the 2022-2024 average. The petrale sole IFQ allocation decreased by 30 percent from 2024 to 2025, and IFQ catches decreased by 22 percent during that time. In contrast, the yellowtail rockfish north IFQ allocation increased by 23 percent, yet catches decreased by 28 percent from 2024 to 2025. The widow rockfish IFQ allocation and catches both differed by less than 5 percent. The widow rockfish difference in Figure 5 is over 800 mt because IFQ catches were highest in 2022 and 2023 relative to all other years of the IFQ program, including 2025.

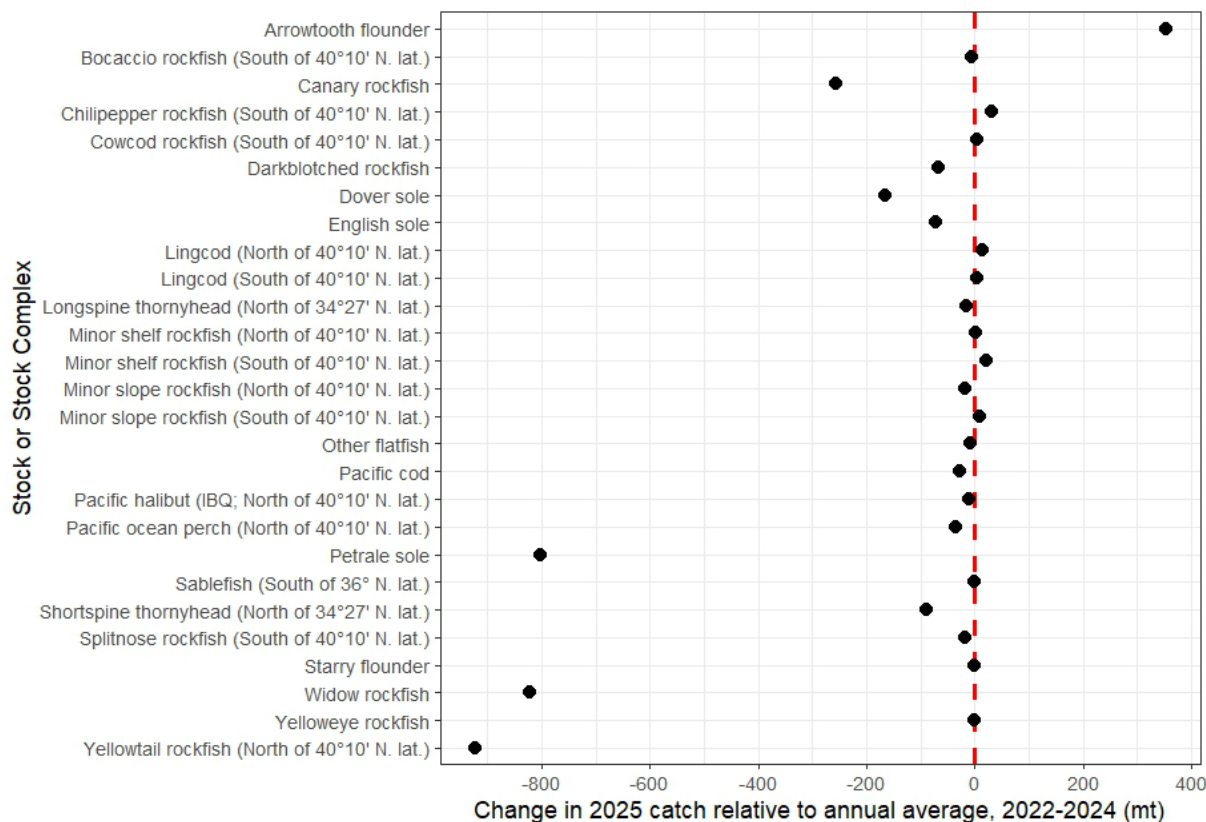


Figure 12-5. The difference between 2025 IFQ catches (mt) and average annual IFQ catches (mt) from 2022-2024 for most stocks except sablefish north of 36° N. lat. and Pacific whiting, which are shown separately in Table 12-4. A positive difference indicates an increase of catch in 2025, relative to the prior three years' average. A difference of zero is plotted as a red dashed line. Data Source: NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database

The reduction in total yellowtail rockfish catches, despite a higher allocation, was driven by lower catches in both the midwater rockfish and shoreside whiting fisheries. The shoreside whiting fishery experienced lower bycatch overall in 2025 across many species while still increasing their Pacific whiting allocation attainment, whereas the midwater rockfish fishery targeting yellowtail rockfish was likely constrained by the lower canary rockfish allocation in 2025. Around 75 percent of midwater rockfish hauls targeting yellowtail rockfish catch some amount of canary rockfish. Canary rockfish are known to aggregate, and a single large bycatch event (i.e., a “lightning strike”)

that caps out their bycatch quota could prevent a vessel from being able to fish for the remainder of the year.

Table 12-4. The difference between 2025 IFQ catches (mt) and average annual IFQ catches (mt) from 2022-2024 for only sablefish north of 36° N. lat. and Pacific whiting. Data Source: NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database

Stock	Change in 2025 catch relative to annual average, 2022-2024
Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.	+3,689
Pacific whiting	+11,940

For species or species groups caught in the IFQ fishery that do not have IFQ allocations or quota, mortality was generally lower in 2025 compared to the average of the prior three years (Table 12-5). Some of those species or species groups have a trip limit, which is listed in regulation as “unlimited” for most in 2025. This is intended so that the trip limit can be a tool to limit IFQ catches if ever needed. Note that there is an “unlimited” blackgill rockfish trip limit for the IFQ fishery, which was originally put in place as a component of the blackgill and other slope allocation framework under the slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10’ N. lat. When setting the 2021-22 management measures, the GMT stated that,

“In theory, the trawl sector could catch all of, or more than, the blackgill rockfish component ACL with their multi-species southern slope rockfish quota pounds (QP). To address this concern, the GMT supports potentially implementing a new IFQ blackgill rockfish trip limit that would be unlimited at first, and could be adjusted inseason if needed.” ([Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, April 2020](#)).

The Council is currently considering adjusting the slope rockfish south allocation framework, including the blackgill and other slope components. The proposed adjustments are analyzed in Action Item 7, §7.3). In November 2025, the GMT and the Council opted to keep the unlimited blackgill rockfish IFQ trip limit in regulation for the 2027-28 biennium despite any potential allocation changes. Therefore, no changes to the trip limit were analyzed.

For all species and species groups with a limited numerical trip limit in Table 12-5 (e.g., Pacific spiny dogfish), no vessel landings appeared to approach the trip limit in 2025.

Table 12-5. 2025 estimated total mortality and average total mortality for 2022-2024 of non-whiting species with IFQ trip limits and other non-IFQ species. Data Source: 2025 estimated mortality is from PacFIN landings combined with recent 3-year average discard mortality from the GEMM. Average total mortality 2022-2024 is from the GEMM.

Species, Species Group, or Stock Complex	Trip Limit	Average Annual Total Mortality (mt), 2022-2024	2025 Estimated Total Mortality (mt)
Big skate	Unlimited	92.7	30.5
Black rockfish (California)	N/A	<0.1	<0.1
Blackgill rockfish b/	Unlimited	25.5	15.3
Cabazon (California)	50 lb./month	<0.1	<0.1

Species, Species Group, or Stock Complex	Trip Limit	Average Annual Total Mortality (mt), 2022-2024	2025 Estimated Total Mortality (mt)
Cabazon/kelp greenling (Oregon)	50 lb./month	<0.1	<0.1
Cabazon/kelp greenling (Washington)	N/A	0.1	<0.1
California halibut	N/A	0.7	0.1
California scorpionfish	Unlimited	-	-
Ecosystem component species	N/A	400.3	201.6
Longnose skate	Unlimited	523.1	451.8
Longspine thornyhead south of 34°27' N. lat.	N/A	-	-
Nearshore rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat., Washington black rockfish, and black/blue/deacon rockfish (Oregon)	300 lb./month	0.2	0.1
Nearshore rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat.	N/A	0.4	<0.1
Other groundfish	Unlimited	0.0	<0.1
Pacific spiny dogfish	60,000 lb./month	281.9	271.1

a/ The total estimated mortality and percent attainment of ACL are for the entire slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat. IFQ landings are of blackgill rockfish only. Blackgill rockfish make up an average of 36 percent of slope rockfish south mortality each year.

12.2 *Alternative 1*

Under Alternative 1, the default HCRs are applied, and management measures are set accordingly. Other than biennial allocations, the only proposed management changes to the trawl fishery are changes to the at-sea set-asides to account for expected at-sea mortality in response to new information. That new information includes at-sea fishery behavior, recent bycatch mortality trends, stock assessment information, projected IFQ attainments, and overall risk of exceeding the ACL. See [Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025](#) for more discussion on the factors the GMT considers when developing a range of at-sea set-aside options. At-sea set-asides are taken off the top of the trawl allocation, and the remainder of the trawl allocation is distributed to the IFQ fishery. The Council is also considering changes to the biennial trawl/non-trawl allocation framework for widow rockfish and the slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat., both of which impact the trawl fishery, but those impacts are analyzed in Chapter 7, §7.2.

At-sea set-asides are designed so that mortality from the at-sea sectors is largely accounted for, thereby minimizing risk to the ACL, while also accounting for the difficulty of predicting bycatch in the at-sea fishery and the possibility that they could be occasionally exceeded. Therefore, the Council may wish to set the at-sea set-asides such that they reflect an ability to account for this risk in most years; for instance, are not expected to be exceeded in more than a certain percentage of years. For example, if the Council's risk tolerance is such that the at-sea set-aside can be exceeded every one in four years without being expected to pose a risk to the ACL or the stock's conservation, or impacting other sectors, then the Council might wish to set the set-aside at a value with a 25 percent probability, or less, of being exceeded (based on the bootstrap simulation results). At-sea set-asides also involve tradeoffs between stocks. The at-sea sectors self-manage to the set-aside values and will make operational decisions based on which set-aside stocks are riskier to catch as bycatch than others. For example, in 2027-28, the analysis indicates that the risk of reaching or exceeding the shortspine thornyhead set-aside is higher than that of sablefish, so at-sea vessels may be more cautious when catching shortspine thornyhead throughout the season.

The range of at-sea set-aside options being considered for 2027-28 are provided in Table 12-6. Option 1 is the status quo set-aside in place for 2025, and Option 2 was developed at the November 2025 Council meeting ([Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, November 2025](#)). Option 2 would increase the set-aside for two stocks – canary rockfish and shortspine thornyhead – and reflects the 2026 set-aside adopted as part of the Emergency Rule to increase the 2026 harvest specifications and allocations for three stocks (91 FR 2714). Option 2 would reduce the set-aside for three other stocks, specifically sablefish north of 36° N. lat., widow rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. The Option 2 reductions for all three stocks were proposed to reflect similar reductions in their respective ACLs from 2026 to 2027 and to provide additional quota to the IFQ fishery, for which all three stocks are economically important. Lastly, four stocks are being proposed for removal in 2027-28, which means there would not be an at-sea set-aside for those stocks, and the status quo amount would instead be distributed to the IFQ fishery. The stocks proposed for removal are Dover sole, lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat., longnose skate, and petrale sole.

Table 12-6. Range of at-sea set-aside options (mt) for the 2027-28 biennium by species category.

Species Category	Option 1 (Status Quo)	Option 2
Arrowtooth flounder	100	
Canary rockfish a/	20	21.9
Darkblotched rockfish	100	
Dover sole	10	remove
Lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat.	15	remove
Longnose skate	5	remove
Other flatfish	100	
Pacific halibut	10	
Pacific ocean perch	300	
Petrale sole	5	remove
Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.	429	305
Shelf rockfish complex north of 40° 10' N. lat.	35	
Slope rockfish complex north of 40° 10' N. lat.	300	
Shortspine thornyhead	70	76.3
Widow rockfish	300	200
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. a/	360	320

12.2.1 Impacts

To analyze impacts in the trawl fishery under Alternative 1, the analysts used the following tools:

- 1) At-sea: a bootstrap simulation to estimate the probability that a set-aside option would be exceeded in 2027-28;
- 2) IFQ: a catch projection model that estimates catches by stock in 2027 and 2028 for stocks with quota, based on expected IFQ allocations.

The at-sea bootstrap simulation methods are described in more detail in Appendix A of this section, and the IFQ catch projection model methods are described in Appendix B.

Similar to the 2025-26 biennial cycle, the GMT ran four different at-sea fishing scenarios in the bootstrap simulation that reflect either full or average Pacific whiting allocation attainment, as well as either a coastwide (i.e., off of both Washington and Oregon) or a southern (i.e., exclusively off of Oregon) fishing distribution. Also similar to the previous cycle, the GMT ran bootstrap simulations using all years in the data, from 2002-2025, but another set of simulations were also run that used only the years 2017-2025 to better reflect recent fishing effort and bycatch patterns. Recent trends in at-sea bycatch of stocks and stock complexes with set-asides are shown in Figure 12-6 and Figure 12-7 below, separated into two figures by scale of the at-sea set-aside. For most stocks, mortality since 2017 has been consistently lower than, or in some years equal to, the proposed 2027-28 set-aside options. Widow rockfish and shortspine thornyhead are the only two stocks where annual mortality in any given year since 2017 was higher than any of the proposed 2027-28 set-asides.

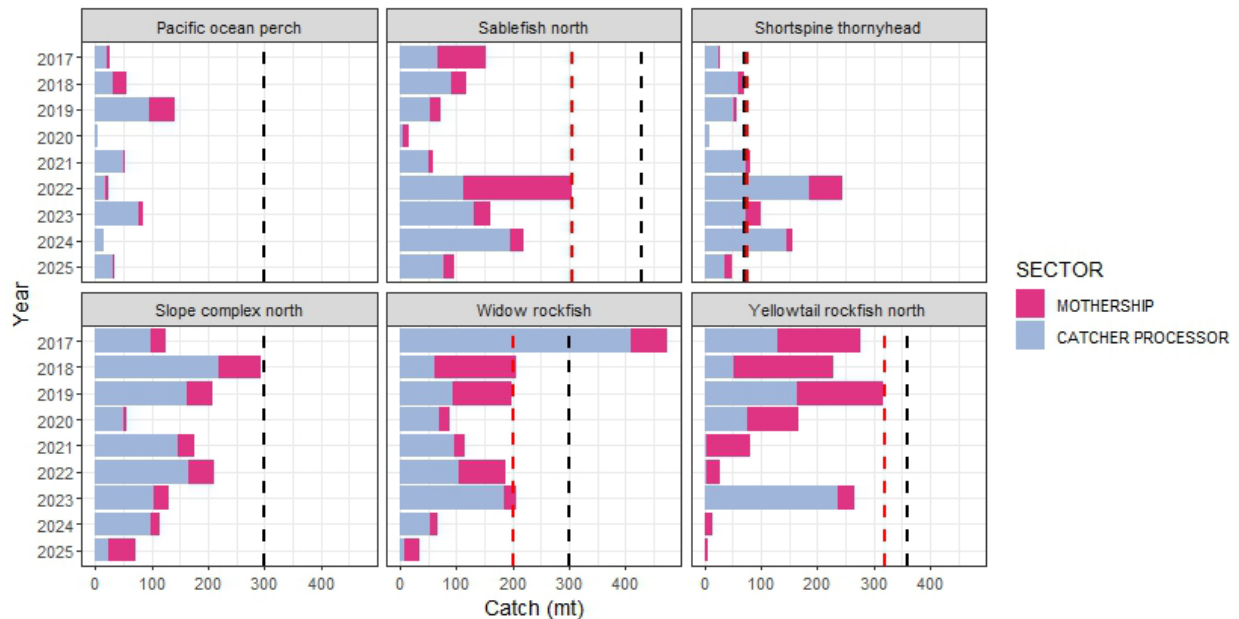


Figure 12-6 . For stocks with large at-sea set-asides, the at-sea catches (mt) by sector, 2017-2025, relative to the Option 1 (Status Quo) set-asides (black dashed line) and Option 2 set-asides (red dashed line). Note the scale of the x-axis compared to Figure 7. Data Source = PacFIN NORPAC

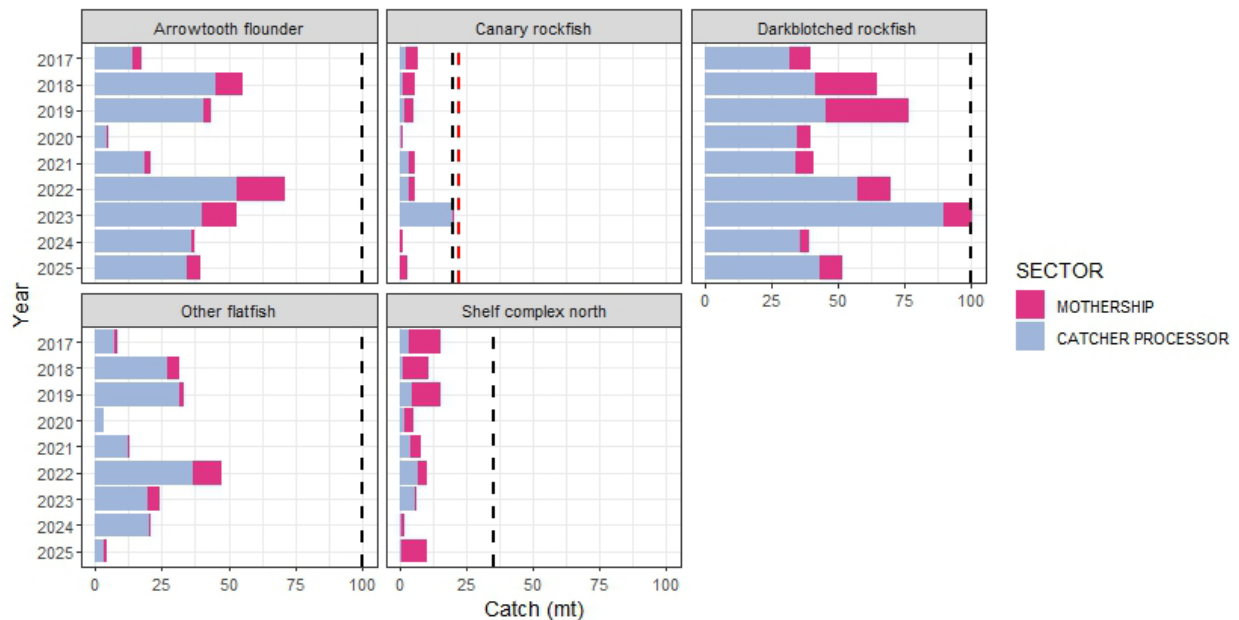


Figure 12-7. For stocks with small at-sea set-asides, the at-sea catches (mt) by sector, 2017-2025, relative to the Option 1 (Status Quo) set-asides (black dashed line) and Option 2 set-asides (red dashed line). Note the scale of the x-axis compared to Figure 6. Stocks proposed for at-sea set-aside removal (Dover sole, Lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat., longnose skate, and petrale sole) are all excluded from the figures due to extremely low catches and confidentiality. Data Source = PacFIN NORPAC

The probabilities of exceeding at-sea set-aside options in 2027-28 are provided in Table 12-7 and Table 12-8, where Table 12-7 includes the results from using all years 2002-2025 as inputs, and Table 12-8 includes the results when only the years 2017-2025 are used. For all stocks except shortspine thornyhead and widow rockfish, the probability of exceeding either set-aside option is less than 20 percent, or one in five years, regardless of the fishing scenario or the input years used. For many stocks or stock complexes, the probability is effectively zero, because the set-asides have been intentionally set higher than the sectors' historical mortality.

Table 12-9 and Table 12-10 show the median and 90th percentile of simulated catches for each stock or stock complex when only the years 2017-2025 are used (both tables), where Table 12-9 assumes average Pacific whiting attainment and Table 12-10 assumes full Pacific whiting attainment. The results shown in Table 12-9 are likely the closest to reality, in that average attainment and a southern fishing distribution are most similar to 2025 conditions.

Alternative 1 projections of IFQ mortality (i.e., "catches") in 2027 and 2028 are provided in Table 12-11 and Table 12-12. Stocks and stock complexes for which there are multiple possible IFQ allocations based on management options, such as at-sea set-asides and trawl/non-trawl allocation frameworks, are shown in Table 12-11, and all other stocks and stock complexes with only one possible IFQ allocation are shown in Table 12-12. For those stocks with multiple possible IFQ allocations, projected mortality was modeled based on "low" and "high" allocation bookends. The differences between the low and high bookends are generally small relative to the scale of the allocation itself, and therefore, projections do not vary widely either. Most stocks and stock complexes are not projected to exceed 50 percent attainment of the anticipated IFQ allocations in 2027 and 2028, which is similar to 2025. Canary rockfish, petrale sole, sablefish north of 36° N. lat., shortspine thornyhead, widow rockfish, and yellowtail north of 40° 10' N. lat. are projected to attain higher than 50 percent in 2027 and 2028 under any of the possible IFQ allocations.

Table 12-7. At-sea bootstrap simulation results when using all years from 2002 to 2025 as input data. Results are shown as the probability of exceeding the respective set-aside option for each stock under four different fishing scenarios. Pacific halibut is excluded. Data Source: PacFIN NORPAC

	Set-Aside Options		Full Attainment, Coastwide		Full Attainment, Southern		Average Attainment, Coastwide		Average Attainment, Southern	
Stock	Option 1 (Status Quo)	Option 2	Option 1 Prob.	Option 2 Prob.	Option 1 Prob.	Option 2 Prob.	Option 1 Prob.	Option 2 Prob.	Option 1 Prob.	Option 2 Prob.
Arrowtooth Flounder	100		2.4%		5.4%		2.0%		2.9%	
Canary rockfish	20	21.9	2.3%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Darkblotched rockfish	100		4.6%		6.2%		0.3%		0.5%	
Dover sole	10	remove	0.0%		0.2%		0.0%		0.0%	
Lingcod north	15	remove	0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	
Longnose skate	5	remove	0.3%		0.4%		0.0%		0.0%	
Other flatfish	100		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	
Pacific ocean perch	300		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	
Petrale sole	5	remove	0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	
Sablefish north	429	305	0.4%	9.1%	0.5%	9.1%	0.0%	4.1%	0.0%	4.3%
Shelf rockfish north	35		0.1%		0.1%		0.0%		0.0%	
Slope rockfish north	300		0.6%		0.2%		0.0%		0.0%	
Shortspine thornyhead	70	76.3	23.0%	20.9%	31.4%	28.7%	18.9%	17.9%	23.1%	19.3%
Widow rockfish	300	200	5.0%	18.2%	5.9%	21.5%	2.4%	7.7%	3.4%	8.0%
Yellowtail rockfish north	360	320	8.6%	14.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 12-8. At-sea bootstrap simulation results when using only recent years from 2017 to 2025 as input data. Results are shown as the probability of exceeding the respective set-aside option for each stock under four different fishing scenarios. Pacific halibut is excluded. Data Source: PacFIN NORPAC

	Set-Aside Options		Full Attainment, Coastwide		Full Attainment, Southern		Average Attainment, Coastwide		Average Attainment, Southern	
Stock	Option 1 (Status Quo)	Option 2	Option 1 Prob.	Option 2 Prob.	Option 1 Prob.	Option 2 Prob.	Option 1 Prob.	Option 2 Prob.	Option 1 Prob.	Option 2 Prob.
Arrowtooth Flounder	100		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	
Canary rockfish	20	21.9	4.3%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	3.1%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Darkblotched rockfish	100		8.4%		11.5%		0.7%		1.0%	
Dover sole	10	remove	0.0%		0.4%		0.0%		0.1%	
Lingcod north	15	remove	0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	
Longnose skate	5	remove	0.4%		0.7%		0.0%		0.0%	
Other flatfish	100		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	
Pacific ocean perch	300		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	
Petrable sole	5	remove	0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	
Sablefish north	429	305	0.7%	16.9%	1.2%	17.9%	0.0%	7.4%	0.0%	7.5%
Shelf rockfish north	35		0.2%		0.4%		0.0%		0.0%	
Slope rockfish north	300		1.2%		0.2%		0.0%		0.0%	
Shortspine thornyhead	70	76.3	42.6%	38.8%	59.3%	54.3%	34.8%	32.8%	42.8%	36.2%
Widow rockfish	300	200	9.6%	32.5%	11.2%	35.4%	4.9%	15.4%	6.7%	15.1%
Yellowtail rockfish north	360	320	2.1%	10.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 12-9. Median and 90th percentile of simulated catches, assuming average attainment, southern fishing distribution, and using only 2017-2025 as data inputs. Red text indicates that the catch value exceeds at least one of the set-aside options. Data Source: PacFIN NORPAC

Stock	Option 1 (Status Quo)	Option 2	Median of Simulated Catches	90 th Percentile of Simulated Catches
Arrowtooth flounder	100		42.2	55.2
Canary rockfish	20	21.9	2.1	4.2
Darkblotched rockfish	100		47.7	81.4
Dover sole	10	remove	1.6	4.8
Lingcod north	15	remove	0.4	1.6
Longnose skate	5	remove	1.1	3.0
Other flatfish	100		21.4	35.6
Pacific ocean perch	300		23.6	58.9
Petrale sole	5	remove	-	-
Sablefish north	429	305	87.3	284.5
Shelf rockfish north	35		4.8	11.7
Slope rockfish north	300		104.8	159.9
Shortspine thornyhead	70	76.3	65.3	191.2
Widow rockfish	300	200	110.3	254.6
Yellowtail rockfish north	360	320	14.5	55.4

Table 12-10. Median and 90th percentile of simulated catches, assuming full attainment, southern fishing distribution, and using only 2017-2025 as data inputs. Red text indicates that the catch value exceeds at least one of the set-aside options. Data Source: PacFIN NORPAC

Stock	Option 1 (Status Quo)	Option 2	Median of Simulated Catches	90 th Percentile of Simulated Catches
Arrowtooth flounder	100		53.2	68.0
Canary rockfish	20	21.9	3.3	5.6
Darkblotched rockfish	100		61.5	101.9
Dover sole	10	remove	2.2	5.8
Lingcod north	15	remove	0.6	3.2
Longnose skate	5	remove	1.5	4.2
Other flatfish	100		28.3	43.2
Pacific ocean perch	300		29.9	79.9
Petrale sole	5	remove	-	-
Sablefish north	429	305	109.1	373.5
Shelf rockfish north	35		6.9	19.3
Slope rockfish north	300		145.0	207.4
Shortspine thornyhead	70	76.3	80.1	236.9
Widow rockfish	300	200	155.2	315.1
Yellowtail rockfish north	360	320	26.0	92.9

Table 12-11. Alternative 1-Shorebased IFQ. 2027-28 allocations (mt), projected catch (mt), and percent attainment under Alternative 1 for IFQ stocks and stock complexes with alternative IFQ allocations based on management measure options. The “LOW” and “HIGH” allocations represent bookends, and for some stocks or stock complexes there are multiple possible allocations within those bookends. Data Source: NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database

Stock or Stock Complex	2027 Alternative 1						2028 Alternative 1					
	LOW			HIGH			LOW			HIGH		
	Alloc. (mt)	Proj. Catch (mt)	Attain.	Alloc. (mt)	Proj. Catch (mt)	Attain.	Alloc. (mt)	Proj. Catch (mt)	Attain.	Alloc. (mt)	Proj. Catch (mt)	Attain.
Canary rockfish	375	230	61%	397	238	60%	388	234	60%	410	241	59%
Dover sole	35,165	3,352	10%	35,175	3,352	10%	32,356	3,234	10%	32,366	3,234	10%
Lingcod north	1,431	364	25%	1,446	368	25%	1,412	360	25%	1,427	363	25%
Minor slope rockfish south a/	307	41	13%	440	57	13%	306	41	13%	438	57	13%
Petrable sole	2,073	2,080	100%	2,078	2,085	100%	2,047	2,054	100%	2,052	2,059	100%
Sablefish north	4,718	2,765	59%	4,842	2,824	58%	5,141	2,964	58%	5,265	3,022	57%
Shortspine thornyhead	481	257	53%	487	259	53%	487	259	53%	493	260	53%
Widow rockfish	3,995	4,260	107%	4,295	4,529	105%	4,197	4,441	106%	4,497	4,710	105%
Yellowtail rockfish north	2,910	1,655	57%	2,950	1,662	56%	2,749	1,625	59%	2,789	1,633	59%

a/ The blackgill and other slope allocation options (Chapter 7,§7.3) were revised during the GMT’s overwinter analysis, including an option that is now higher than any in this table. The GMT will provide updated projections for the June Council meeting.

Table 12-12. Alternative 1-Shorebased IFQ. 2027-28 allocations (mt), projected catch (mt), and percent attainment under Alternative 1 for IFQ stocks and stock complexes with only one possible IFQ allocation in 2027 and 2028. Data Source: NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database

Stock or Stock Complex	2027 Alternative 1			2028 Alternative 1		
	Alloc. (mt)	Proj. Catch (mt)	Attain.	Alloc. (mt)	Proj. Catch (mt)	Attain.
YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	7.4	1.5	20%	7.4	1.5	20%
Arrowtooth flounder	5,486	981	18%	4,710	918	19%
Bocaccio rockfish south	891	613	47%	851	412	48%
Chili pepper rockfish south	2,236	932	42%	2,148	930	43%
Cowcod south	26	6	21%	26	6	21%
Darkblotched rockfish	614	189	31%	597	189	32%
English sole	2,808	151	5%	2,808	151	5%
Lingcod south	315	61	19%	318	62	19%
Longspine thornyhead north	1,742	24	1%	1,700	24	1%
Minor shelf rockfish north	744	282	38%	738	281	38%
Minor shelf rockfish south	177	55	31%	176	55	31%
Minor slope rockfish north	974	196	20%	957	195	20%
Other flatfish	5,707	326	6%	5,361	322	6%
Pacific cod	1,045	4	0%	1,045	4	0%
Pacific halibut	TBD	11		TBD	11	
Pacific ocean perch north	2,538	273	11%	2,455	270	11%
Pacific whiting	TBD	108,038		TBD	108,038	
Sablefish south	1,256	74	6%	1,359	80	6%
Splitnose rockfish south	585	15	2%	585	15	2%
Starry flounder	189	0.3	0%	189	0.3	0%

The following paragraphs synthesize stock-specific impacts under Alternative 1 and across the management options. More detailed stock-specific impact analysis and conclusions are provided in Appendix B of this section.

The projections in Table 12-11 show the widow rockfish IFQ allocation being exceeded by 5-7 percent under the Alternative 1 allocations. However, the model only makes allocation-based predictions for the non-whiting fleet and fixes the whiting fleet projection at the 2025 whiting catch value. For widow rockfish, this means the model predicts that the non-whiting fleet will catch 90 percent of the IFQ allocation, but the whiting fleet is assumed to catch 678 mt (2025 catches). This results in an estimated exceedance of the 2027-28 allocations, but since whiting IFQ vessels would still need to cover any bycatch with available quota, it is reasonable to assume that the widow rockfish catches in the shoreside whiting sector would be lower than their 2025 catches. Since the whiting fleet has caught an annual 440-967 mt of widow rockfish as bycatch in any given year since 2017, the Alternative 1 allocations would be expected to impose severe negative impacts on both whiting and non-whiting vessels in the IFQ fishery. Even if the whiting fishery caught their full 2025 amount of widow rockfish, the scale of exceedance projected under Alternative 1

(5-7 percent) is within the 10 percent deficit margin legally allowed for IFQ participants ([50 CFR 660.140\(e\)\(5\)\(iii\)\(B\)](#)). When carryover is included in the attainment calculation, IFQ allocations have been exceeded for other stocks in the past, including petrale sole (2012, 2017, 2018, 2025), sablefish north of 36° N. lat. (2013, 2015, 2017), and canary rockfish (2015).

The proportion of IFQ whiting trips that landed greater than 25,000 lbs. of widow rockfish has increased relatively steadily each year since 2015, from roughly 0.25 percent of all whiting trips in 2013-2015 up to 1.6 percent in 2025. If this is an indication of increasing encounters with large volumes of widow rockfish, the whiting fleet may choose to operate more cautiously throughout the season under very low allocations. Fewer QP trades are also likely to occur as vessels insure themselves against bycatch events, similar to recent quota market dynamics resulting from canary rockfish allocation decreases.

Impacts to the trawl fishery from widow rockfish are driven largely by the HCR, and the management options under consideration provide minimal relief if the ACL adopted by the Council is similar to the Alternative 1 low book-end. Across the various management options being considered for widow rockfish, benefits in terms of relieving vessel limit constraints would only be felt if both the at-sea set-aside and the non-trawl allocation were lowered, as opposed to lowering one or the other. While lowering one or the other does increase the IFQ allocation, the same number of vessel accounts would be constrained by the vessel limit. Only when both are lowered does the analysis indicate that fewer vessel accounts would be constrained by the 2027 vessel limit, when compared to their 2025 catches.

The only other IFQ and/or trawl allocation at risk of potentially being exceeded is petrale sole because it was exceeded in 2025, and 2027-28 allocations are only expected to increase slightly for this high attaining target stock. However, as discussed in the following section, removing the at-sea set-aside does not impose additional risk to the trawl allocation, because at-sea mortality is zero in most years.

There are minimal to no differences in impacts between at-sea set-aside Options 1 and 2 for canary rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, and yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. While potentially more impactful, Option 2 for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. still provides minimal benefit to the IFQ fishery in terms of IFQ vessel limit constraints. Nine vessel accounts would not be able to catch the same amount of sablefish north in 2027 that they caught in 2025, regardless of the set-aside option chosen, because the 2027 annual vessel limit would be lower than their 2025 catches under both options. However, the 2027-28 sablefish north allocations would still be higher in 2027-28 than they were prior to 2025. Despite the analysis indicating minimal differences in terms of vessel limit constraints, GAP and public comment input have indicated that any additional QP availability for canary rockfish and shortspine thornyhead would allow vessels to operate in less risk-averse ways throughout the season, thereby improving overall trawl utilization of target stocks. Additionally, previous analysis from the 2025-26 biennial management measures package suggests that it may be easier for vessels to target sablefish while avoiding shortspine thornyhead than it is to target Dover sole while doing so. With Alternative 1 shortspine thornyhead allocations expected to remain low, relative to allocations prior to 2025, additional sablefish quota in the IFQ fishery may provide additional flexibility for vessels targeting DTS species. Yellowtail rockfish IFQ attainment may be higher than the model currently projects (56-57 percent), depending on the

extent to which midwater rockfish vessels are able to target yellowtail rockfish while avoiding widow rockfish if widow rockfish QP availability is a constraint.

12.2.2 Stocks Proposed for At-Sea Set-Aside Removal

Four stocks are being considered for removal of the at-sea set-aside in 2027-28, which means that there would not be an at-sea set-aside for these stocks, and the entire trawl allocation would be distributed to the IFQ sector. The stocks considered for set-aside removal are Dover sole, lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat., longnose skate, and petrale sole. Maximum historical (i.e., since 2002) at-sea mortality is less than 10 mt for Dover sole and lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat., and less than 5 mt for longnose skate and petrale sole. In the case of petrale sole, only six years since 2002 have any reported mortality at all in the at-sea fishery. Recent 10-year average mortality in the at-sea fishery is 1.9 mt for Dover sole, 1.2 mt for lingcod north of north of 40° 10' N. lat., 1.5 mt for longnose skate, and less than 0.1 mt for petrale sole (Table 12-13).

Table 12-13. At-sea bootstrap simulation results for the stocks under consideration for at-sea set-aside removal, along with the status quo at-sea set-aside and the 10-year average and maximum at-sea mortality (mt). Bootstrap simulation results are based on the run using only 2017-2025 as input years. When all years in the time series are used as inputs, the risk is even lower for all four stocks. Data Source: PacFIN NORPAC

	Dover sole	Lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat.	Longnose skate	Petrale sole
Status quo at-sea set-aside (mt)	10	15	5	5
10-year average mortality (mt)	1.9	1.2	1.5	<0.1
10-year maximum mortality (mt)	6.3	3.4	3.1	<0.1
Probability of reaching or exceeding SQ set-aside (full attainment, southern distribution)	0.4%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%
Probability of reaching or exceeding SQ set-aside (full attainment, coastwide distribution)	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%

The 2027 and 2028 IFQ allocations under the status quo (Option 1) and removal (Option 2) at-sea set-aside options are shown in Table 12-14, except longnose skate which does not have an IFQ allocation. There is, however, a longnose skate trip limit for IFQ participating vessels, which is currently listed as “unlimited” in regulations but can be set at a specified number by the Council in the future if needed. Dover sole, lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat., and petrale sole are all targeted and economically important in the IFQ fishery. The recent three-year average IFQ allocation attainments for the three stocks with IFQ allocations are 8 percent for Dover sole, 20 percent for lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat., and 90 percent for petrale sole (Table 12-15). The IFQ model projects 2027 IFQ allocation attainments of 10 percent for Dover sole, 25 percent for lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat., and 100 percent for petrale sole. With the exception of petrale sole, the stocks being considered for at-sea set-aside removal experience low attainment of the trawl allocation, primarily due to the very high allocations, and their ACLs are typically less than 50 percent

attained. Relative to their overall trawl allocations and ACLs, the at-sea set-asides make up a very small fraction. If the Council adopts Option 2 to remove the set-asides, total trawl mortality across all sectors (IFQ and at-sea) would still be monitored and accounted for against the trawl allocation. Additionally, although a set-aside would not exist, the Council could still take inseason action to limit at-sea mortality if there is a risk of a harvest specification being exceeded, unforeseen impact on other fisheries, or conservation concerns ([50 CFR 660.150\(c\)\(2\)\(i\)\(B\)\(2\)](#)).

Table 12-14. 2027 and 2028 IFQ allocations under each at-sea set-aside option for stocks considered for removal, except longnose skate which does not have an IFQ allocation.

Stock	2027 IFQ Allocation (mt)		2028 IFQ Allocation (mt)	
	Option 1 (Status Quo)	Option 2 (Remove)	Option 1 (Status Quo)	Option 2 (Remove)
Dover sole	35,165	35,175	32,356	32,366
Lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat.	1,431	1,446	1,412	1,427
Petrals sole	2,073	2,078	2,047	2,052

Table 12-15. IFQ mortality (mt) and attainment (%) of the four stocks considered for at-sea set-aside removal, 2011-2025, as well as 2027 and 2028 projected mortality and attainment under the two at-sea set-aside options. Data Source: 2011-2024 mortality is from the GEMM; 2025 mortality is estimated by combining PacFIN landings with the recent three-year average discard mortality from the GEMM.

Year	Dover sole		Lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat.		Longnose skate a/	Petrals sole	
	Mortality (mt)	IFQ Attain.	Mortality (mt)	IFQ Attain.	Mortality (mt)	Mortality (mt)	IFQ Attain.
2011	7,832	35%	263	*	819	812	93%
2012	7,289	33%	352	*	921	1,057	100%
2013	7,977	36%	331	27%	924	2,124	92%
2014	6,494	29%	231	20%	850	2,319	98%
2015	6,270	14%	176	16%	777	2,498	98%
2016	7,160	16%	253	23%	823	2,475	94%
2017	7,340	16%	607	45%	772	2,735	100%
2018	6,373	14%	429	34%	676	2,645	101%
2019	5,745	12%	428	21%	602	2,378	97%
2020	4,816	10%	341	18%	511	2,116	88%
2021	4,026	9%	346	15%	574	2,817	76%
2022	4,634	10%	271	13%	553	2,998	93%
2023	3,852	8%	389	21%	520	2,761	90%
2024	2,976	6%	411	26%	496	2,459	86%
2025	3,692	8%	384	26%	452	2,011	101%
2027 – projected							
Option 1	3,352	10%	364	25%	N/A	2,080	100%
Option 2	3,352	10%	368	25%	N/A	2,085	100%

Year	Dover sole		Lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat.		Longnose skate a/	Petrable sole	
	Mortality (mt)	IFQ Attain.	Mortality (mt)	IFQ Attain.	Mortality (mt)	Mortality (mt)	IFQ Attain.
2028 – projected							
Option 1	3,234	10%	360	25%	N/A	2,054	100%
Option 2	3,234	10%	363	25%	N/A	2,059	100%

*In 2011 and 2012, lingcod was managed as north and south of 42° N. lat.

a/ Longnose skate is not an IFQ stock, but there is a longnose skate trip limit for IFQ participating vessels, which is currently listed as “unlimited” in regulations but can be set at a specified number by the Council in the future if needed.

In 2027-28, the petrale sole IFQ allocation, which is typically fully attained, is expected to limit vessels from fishing their historical amounts due to recent ACL reductions, and thus even an additional 5 mt could benefit IFQ fishery participants. With an Alternative 1 default ACL of 2,449 mt in 2027, removing the 5 mt petrale sole at-sea set-aside is not likely to risk exceeding the ACL, given the extremely low historical at-sea mortality and the scale of the set-aside relative to the ACL. However, while in 2022-2024, around 500 mt of the ~3,500 mt ACLs remained unharvested each year, the petrale sole ACL was estimated to be fully attained at 101 percent in 2025. Both the trawl and non-trawl allocations were estimated to be exceeded by 7 mt and 11 mt, respectively, and the tribal set-aside of 290 mt was estimated to be fully attained. Therefore, even with the set-aside in place, the ACL would be at risk of being exceeded despite zero petrale sole mortality in the at-sea fishery. Thus, the at-sea set-aside appears to serve very little function in preventing the ACL from being exceeded, and a set-aside is only intended to account for at-sea mortality, which is effectively zero annually.

Removing all four of these at-sea set-asides would reduce regulatory complexity and lower the number of set-asides the Council needs to re-consider every biennial cycle. Given that these set-asides serve very little purpose in terms of reducing risk to the ACL, the procedural cost of re-considering them biennially and managing to them inseason may be higher than the conservation benefit of keeping them in place.

12.3 Alternative 2

All stocks with Alternative 2 HCRs that differ from Alternative 1 affect the trawl fishery through at-sea set-asides and/or IFQ quota. Table 12-16 and Table 12-17 show the Alternative 2 trawl and IFQ allocations in 2027 and 2028, compared to those under Alternative 1, for the stocks with Alternative 2 HCRs under consideration. The status quo at-sea set-aside and trawl/non-trawl allocation framework is assumed for the purposes of this comparison. Alternative 2 results in lower allocations for yelloweye rockfish, chilipepper rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat., and the slope rockfish complexes north and south of 40° 10' N. lat. Alternative 2 results in higher allocations for canary rockfish, petrale sole, shortspine thornyhead, yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat., and widow rockfish, all of which are economically important or, in the case of canary rockfish and to some extent shortspine thornyhead, are considered “choke” species to other stocks that are economically important.

Table 12-16. 2027 Trawl and IFQ allocations for stocks and stock complexes being considered for Alternative 2 HCRs.

Stock or Stock Complex	Alternative 1 - 2027		Alternative 2 - 2027	
	Trawl Allocation	IFQ Allocation (Status Quo At-sea Set-aside)	Trawl Allocation	IFQ Allocation (Status Quo At-sea Set-aside)
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	7.4	7.4	5.8	5.8
Canary rockfish	397	377	424	404
Chilipepper rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.	2,236	2,236	1,470	1,470
Petrable sole	2,078	2,073	2,118	2,113
Shortspine thornyhead	557	487	596	526
Slope rockfish complex north of 40° 10' N. lat. a/	1,274	974	842	542
Slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat. a/	553	553	543	543
Widow rockfish	4,295	3,995	9,254	8,954
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.	3,270	2,910	3,558	3,198

a/ Roughey/blackspotted rockfish is being considered for an Alternative 2 HCR and is a component of the slope rockfish complex.

Table 12-17. 2028 Trawl and IFQ allocations for stocks and stock complexes being considered for Alternative 2 HCRs.

Stock or Stock Complex	Alternative 1 - 2028		Alternative 2 - 2028	
	Trawl Allocation	IFQ Allocation (Status Quo At-sea Set-aside)	Trawl Allocation	IFQ Allocation (Status Quo At-sea Set-aside)
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	7.4	7.4	5.8	5.8
Canary rockfish	410	390	439	419
Chilipepper rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.	2,148	2,148	1,470	1,470
Petrable sole	2,052	2,047	2,118	2,113

Stock or Stock Complex	Alternative 1 - 2028		Alternative 2 - 2028	
	Trawl Allocation	IFQ Allocation (Status Quo At-sea Set-aside)	Trawl Allocation	IFQ Allocation (Status Quo At-sea Set-aside)
Shortspine thornyhead	563	493	596	526
Slope rockfish complex north of 40° 10' N. lat. a/	1,257	957	839	539
Slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat. a/	551	551	542	542
Widow rockfish	4,497	4,197	8,755	8,455
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.	3,109	2,749	3,276	2,916

a/ Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish is being considered for an Alternative 2 HCR and is a component of the slope rockfish complex.

12.3.1 Impact Analysis

Impacts to the at-sea fishery under Alternative 2 would be the same as those analyzed under Alternative 1, because the same range of at-sea set-aside options is applicable under Alternative 2. Therefore, the remainder of the Alternative 2 analysis focuses on impacts to the IFQ fishery and the risk to the trawl allocation as a whole. Projected IFQ catches under Alternative 2 allocations are shown in Table 12-18 and Table 12-19 for stocks with and without management options, respectively (i.e., at-sea set-aside options and/or trawl/non-trawl allocation options). Only stocks with Alternative 2 HCRs are shown in the tables. Projected attainment levels for all stocks are very similar to the attainments projected under Alternative 1, except for widow rockfish. Under Alternative 2, the widow rockfish allocations are not projected to be exceeded, because they are high enough to account for expected bycatch amounts by shoreside whiting vessels in addition to the 2027-28 model projections of non-whiting catches. The petrale sole IFQ allocation is projected to be fully attained (100 percent), which is similar to Alternative 1.

Table 12-18. Alternative 2-Shorebased IFQ. 2027-28 allocations (mt), projected catch (mt), and percent attainment under Alternative 2 for IFQ stocks and stock complexes with alternative IFQ allocations based on management measure options. The “LOW” and “HIGH” allocations represent the lowest and highest possible IFQ allocations, respectively, under the range of management measure options, and for some stocks or stock complexes there are multiple possible allocations within those bookends. Projected catch is shown as rounded to the nearest whole value, but attainment is calculated before rounding. Data Source: NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database

Stock or Stock Complex	2027 Alternative 2						2028 Alternative 2					
	LOW			HIGH			LOW			HIGH		
	Alloc. (mt)	Proj. Catch (mt)	Attain.	Alloc. (mt)	Proj. Catch (mt)	Attain.	Alloc. (mt)	Proj. Catch (mt)	Attain.	Alloc. (mt)	Proj. Catch (mt)	Attain.
Canary rockfish	402	239	59%	424	246	58%	417	244	59%	439	251	57%
Minor slope rockfish south a/	302	40	13%	433	56	13%	301	40	13%	431	56	13%
Petrale sole	2,113	2,120	100%	2,118	2,125	100%	2,113	2,120	100%	2,118	2,125	100%
Shortspine thornyhead	520	264	51%	526	265	50%	520	264	51%	526	265	50%
Widow rockfish	8,954	8,704	97%	9,204	8,928	97%	8,455	8,257	98%	8,755	8,526	97%
Yellowtail rockfish north	3,198	1,705	53%	3,238	1,705	53%	2,916	1,656	57%	2,956	1,663	56%

a/ The blackgill and other slope allocation options (Chapter 7,§7.3) were revised during the GMT’s overwinter analysis, including an option that is now higher than any in this table. The GMT will provide updated projections for the June Council meeting.

Table 12-19. Alternative 2-Shorebased IFQ. 2027-28 allocations (mt), projected catch (mt), and percent attainment under Alternative 2 for IFQ stocks and stock complexes with only one possible IFQ allocation in 2027 and 2028. Projected catch is shown as rounded to the nearest whole value (except for estimates less than 2 mt), but attainment is calculated before rounding. Data Source: NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database

Stock	2027 Alternative 2			2028 Alternative 2		
	Alloc. (mt)	Proj. Catch (mt)	Attain.	Alloc. (mt)	Proj. Catch (mt)	Attain.
Chilipepper rockfish south	1,470	805	55%	1,470	805	55%
Minor slope rockfish north a/	542	TBD	TBD	539	TBD	TBD
Yelloweye rockfish	5.8	1.2	21%	5.8	1.2	21%

a/ The Alternative 1 allocation was inadvertently used for the slope complex north of 40° 10’ N. lat. projections.

12.3.2 Stocks With Lower Alternative 2 Allocations

Four stocks and stock complexes have lower trawl allocations under Alternative 2. All four of those Alternative 2 HCRs were added to the range for biological precaution¹³ but are not expected to result in substantially different impacts to the trawl fishery, given generally low attainments (Figure 12-8). However, as discussed further in Appendix B, growth in targeting of chilipepper rockfish may be constrained by the Alternative 2 allocation, depending on the ability for vessels targeting chilipepper rockfish to acquire additional quota.

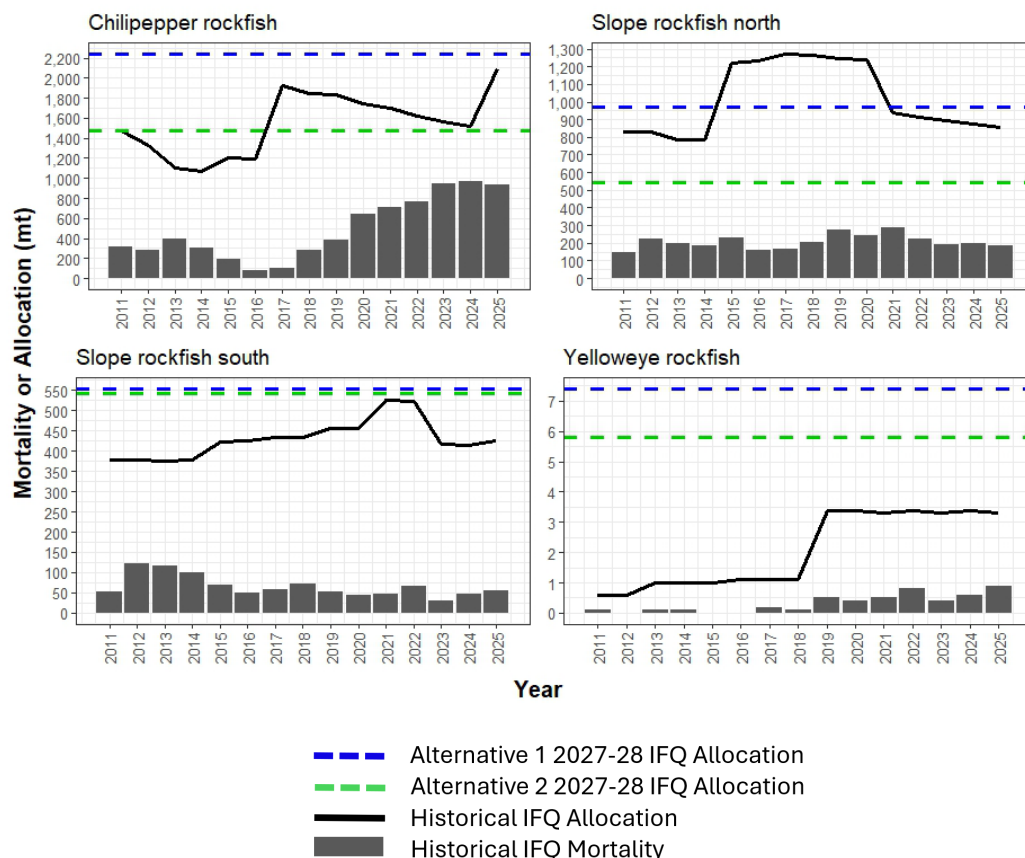


Figure 12-8.. 2027-28 IFQ allocations under Alternatives 1 and 2, compared to the historical IFQ allocation and mortality, for stocks where Alternative 2 results in a lower allocation. The 2027-28 allocations in the figure are based on status quo management options. *Note the difference in y-axis scales. Data Source: NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database

12.3.3 Stocks With Higher Alternative 2 Allocations

Five stocks and stock complexes have higher trawl allocations under Alternative 2. Those stocks are canary rockfish, petrale sole, shortspine thornyhead, widow rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. All five stocks are either target stocks or, in the case of canary rockfish and

¹³ See [Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025](#) for rationale on the range of HCRs adopted.

to some extent shortspine thornyhead, are a key “choke” stock that limits trawl access to target stocks when allocations are low.

For all five stocks, the historical IFQ allocations from at least 2017 to 2024 are higher than the expected 2027-28 IFQ allocations under both Alternatives 1 and 2, indicating that both Alternative HCRs will impose constraints compared to historical opportunity (Figure 12-9). The 2027-28 allocations under both Alternatives would be higher than the 2025 allocation for canary rockfish, petrale sole, and shortspine thornyhead, but lower than the 2025 allocation for widow rockfish and yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. As of the time of drafting this report, the Council has not yet adopted a widow rockfish stock assessment or adopted a range of harvest specifications, so the widow rockfish ACL range is based on bookends that are intended to be sufficiently wide to capture potential widow rockfish ACLs once a stock assessment is adopted. The GMT will update the analysis prior to the June Council meeting for selection of FPA.

For canary rockfish, petrale sole, and shortspine thornyhead, the impacts under Alternative 2 are minimally different from those under Alternative 1. Note that for canary rockfish and shortspine thornyhead, Alternative 2 would set the ACL equal to the ABC, whereas Alternative 1 would apply the 40-10 rule. Thus, under Alternative 2, those two stocks would no longer be eligible for IFQ carryover.

The Alternative 2 bookend for widow rockfish results in impacts that are much more similar to 2025 impacts than Alternative 1, given the wide range of bookends. However, even the Alternative 2 bookend results in expected losses in ex-vessel revenue. The IFQ model projects the widow rockfish allocation to be nearly fully attained but not exceeded, whereas the Alternative 1 bookend is projected to be exceeded in 2027-28, as discussed above. Widow rockfish allocation reductions are expected to impact particularly the midwater rockfish and shoreside whiting fleets. The midwater rockfish fleet also targets yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat., so yellowtail rockfish attainment may be constrained by the extent to which vessels can prioritize targeting yellowtail rockfish while staying within widow rockfish quota limits. The Alternative 2 yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. allocations would still be lower than any other yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. allocations since 2015 when the fishery began (Figure 12-9). The 2027 Alternative 1 allocation under status quo management measures would be lower than the annual IFQ catch amount in one year since 2011, whereas the Alternative 1 allocation would be lower than catches from four of the 15 years (Figure 12-9).

More detailed stock-specific impacts under Alternative 2 are provided in Appendix B.

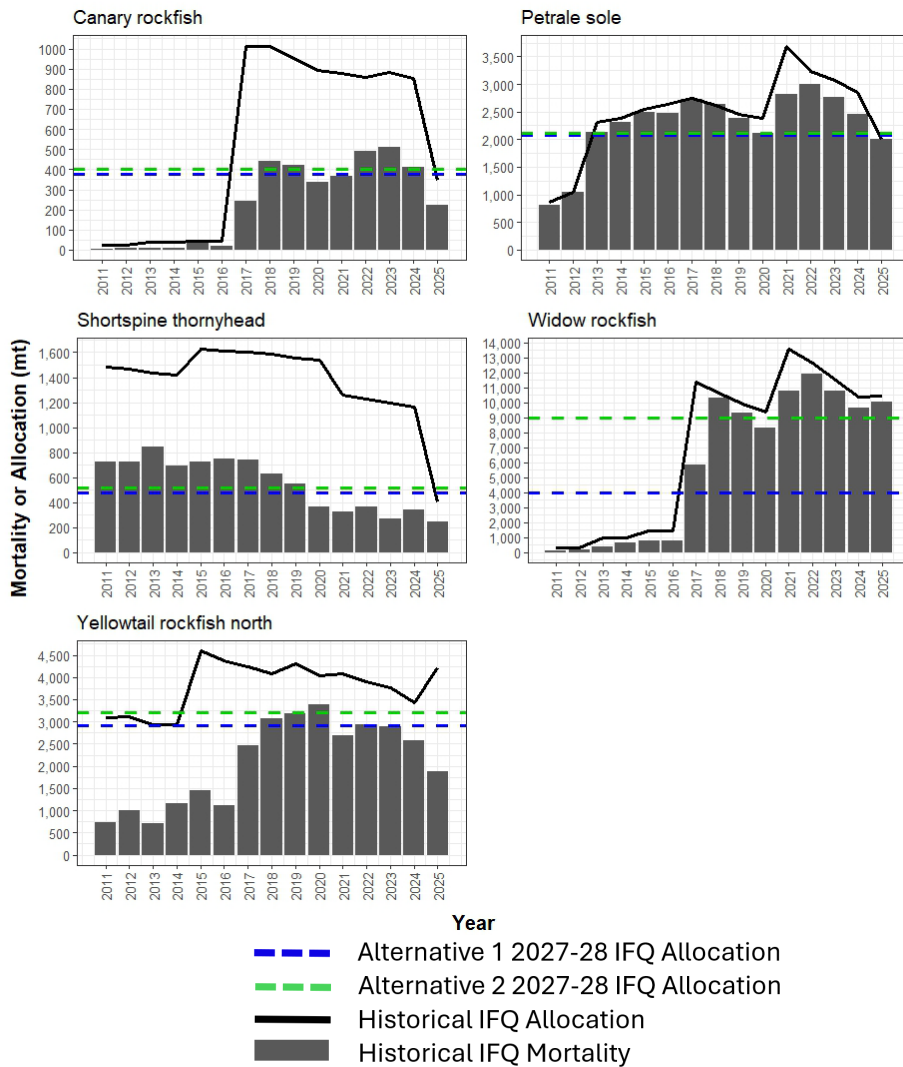


Figure 12-9. 2027-28 IFQ allocations under Alternatives 1 and 2, compared to the historical IFQ allocation and mortality, for stocks where Alternative 2 results in a higher allocation. The 2027-28 allocations in the figure are based on status quo management options. *Note the difference in y-axis scales. Data Source: [NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database](#)

Appendix A. Bootstrap Simulation Methods

Bootstrap simulations were conducted to estimate the probability of the 2027-28 set-asides being exceeded under four different possible effort scenarios. A total of eight simulations were run, with four different fishing scenarios and two different sets of time series used as inputs. Four runs used the full time series of 2002-2025 as input data, and four separate runs used a more recent time series of 2017-2025 to better reflect more recent fishing patterns and bycatch encounters. For the longer time series and the shorter time series, 24,000 and 9,000 fishing seasons were simulated, respectively, with each individual simulated season first randomly selecting a year (e.g., 2015) and then resampling from all individual positive hauls (i.e., Pacific whiting was caught) within the selected year until a season end occurs. Predicted catch from both at-sea sectors were combined for each simulated season in this analysis, because all set-asides are combined across both sectors.

In addition to the two sets of time series, bootstrap probabilities were estimated under four different fishing scenarios:

1. Coastwide¹ fishing effort and full Pacific whiting allocations are assumed to be removed
2. Coastwide fishing effort and recent (2017-2025, excluding 2024²) average Pacific whiting allocation attainment is assumed
3. Southern (south of 46° 16' N. lat.) fishing effort and full Pacific whiting allocations are assumed to be removed
4. Southern (south of 46° 16' N. lat.) fishing effort and recent (2017-2025, excluding 2024) average Pacific whiting allocation attainment is assumed

A southern scenario was chosen as a comparison to coastwide, because the at-sea fishery has been operating almost entirely south of 46° 16' N. lat. in recent years (Figure 1). Out of the four scenarios, the two sectors most closely exhibited Scenario 4 in 2025 in which nearly all Pacific whiting was caught south of 46° 16' N. lat., and actual 2025 attainments were closer to the recent average attainment than to 100 percent, although the MS sector's 2025 attainment was 14 percent higher than the recent average. Allocation attainment and latitudinal distribution have generally been the main drivers of bycatch trends in the at-sea fishery, and therefore, other scenarios looking at variables such as depth were not explored.

Under Scenarios 1 and 3, in which full Pacific whiting attainment is assumed, a season end was only simulated once each sector's full Pacific whiting allocation was reached. Under Scenarios 2 and 4, recent average attainment, a season end was simulated once each sector caught the amount that equates to the average 2017-2025 (excluding 2024) percent attainment of their sector-specific post-tribal reapportionment allocation of Pacific whiting (88 percent for the CP sector; 56 percent for the MS sector). The period 2017-2025 was selected because 2017-2019 represents years of high catch preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in lower catches and allocation attainments in 2020 and 2021. Following the pandemic, catches and attainments in 2022 and 2023 have begun to rebound, with the exception of MS catch in 2023 which was the lowest catch for that sector since 2016. The 2025 season saw higher attainments and improved availability of Pacific whiting as well as lower bycatch constraints.

The Pacific whiting allocations are set through an annual treaty process outside of the Council process, and allocations for 2026 and beyond are yet to be established as of the time of drafting this report. Therefore, the 2025 Pacific whiting allocation (post-tribal reapportionment) was used for both sectors as a proxy for the 2027-28 allocation that would trigger season end based on allocation attainment percentage (Table A-1). It is worth noting that the 2025 Pacific whiting allocations were lower than they have been in over a decade, and while the 2025 Pacific hake/whiting stock assessment indicates this trend is likely to continue, the projections in this analysis could underestimate bycatch impacts if the 2027-28 Pacific whiting allocations return to pre-2025 levels.

Table A-1. Pacific whiting allocation attainment percentages and catch amounts that trigger simulated season end for the full attainment scenarios (1 & 2) and the recent average attainment scenarios (3 & 4). Actual 2025 whiting catch and allocation attainments for each sector are provided for comparison. Data Source: PacFIN NORPAC.

Attainment Scenarios	At-sea Sector	Attainment of 2025 Whiting Allocation Simulated	Whiting Catch (mt) that Triggers Season end	Actual 2025 Whiting Catch	Actual 2025 Whiting Attainment
1 & 3 (Full)	CP	100%	96,822	82,557	85%
	MS	100%	68,345	48,938	70%
2 & 4 (Average)	CP	88%	85,203	82,557	85%
	MS	56%	38,273	48,938	70%

In addition to attainment scenarios, scenarios in which the at-sea sectors both exhibit either a coastwide effort distribution (42° N. lat. to the U.S.-Canada border) or a southern effort distribution (exclusively south of 46° 16' N. lat. or the Washington-Oregon border) were compared. To run the southern scenario simulations, input data were filtered to only include hauls that occurred south of 46° 16' N. lat. Both industry comments and the stock assessment have indicated that the Pacific whiting population appears to be more available to the fishery off of Oregon and even into California, compared to past seasons.

Interpreting the Bootstrap Simulation Results

The following section discusses how to interpret the results of the bootstrap simulation. For each of the four scenarios, results are provided in two forms:

1. The probability of exceeding a set-aside option being considered for 2027-28, and
2. The 90th percentile of catches simulated.

The 90th percentile of catches means that 90 percent of simulated seasons resulted in a total catch of that value or less. For example, a 90th percentile value of 285 mt means that 90 percent of simulated seasons – when using only 2017-2025 as inputs – resulted in a catch of 285 mt or less of sablefish north of 36° N. lat., assuming recent average allocation attainments and a southern fishing distribution. Conversely, 10 percent of the simulations exceeded 285 mt. The 50th percentile, or the risk-neutral median, is also provided. The 50th percentile is the simulated catch level where there were an equal number of simulated season catches either lower than or higher than that value and hence is considered risk neutral (Figure A-1).

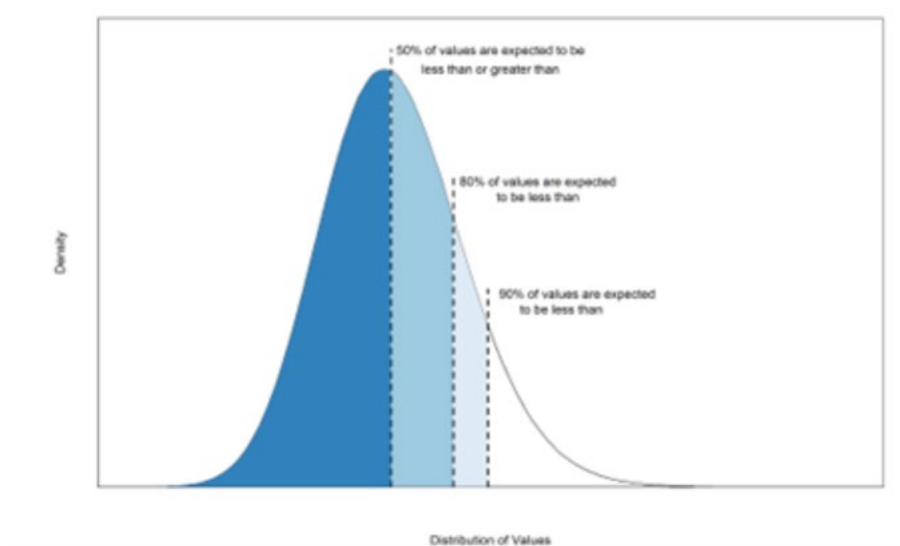


Figure A-1. Illustration of the 50th, 80th, and 90th percentiles within a normal distribution.

For species where there are high bycatch events in the historical season data being sampled, the 90th percentile catch value may be unusually high¹⁴. Additionally, if there are trends in the historical bycatch data – bycatch either increasing or decreasing over time – bootstrapping may under or overestimate potential future bycatch.

Unsurprisingly, bycatch projections, and consequently the risk of exceeding any one set-aside, increases if the full Pacific whiting allocations are caught by the at-sea sectors, compared to assuming recent average attainment levels. However, the degree of increased risk is not equal across species categories. For example, when using only recent years as input data, the risk of exceeding the canary rockfish set-aside increases by ~1 percent, while the risk to the set-aside for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. more than doubles. Similarly, the difference in risk between coastwide and southern effort distributions varies by species category, with some species categories increasing in risk (e.g., sablefish, shortspine thornyhead) and other species categories decreasing in risk (e.g., yellowtail rockfish) under a southern scenario. For some stocks, such as canary rockfish, there is a greater difference in risk between the coastwide and southern effort scenarios than there is between full and average attainment scenarios. This means that, for those stocks, the area where the vessels actually fish impacts bycatch mortality more than the amount of target species caught.

¹⁴ For example, in the 2025-26 analysis, yellowtail rockfish bootstrap simulation results were unrealistically high, because the simulation extrapolated from a few years of very high bycatch. However, the results from this analysis are more reasonable (90th percentile = 55 mt), likely due to very low catches in 2024 and 2025.

Appendix B. Stock-Specific Impacts

Alternative 1

Canary rockfish

The at-sea set-aside options for canary rockfish are 20 mt (Option 1, Status Quo) and 21.9 mt (Option 2), where Option 2 reflects the 2026 adopted set-aside as part of the Emergency Rule ([91 FR 2714](#)). Maximum at-sea mortality of canary rockfish since 2002 is 20.3 mt, but mortality in all other years was lower than 7 mt. Thus, the bootstrap simulation results indicate a less than 5 percent probability of exceeding the Option 1 or 2 set-asides.

The difference between at-sea set-aside Options 1 and 2 is 1.9 mt, and that amount is unlikely to influence a difference in fishing behavior between the two options. Canary rockfish are known to aggregate, so a small handful of large bycatch events in close proximity and in a short amount of time can result in abnormally high mortality, which occurred for the at-sea fishery in 2023. However, the probability of frequent large bycatch events occurring in multiple consecutive years is extremely low, especially if the fishery continues to operate predominantly off southern Oregon where the bootstrap simulation estimates lower risk¹⁵. The 2023 lightning strike involved 7 hauls with greater than 1,000 lbs. of canary rockfish bycatch each, all within the month of May. Since 2002, only 11 other hauls have caught more than 1,000 lbs. of canary rockfish, and there were no more than two hauls within a single month that did so.

The GMT originally modeled a “high” bookend IFQ allocation of 397 mt, which would be the result of removing the canary rockfish set-aside entirely. However, the GMT did not include that as a separate option, because it was not part of the Council’s November 2025 motion. If the Council requests that the GMT further analyze that as a distinct option, the GMT can revise the analysis for the June FPA decision. Therefore, the current range of possible IFQ allocations, based on the November 2025 motion, is 377 mt under Option 1 (SQ) or 375 mt (Option 2).

Canary rockfish is not a target species in the IFQ fishery, but the bycatch of it can constrain vessels that are trying to attain their target species quota. It is often caught in large bycatch events called “lightning strikes” that, especially if it occurs late in the season, can shut a vessel down for the remainder of the year. Therefore, IFQ vessel accounts typically hold onto as much canary rockfish QPs as possible in order to insure themselves against the risk of lightning strikes. The IFQ model projects that the fishery will catch 230-238 mt of canary rockfish in 2027 under Alternative 1, or 60-61 percent of the allocation, based on the range modeled, which as noted above, includes a removal of the canary rockfish at-sea set-aside (Table B-1).

¹⁵ Additionally, on hauls that caught more than 1,000 lbs. of canary rockfish since 2002, 66 percent of the canary rockfish poundage was caught north of the WA/OR border.

Table B-1. The 2027 and 2028 projected catch and allocation attainment (%) of canary rockfish in the IFQ fishery based on the minimum allocation possible (LOW) and maximum allocation possible (HIGH), depending on various management options being considered. Data Source: NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database

Bookend Allocation Scenario	2027			2028		
	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Attainment	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Attainment
No Action (2025) - Actual	348	223	64%	348	223	64%
LOW	375	230	61%	388	234	60%
HIGH	397	238	60%	410	241	59%

The 2027-28 canary rockfish trawl allocation is not expected to be at risk of being exceeded, even if the at-sea sectors experienced an unusually large bycatch event that caused the set-aside to be exceeded or mortality to be higher than typical. That is because roughly 150 mt of canary rockfish is projected to remain unharvested in the IFQ allocation, which is much higher than any historical canary rockfish bycatch in the at-sea fishery. Despite this under attainment of the IFQ allocation, the GAP has expressed that any additional canary rockfish quota available on the market helps vessels harvest their target species ([Agenda Item E.3.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, June 2025](#)). When the allocation decreased in 2025 by more than half, the quota price increased minimally, compared to the prior two years, but fewer trades occurred than in any year prior (Table B-2). This is further indication of the market “freezing,” making it difficult for vessels who need bycatch quota to acquire it from accounts that do hold canary rockfish QPs. When there is less canary rockfish quota available on the market, and acquiring it is more difficult, trawl vessels operate in more risk averse ways, particularly later in the season, to avoid being shut down.

Table B-2. Canary rockfish IFQ allocation, annual quota pound price, and total number of quota pound trades in 2011-2023. Source: [NOAA IFQ Quota Pound Price Data](#)

1	IFQ Allocation	QP Price (\$USD)	Total Number of QP Trades
2015	43	\$1.14	29
2016	45	\$1.23	18
2017	1,014	\$0.08	21
2018	1,014	\$0.32	27
2019	954	\$0.23	17
2020	894	\$0.12	17
2021	881	\$0.12	17
2022	859	\$0.18	24
2023	843	\$0.15	22
2024	851	\$0.16	16
2025	348	\$0.17	14

The IFQ allocation determines the annual vessel limit, which is the “maximum amount of QP a vessel can hold, acquire, and/or use during a calendar year” ([50 CFR 660.111](#)). Compliance with the vessel limit is calculated as “all QPs transferred in minus all QPs transferred out of the vessel account,” where QPs “transferred out” is largely made up of QPs used to cover catch. The canary rockfish vessel limit is currently set at 10 percent of the IFQ allocation ([50 CFR 660.140\(e\)\(4\)\(i\)](#)). The 2027-28 canary rockfish vessel limits under each of the at-sea set-aside options, compared to the 2025 vessel limit, are shown in Table B-3.

Table B-3. Alternative 1 IFQ allocations (mt) and AVLs (lbs.) under the two at-sea set-aside options for canary rockfish in 2027-28, compared to 2025.

	IFQ Allocation (mt)		IFQ Annual Vessel Limit (lbs.)	
No Action (2025)	348		76,721	
	Option 1 (SQ)	Option 2	Option 1 (SQ)	Option 2
2027	377	375	83,177	82,758
2028	404	402	89,075	88,656

The canary rockfish IFQ allocation decreased by 60 percent from 2024 to 2025, thereby decreasing the vessel limit proportionally. For the purposes of comparing 2027 to prior years’ vessel limits, 2024 could be considered an “unconstrained” year, whereas 2025 imposed new constraints. In both 2024 and 2025, only three vessel accounts utilized 37 percent of the total canary rockfish QPs used in that year. The top three vessel accounts were slightly different between the two years. For the top three vessel accounts in each year, the average utilization of canary rockfish QPs was 112,418 lbs. in 2024 and 60,033 lbs. in 2025 (Table B-4). It is worth noting that lower attaining vessel accounts may have been operating in more risk averse ways in 2025, so the vessel limit attainment level is not a direct reflection of constraints from canary rockfish. Compared to 2025, the 2027 vessel limit will be 8 percent higher in 2027 and 16 percent higher in 2028. However, compared to 2024 (“unconstrained”), the 2027 vessel limit will be 56 percent lower in 2027 and 53 percent lower in 2028. There is functionally no difference in the vessel limit between the two at-sea set-aside options.

Table B-4. Utilization of 2024 and 2025 canary rockfish AVLs for the top three accounts with the highest utilization compared to the AVL that year, and the 2027 AVL increase or decrease relative to the 2025 and 2024 AVLs, respectively. Data Source: [NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Vessel Account Balance Database](#)

2024 average utilization (lbs.) of top 3 vessel accounts	112,418			
2024 AVL (lbs.)	187,706			
2025 average utilization (lbs.) of top 3 vessel accounts	60,033			
2025 AVL (lbs.)	76,721			
	2027		2028	
	A-S Set-Aside Option 1	A-S Set-Aside Option 2	A-S Set-Aside Option 1	A-S Set-Aside Option 2
2027/28 AVL (lbs.)	83,177	82,758	89,075	88,656

2027/28 AVL decrease relative to 2024	-55.7%	-55.9%	-52.5%	-52.8%
2027/28 AVL increase relative to 2025	+8.4%	+7.9%	+16.1%	+15.6%

Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.

The at-sea set-aside options for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. are 429 mt (Option 1, Status Quo) and 305 mt (Option 2). The sablefish north ACL is decreasing by 62 percent from 2025 to 2027 as a result of the 2025 stock assessment (Wetzel et al., 2025), which estimates a smaller population size and less extreme recruitment than the 2023 limited update assessment (Johnson et al., 2023). The 2025-26 sablefish north of 36° N. lat. at-sea set-aside was increased from the prior biennium, proportional to the ACL increase projected by the 2023 limited update assessment. With the new 2025 assessment information, the Council is considering reducing the at-sea set-aside back down to 305 mt, which roughly equates to the maximum historical mortality in 2022.

The at-sea fishery catches sablefish most commonly off of southern Oregon. As fishing effort has been largely concentrated in that area in recent years, sablefish mortality has increased as well, averaging 138 mt since 2017, compared to a long-term average of 56 mt since 2002. Based on the bootstrap simulation that only used recent years as input data, the probability of the Option 1 set-aside being exceeded is 0-1 percent, and the probability of Option 2 being exceeded is 8-18 percent, with the “southern” fishing scenario resulting in higher probabilities. The median of simulated catches is 109 mt, but 10 percent of simulated seasons resulted in 374 mt or greater being caught, which exceeds Option 2 but not Option 1.

The IFQ model projects that the fishery will catch 2,765-2,824 mt of sablefish north of 36° N. lat. in 2027, or 58-59 percent of the allocation (Table B-5). The lowest possible allocation in 2027 is 4,718 mt, and the highest is 4,842 mt, which is 124 mt higher. In 2025, the IFQ fishery caught 6,376 mt, indicating a projected reduction in both catch and ex-vessel revenue by up to 57 percent from 2025 to 2027 based on the model projections (Table B-5). However, given the demonstrated capacity for the fishery to catch more than 6,000 mt, it is possible that attainment of the 2027-28 IFQ allocations could be much higher than 56 percent. Prior to 2025, the IFQ sector had not caught more than 3,000 mt, but the IFQ allocation had also not exceeded 3,900 mt during that time. With allocations greater than 4,700 mt in 2027-28, actual catches may reasonably be higher than what the IFQ model is projecting. Even if the IFQ fishery caught the entire 2027 allocation (i.e., 100 percent attainment), ex-vessel revenue could decrease by up to 25 percent compared to 2025.

Table B-5. Alternative 1. The 2027 and 2028 projected catch, allocation attainment (%), and ex-vessel revenue of sablefish north of 36° N. lat. in the IFQ fishery based on the minimum allocation possible (LOW) and maximum allocation possible (HIGH), depending on various management options being considered. Data Source: Catch projections are based on data from the NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database; ex-vessel revenue is computed based on landings and revenue from PacFIN fish tickets.

Bookend Allocation Scenario	2027				2028			
	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Attainment	Projected Ex-vessel Revenue a/	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Attainment	Projected Ex-vessel Revenue a/
No Action (2025) - Actual	13,091	6,376	49%	\$10,138,919	13,091	6,376	49%	\$10,138,919
LOW	4,718	2,765	59%	\$4,380,000	5,141	2,964	58%	\$4,695,233
HIGH	4,842	2,824	58%	\$4,473,461	5,265	3,022	57%	\$4,787,110

a/ Projected ex-vessel revenue is based on a \$0.75 price per pound, which is calculated as total 2025 ex-vessel revenue divided by total 2025 landings in pounds. For comparison, when calculating prices by vessel-day trip in 2025, the mean price per pound is \$0.42 and the maximum is \$1.77.

The annual vessel limit for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. is currently set at 4.5 percent of the IFQ allocation. The 2027-28 sablefish north of 36° N. lat. vessel limits, compared to the 2025 vessel limit, are shown in Table B-6. The sablefish IFQ allocation increased by 270 percent from 2024 to 2025 and would be decreasing by 63-64 percent in 2027, depending on the at-sea set-aside option. Even with this decrease, the 2027-28 sablefish IFQ allocations are expected to be higher than any IFQ allocations prior to 2025.

Table B-6. Alternative 1 IFQ allocations (mt) and AVLs (lbs.) under the two at-sea set-aside options for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. in 2027-28, compared to 2025.

	IFQ Allocation (mt)		IFQ Annual Vessel Limit (lbs.)	
No Action (2025)	13,091		1,298,732	
	Option 1 (SQ)	Option 2	Option 1 (SQ)	Option 2
2027	4,718	4,842	468,066	480,368
2028	5,141	5,265	510,032	522,334

Similar to canary rockfish, the 2027 AVL is compared to both 2025 and 2024 for the purposes of comparing to a very high allocation as well as a more typical allocation in years prior. In 2024, the top three vessel accounts that utilized the highest amount of sablefish north QPs used a combined 17 percent of the total sablefish north QPs used. In 2025, that proportion increased to 21 percent, suggesting that the vessels catching the highest volumes could take advantage of the allocation increase more than the lower attaining vessels. This aligns with comments from fishery participants that the larger capacity vessels were able to make up for low sablefish prices with higher volumes while smaller vessels were unable to the same extent. Compared to 2025, the vessel limit will be 63-64 percent lower in 2027 and 60-61 percent lower in 2028 (Table B-7). However, compared to 2024 (“typical allocation”), the AVL will be 33-37 percent higher in 2027 and 45-49 percent higher in 2028. The Option 2 at-sea set-aside of 305 mt results in an increase relative to 2024 that is 3.5 percent higher than the increase under Option 1. Despite this difference, nine vessel

accounts used more QPs in 2025 than the expected 2027 AVLs under either at-sea set-aside option. In other words, QP usage of those nine vessel accounts will be capped out¹⁶ in 2027 regardless of the set-aside option.

Table B-7. Utilization of 2024 and 2025 sablefish north of 36° N. lat. AVLs for the top three accounts with the highest utilization compared to the AVL that year, and the 2027 AVL increase or decrease relative to the 2025 and 2024 AVLs, respectively. Data Source: NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Vessel Account Balance Database

2024 average utilization (lbs.) of top 3 vessel accounts	327,514			
2024 AVL (lbs.)	350,791			
2025 average utilization (lbs.) of top 3 vessel accounts	999,621			
2025 AVL (lbs.)	1,298,732			
	2027		2028	
	A-S Set-Aside Option 1	A-S Set-Aside Option 2	A-S Set-Aside Option 1	A-S Set-Aside Option 2
2027/28 AVL (lbs.)	468,066	480,368	510,032	522,334
2027/28 AVL increase relative to 2024	+33.4%	+36.9%	+45.4%	+48.9%
2027/28 AVL decrease relative to 2025	-64.0%	-63.0%	-60.7%	-59.8%

Shortspine thornyhead

The at-sea set-aside options for shortspine thornyhead are 70 mt (Option 1, Status Quo) and 76.3 mt (Option 2), where Option 2 reflects the 2026 adopted set-aside as part of the Emergency Rule ([91 FR 2714](#)). At-sea mortality of shortspine thornyhead has been higher in recent years, with the exception of 2025, with maximum mortality since 2002 reaching 245 mt in 2022 (Figure 12-6). However, given that the shortspine thornyhead ACL decreased from 2024 to 2025 by 60 percent, the Council chose to maintain the 70 mt at-sea set-aside despite higher at-sea mortality to provide some relief to the IFQ fishery as the allocation decreased proportionally. For the 2025-26 biennium, both an increase and a decrease to the set-aside were considered, but the Council adopted status quo. With generally low allocation attainment (e.g., 60 percent in 2025), the trawl allocation was not expected to be at risk if the at-sea sectors exceeded the 70 mt set-aside.

For the 2027-28 biennium, the difference between the Option 1 and 2 at-sea set-asides is 6.3 mt. The at-sea bootstrap simulation results indicated that the shortspine thornyhead set-aside options are the most at risk of being exceeded, compared to all other set-aside stocks, with a probability of 18-60 percent, depending on the fishing scenario and data inputs (Table B-8 and Table B-9). A southern fishing scenario results in a 1-8 percent increase in risk of exceeding the set-aside, and when only recent years are used as inputs, compared to the entire time series, the probability roughly doubles. Additionally, the amount of Pacific whiting catch influences the amount of shortspine thornyhead bycatch, where the probability of exceeding the set-aside is higher under a full attainment scenario. This is because shortspine thornyhead are regularly caught in small

¹⁶ For this analysis, a vessel account is considered “capped out” if their 2025 QP usage was higher than the expected 2027/28 vessel limit.

amounts in the at-sea fishery throughout the season. The median of simulated catches was 65.3 mt, and the 90th percentile was 191.2 mt, which means that 10 percent of simulated seasons resulted in catches of 191.2 mt or greater. Based on the bootstrap simulation that only used recent years as input data, the probability of the Option 1 set-aside being exceeded is 35-60 percent, and the probability of Option 2 being exceeded is 33-54 percent. The difference in risk between the two set-aside options is small, up to five percent, relative to the overall risk.

Shortspine thornyhead is a component of the economically important DTS targeting strategy by IFQ bottom trawl vessels, and analysis in the 2025-26 biennial management package suggested that shortspine thornyhead constraints impact the ability to utilize Dover sole more so than sablefish, the other two main components of the DTS target strategy in addition to thornyheads. However, the analysis also indicated that there is variation across vessels and that bottom trawl vessels appear to have some control over their catch composition among DTS species. In 2025, when shortspine thornyhead allocations were at a record low, Dover sole catches were 3,704 mt, only roughly 200 mt less than the average of the prior three years (Table 12-3 and Figure 12-3). Despite this apparent flexibility within bottom trawl targeting strategies, gear switching effort increased dramatically in 2025 in response to higher sablefish IFQ allocations, roughly doubling in vessel participation compared to the prior three years. Shortspine thornyhead constraints for bottom trawl vessels may have contributed to this fixed gear effort increase, noting that fixed gear is less likely to catch shortspine thornyhead than bottom trawl gear.

The IFQ model projects that the fishery will catch 257-259 mt in 2027, or 53 percent of the 2027 allocation (Table B-8). The trawl allocation is not likely to be at risk of being exceeded. If the at-sea fishery caught their historical maximum of 245 mt under the lowest at-sea set-aside of 70 mt (Option 1), and the IFQ fishery caught their model projection of 259 mt, that would still leave 53 mt unharvested in the overall trawl allocation. In 2025, the at-sea fishery caught only 48 mt. Therefore, while the probability of exceeding the at-sea set-aside is high relative to other stocks, the risk of exceeding the trawl allocation is still relatively low, especially across multiple years. Additionally, given the chronic nature of shortspine thornyhead bycatch, if IFQ attainment were tracking high and the trawl allocation was suddenly at risk of being exceeded due to at-sea bycatch, the Council could take inseason action on one or both at-sea sectors ([CFR 660.150\(c\)\(2\)\(i\)\(B\)\(1\)](#)). However, given these bycatch patterns, it is unlikely that concentrated tools such as Block Area Closures would be effective at limiting shortspine thornyhead mortality in the at-sea sectors. The Council would also want to consider the overall risk to the ACL before taking inseason action.

Based on IFQ model projections, shortspine thornyhead ex-vessel revenues are expected to increase slightly in 2027-28, compared to 2025 as a result of the higher allocations (Table B-8).

Table B-8. Alternative 1. The 2027 and 2028 projected catch, allocation attainment (%), and ex-vessel revenue of shortspine thornyhead in the IFQ fishery based on the minimum allocation possible (LOW) and maximum allocation possible (HIGH), depending on various management options being considered. Data Source: Catch projections are based on data from the NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database; ex-vessel revenue is computed based on landings and revenue from PacFIN fish tickets.

Bookend Allocation Scenario	2027				2028			
	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Attainment	Projected Ex-vessel Revenue a/	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Attainment	Projected Ex-vessel Revenue a/
No Action (2025) - Actual	406	246	60%	\$253,112	406	246	60%	\$253,112
LOW	481	257	53%	\$278,097	487	259	53%	\$280,261
HIGH	487	259	53%	\$280,261	493	260	53%	\$281,343

a/ Projected ex-vessel revenue is based on a \$0.52 price per pound, which is calculated as total 2025 ex-vessel revenue divided by total 2025 landings in pounds. For comparison, when calculating prices by vessel-day trip in 2025, the mean price per pound is \$0.42 and the maximum is \$1.50.

The annual vessel limit for shortspine thornyhead is currently set at 9 percent of the IFQ allocation. The 2027-28 shortspine thornyhead vessel limits, compared to the 2025 vessel limit, are shown in Table B-9. In 2025, only one vessel account attained more than 75 percent of the vessel limit. The top three highest attaining vessel accounts in 2025 utilized an average of 44,443 lbs., or 55 percent of the 2025 vessel limit (Table B-10). Compared to 2025, the vessel limit is expected to be roughly 20 percent higher in 2027 and 2028. There is minimal difference in IFQ vessel limit impacts between the two at-sea set-aside options, and the vessel limit is not expected to be a constraint under either option.

Prior to 2025, shortspine thornyhead was managed north and south of 34° 27' N. lat., and in the 2025-26 harvest specifications package, the Council took action to remove the management line. With many changes made to the IFQ allocations and QP system from 2024 to 2025, the GMT does not provide a detailed comparison of the 2027-28 vessel limit impacts to 2024 when the shortspine thornyhead allocations were relatively “non-constraining” both north and south of the management line. However, it is worth noting that when northern and southern shortspine thornyhead QP usage in 2024 is combined for individual vessel accounts, the Alternative 1 2027-28 vessel limits are expected be higher than the combined QP usage of the top three highest attaining vessel accounts. This suggests that the 2027-28 vessel limits are not likely to be a constraint to bottom trawl vessels, assuming those vessels are able to acquire the needed QPs to cover catch.

Table B-9. Alternative 1 IFQ allocations (mt) and annual vessel limits (lbs.) under the two at-sea set-aside options for shortspine thornyhead in 2027-28, compared to 2025.

	IFQ Allocation (mt)		IFQ Annual Vessel Limit (lbs.)	
No Action (2025)	406		80,557	
	Option 1 (SQ)	Option 2	Option 1 (SQ)	Option 2
2027	487	481	96,598	95,348
2028	493	487	97,866	96,616

Table B-10. Utilization of 2024 and 2025 shortspine thornyhead AVLs for the top three accounts with the highest utilization compared to the AVL that year, and the 2027 AVL increase or decrease relative to the 2025 and 2024 AVLs, respectively. Data Source: NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Vessel Account Balance Database

2025 average utilization (lbs.) of top 3 vessel accounts	44,443			
2025 AVL (lbs.)	80,557			
	2027		2028	
	A-S Set-Aside Option 1	A-S Set-Aside Option 2	A-S Set-Aside Option 1	A-S Set-Aside Option 2
2027/28 AVL (lbs.)	96,598	95,348	97,866	96,616
2027/28 AVL decrease relative to 2025	+19.9%	+18.4%	+21.5%	+19.9%

Widow rockfish

At the time of drafting this document, the Council has yet to adopt the default harvest specifications for widow rockfish for 2027-28 due to ongoing consideration of the stock assessment (Kinneen et al., 2025). Based on the Council's guidance in November, the GMT analyzed two very wide bookends to try to capture the impacts from the lowest and highest possible ACLs. Alternative 1 reflects the default HCR based on the October 2025 version of the widow rockfish stock assessment ($ABC=ACL$, $P^*=0.45$). However, the new January widow rockfish stock assessment model results in default 2027-28 ACLs that are even lower than the Alternative 1 ACLs. The GMT will update the analysis prior to the June Council meeting for selection of FPA.

Alternative 1 results in 2027-28 IFQ allocations of 3,995-4,245 mt, which varies depending on whether the Council chooses to set the non-trawl allocation at 300 mt (Option 1, Status Quo) or 150 mt (Option 2), which are analyzed in more detail in §7.2) as well as the two at-sea set-aside options (300 mt [SQ, Option 1] and 200 mt [Option 2]). There is a difference of 250 mt between the lowest and highest possible IFQ allocation in 2027.

The Council's November 2025 motion tasked the GMT with analyzing the two at-sea set-aside options described above. During the overwinter analysis, the GMT explored IFQ model projections based on an additional, lower at-sea set-aside option of 150 mt. This lower amount was explored because the widow rockfish IFQ allocation is decreasing by roughly 60 percent, and at-sea mortality was lower than 150 mt in 17 out of the 23 years since 2002 (or 74 percent). For comparison, at-sea mortality was lower than 200 mt in 20 out of the 23 years (or 87 percent).

However, the GMT did not explore the option of 150 mt further, because the risk of exceeding the trawl allocation is already relatively high under the at-sea set-aside option of 200 mt, and the GAP recommended only the 300 mt and 200 mt options in November. This means that the “high” IFQ allocation bookend in Table B-11 is 50 mt higher than the true highest possible IFQ allocation in 2027 and 2028, based on the options being considered for adoption.

The at-sea fishery caught a maximum of 476 mt in 2017, but mortality in all other years was lower than 210 mt. In 2025, the at-sea fishery caught a total of 36 mt. The bootstrap simulation estimates a 2-11 percent probability of exceeding the Option 1 widow rockfish set-aside and an 8-35 percent probability of exceeding Option 2. In the most realistic fishing scenario (average attainment, southern distribution, and recent years used as inputs), the probability is 7 percent under Option 1 and 15 percent under Option 2. That means the widow rockfish set-aside is not likely to be exceeded more frequently than one in every five years. The probability is slightly higher when the fishery operates only off of Oregon, but even then, fishing exclusively off of Oregon is not a predictor of high widow rockfish bycatch, as seen in 2025. The median of simulated catches, assuming average attainment and a southern distribution, was 110 mt, and the 90th percentile was 255 mt. This means that, even in 90 percent of simulated catches, the status quo at-sea set-aside was not exceeded.

Widow rockfish is an economically important target stock, along with yellowtail rockfish, in the midwater rockfish sector of the IFQ fishery. The projections in Table B-11 show the widow rockfish IFQ allocation being exceeded by 5-7 percent under the Alternative 1 allocations. However, an exceedance of that scale is unlikely because the model only makes allocation-based predictions for the non-whiting fleet and fixes the whiting fleet projection at the 2025 whiting catch value. For widow rockfish, this means the model predicts that the non-whiting fleet will catch 90 percent of the IFQ allocation, but the whiting fleet is assumed to catch 678 mt (2025 catches). This results in a projected exceedance of the 2027-28 IFQ allocations. However, whiting IFQ vessels would still need to cover any bycatch with available quota, so it is reasonable to assume that the widow rockfish allocations in 2027-28 would be fully attained but not exceeded, especially to the extent that the projections show.

Since the whiting fleet has caught an annual 440-967 mt of widow rockfish as bycatch in any given year since 2017, the Alternative 1 allocations would be expected to impose severe negative impacts on both whiting and non-whiting vessels in the IFQ fishery. The proportion of IFQ whiting trips that landed greater than 25,000 lbs. of widow rockfish has increased relatively steadily each year since 2015, from roughly 0.25 percent of all whiting trips in 2013-2015 up to 1.6 percent in 2025. If this is an indication of increasing encounters with large volumes of widow rockfish, the whiting fleet may choose to operate more cautiously throughout the season under very low allocations. Fewer QP trades are also likely to occur as trawl vessels insure themselves against bycatch events, similar to recent quota market dynamics that resulted from canary rockfish allocation decreases.

Additionally, if the IFQ allocation is fully attained and the at-sea sectors exceed their set-aside, the trawl allocation would be exceeded. However, the bootstrap simulation results suggest that either set-aside option is not likely to be exceeded more than one in five years, and the at-sea fishery caught only 36 mt in 2025, or 12 percent of the status quo (Option 1) set-aside. With the

expectation that high at-sea bycatch could put the trawl allocation at risk, the at-sea sectors are likely to further alter fishing behavior to avoid widow rockfish as much as possible.

Under Alternative 1, the IFQ fishery is projected to lose roughly \$3.2 million in widow rockfish ex-vessel revenue in 2027, compared to 2025, based on a \$0.25 price per pound, calculated as total 2025 widow rockfish ex-vessel revenue divided by total 2025 widow rockfish landed pounds (Table B-11). That projected loss assumes 100 percent of the IFQ allocation is attained and does not account for any catch in excess of the allocation. Option 2 provides an additional roughly \$167,000 in total fleetwide ex-vessel revenue compared to Option 1.

Table B-11. Alternative 1. The 2027 and 2028 projected catch, allocation attainment (%), and ex-vessel revenue of widow rockfish in the IFQ fishery based on the minimum allocation possible (LOW) and maximum allocation possible (HIGH), depending on various management options being considered. Data Source: Catch projections are based on data from the NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database; ex-vessel revenue is computed based on landings and revenue from PacFIN fish tickets.

Bookend Allocation Scenario	2027				2028			
	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Attainment	Projected Ex-vessel Revenue a/	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Attainment	Projected Ex-vessel Revenue a/
No Action (2025) - Actual	10,419	10,021	96%	\$5,563,380	10,419	10,021	96%	\$5,563,380
LOW	3,995	4,260	107%	\$2,218,595	4,197	4,441	106%	\$2,330,775
HIGH	4,295	4,529	105%	\$2,385,198	4,497	4,710	105%	\$2,497,378

a/ For widow rockfish only, ex-vessel revenue is based on 100% attainment of the IFQ allocation; exceedances are not factored into the revenue estimation. Projected ex-vessel revenue is based on a \$0.25 price per pound, which is calculated as total 2025 ex-vessel revenue divided by total 2025 landings in pounds. For comparison, when calculating prices by vessel-day trip in 2025, the mean price per pound is \$0.20 and the maximum is \$10.00.

Widow rockfish quota prices have been very low since 2017, relative to other quota stocks, with the number of trades decreasing since the emergence of the midwater rockfish fishery (Table B-12). It is very likely that a substantial allocation decrease in 2027-28 will cause quota prices to increase, possibly doubling relative to 2025. As discussed above, the quota market for widow rockfish may “freeze” to some extent in 2027-28, similar to the canary rockfish quota market in 2025.

Table B-12. Widow rockfish IFQ allocation, annual quota pound price, and total number of quota pound trades in 2011-2023. Source: NOAA IFQ Quota Pound Price Data

Year	IFQ Allocation	QP Price (\$USD)	Total Number of QP Trades
2015	1,421	\$0.15	52
2016	1,421	\$0.15	26
2017	11,393	\$0.03	3
2018	10,662	\$0.03	43
2019	9,929	\$0.04	44
2020	9,387	\$0.05	41

Year	IFQ Allocation	QP Price (\$USD)	Total Number of QP Trades
2021	13,601	\$0.05	20
2022	12,664	\$0.06	33
2023	11,510	\$0.06	25
2024	10,368	\$0.06	15
2025	10,419	\$0.06	9

The annual vessel limit for widow rockfish is currently set at 8.5 percent of the IFQ allocation. The 2027-28 widow rockfish vessel limits, compared to the 2025 vessel limit, are shown in Table B-13. In 2025, the top three vessel accounts that utilized the highest amount of widow rockfish QPs used a combined 25 percent of the total widow rockfish QPs used by the fishery. For widow rockfish, 2027 and 2028 vessel limits are only compared to 2025 impacts, because the allocation was very similar in 2024 and 2025. Compared to 2025, the vessel limit will be 59-62 percent lower in 2027 and 57-60 percent lower in 2028, depending on the management options chosen (Table B-13). 11-14 vessels are expected to be capped out¹⁷ in 2027, and 10-12 vessels in 2028 (Table B-14). In 2027, the same number of vessels (13) would be capped out under a lower non-trawl allocation (150 mt) but status quo at-sea set-aside (300 mt) as would be under a status quo non-trawl allocation (300 mt) but a lower at-sea set-aside (200 mt). In other words, preventing any additional vessel accounts from being capped out requires lowering both the non-trawl allocation and the at-sea set-aside, rather than lowering one or the other. In 2028, there is no difference in the number of vessels that would be capped out across any of the options other than status quo; although, generally fewer vessel accounts would be capped out in 2028 compared to 2027.

Table B-13. Alternative 1 IFQ allocations (mt) and annual vessel limits (lbs.) under the two at-sea set-aside options for widow rockfish in 2027-28, compared to 2025.

Trawl/Non-Trawl Allocation Option		IFQ Allocation (mt)		IFQ Annual Vessel Limit (lbs.)	
		No Action (2025)		10,419	
		At-Sea Option 1 (SQ)	At-Sea Option 2	At-Sea Option 1 (SQ)	At-Sea Option 2
Option 1 (SQ) 300 mt to non-trawl	2027	3,995	4,095	748,627	767,366
	2028	4,197	4,297	786,480	805,219
Option 2 150 mt to non-trawl	2027	4,145	4,245	776,736	795,475
	2028	4,347	4,447	814,589	833,328

¹⁷ For this analysis, a vessel account is considered “capped out” if their 2025 QP usage was higher than the 2027/28 vessel limit.

Table B-14. Utilization of 2025 widow rockfish AVLs for the top three accounts with the highest utilization compared to the AVL that year, the 2027 and 2028 AVL decreases relative to the 2025 AVL, and the number of vessels in 2027 and 2028 that would be “capped” in 2027 (i.e., their 2025 QP usage was higher than the 2027 or 2028 AVL). Data Source: NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Vessel Account Balance Database

2025 average utilization (lbs.) of top 3 vessel accounts	1,904,803			
2025 AVL (lbs.)	1,952,447			
	2027			
	Trawl/Non-trawl Option 1 (SQ) NT = 300 mt		Trawl/Non-trawl Option 2 NT = 150 mt	
	A-S Set- Aside Option 1	A-S Set- Aside Option 2	A-S Set- Aside Option 1	A-S Set- Aside Option 2
2027 AVL (lbs.)	748,627	767,366	776,736	795,475
2027 AVL decrease relative to 2025	-61.7%	-60.7%	-60.2%	-59.3%
Number of 2025 vessel accounts capped in 2027	14	13	13	11
	2028			
	Trawl/Non-trawl Option 1 (SQ) NT = 300 mt		Trawl/Non-trawl Option 2 NT = 150 mt	
	A-S Set- Aside Option 1	A-S Set- Aside Option 2	A-S Set- Aside Option 1	A-S Set- Aside Option 2
2028 AVL (lbs.)	786,480	805,219	814,589	833,328
2028 AVL decrease relative to 2025	-59.7%	-58.8%	-58.3%	-57.3%
Number of 2025 vessel accounts capped in 2028	12	10	10	10

Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.

The at-sea set-aside options for yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. are 360 mt (Option 1, Status Quo) and 320 mt (Option 2). In the 2025-26 biennium, the set-aside was increased from 320 mt to 360 mt due to a roughly proportional increase in the yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. ACL at the time. With the ACL expected to decrease by 24 percent from 2025 to 2027 under Alternative 1, the Council chose to analyze decreasing the at-sea set-aside back down to the previous value of 320 mt, which is an 11 percent decrease.

Yellowtail rockfish bycatch in the at-sea fishery tends to be highly variable, with large, infrequent bycatch events driving the high bycatch years. To illustrate, within just the last three years (2023-2025), yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. mortality in the at-sea fishery ranged from 268 mt in 2023 down to 7 mt in 2025. The very large bycatch events tend to occur in waters off of Washington. The bootstrap simulation indicates a 0-15 percent probability of exceeding the yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. at-sea set-aside, depending on the effort scenario and input years used (Tables 12-7 and 12-8). When using recent years as inputs, the risk is lower, and when fishing exclusively off of Oregon, the risk is functionally zero. In the most risk averse

scenario (coastwide effort, full attainment), the probability of reaching or exceeding the lower Option 2 set-aside is 11 percent or 18 percent when using recent years or the full time series, respectively. The median of simulated catches is 14.5 mt, and the 90th percentile is 55.4 mt.

Under Alternative 1, the IFQ allocation will decrease roughly 30 percent from 2025 to 2027. The IFQ model projects that the fishery will catch 1,655-1,662 mt in 2027, or 56-57 percent of the allocation (Table B-15). The fishery caught only 44 percent of the IFQ allocation in 2025, compared to roughly 70-80 percent attainment in the seven years prior (Figure 9). 2025 yellowtail rockfish catches were lower in all three IFQ trawl fisheries—bottom trawl, shoreside whiting, and midwater rockfish—compared to those fisheries’ catches in prior years. However, the widow rockfish allocation is expected to decrease in 2027-28, compared to 2025, and there is uncertainty as to whether yellowtail rockfish catches will increase as a result of effort shifting away from widow rockfish, or if midwater rockfish vessels will be constrained by the lower widow rockfish quota in addition to continuing to be constrained by canary rockfish. The outcome depends on the extent to which midwater rockfish vessels can target yellowtail rockfish while staying within their widow rockfish quota limits. With IFQ catches expected to be lower in 2027 than in 2025, the fishery is projected to lose approximately \$126,000 in ex-vessel revenue in 2027 under the Option 1 at-sea set-aside, compared to 2025 revenues, or \$122,000 under Option 2 (Table B-15).

Table B-15. Alternative 1. The 2027 and 2028 projected catch and allocation attainment (%) of yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. in the IFQ fishery based on the minimum allocation possible (LOW) and maximum allocation possible (HIGH), depending on various management options being considered. Data Source: Catch projections are based on data from the [NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database](#); ex-vessel revenue is computed based on landings and revenue from PacFIN fish tickets.

Bookend Allocation Scenario	2027				2028			
	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Attainment	Projected Ex-vessel Revenue a/	Allocation (mt)	Projected Catch (mt)	Attainment	Projected Ex-vessel Revenue a/
No Action (2025) - Actual	4,230	1,870	44%	\$1,087,339	4,230	1,870	44%	\$1,087,339
LOW	2,910	1,655	57%	\$960,853	2,749	1,625	59%	\$943,435
HIGH	2,950	1,662	56%	\$964,917	2,789	1,633	59%	\$948,080

a/ Projected ex-vessel revenue is based on a \$0.26 price per pound, which is calculated as total 2025 ex-vessel revenue divided by total 2025 landings in pounds. For comparison, when calculating prices by vessel-day trip in 2025, the mean price per pound is \$0.20 and the maximum is \$0.60.

Quota prices for yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. have been steadily increasing since the emergence of the midwater rockfish fishery around 2015 (Table B-16). The number of trades peaked at 52 in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic and has been below 20 since then. In 2025, only five trades occurred, likely due to lower demand for quota as a result of lower catch from other constraints. These constraints are likely to continue into 2027 and 2028, with potentially some relief, but the allocation reduction could still cause quota prices to continue increasing steadily.

Table B-16. Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. IFQ allocation, annual quota pound price, and total number of quota pound trades in 2011-2023. Source: NOAA IFQ Quota Pound Price Data

Year	IFQ Allocation	QP Price (\$USD)	Total Number of QP Trades
2015	4,593	\$0.01	16
2016	4,377	\$0.01	9
2017	4,246	\$0.03	24
2018	4,075	\$0.03	24
2019	4,306	\$0.05	45
2020	4,048	\$0.06	52
2021	4,091	\$0.06	16
2022	3,898	\$0.05	19
2023	3,762	\$0.06	18
2024	3,432	\$0.07	13
2025	4,230	\$0.08	5

The annual vessel limit for yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. is currently set at 7.5 percent of the IFQ allocation. The 2027-28 yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. vessel limits, compared to the 2025 vessel limit, are shown in Table B-17. In 2025, the top three vessel accounts that utilized the highest amount of yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. QPs used a combined 27 percent of the total yellowtail rockfish QPs used by the entire fishery. That proportion increased to 38 percent in 2025, which is likely due to lower catches in the bottom trawl fishery in 2025. All three of the highest attaining vessel accounts are midwater rockfish targeting vessels. Compared to 2025, the vessel limit will be 30-31 percent lower in 2027 and 34-35 percent lower in 2028, depending on the at-sea set-aside option chosen (Table B-18). Between the Option 1 and Option 2 at-sea set-asides, there is a 1.2 percent difference in the IFQ vessel limit reduction from 2025. Additionally, there is no difference between the two options in terms of the number of vessels that would be capped out in 2027, relative to their 2025 QP usage. In 2028, Option 2 results in one less vessel being capped out compared to Option 1. Compared to 2024, which represents a year in which the overall fishery experienced fewer constraints, the vessel limit will be roughly 15 percent lower in 2027 and 19 percent lower in 2028, and roughly the same number of vessels would be capped out with the addition of one vessel in 2028 under at-sea set-aside Option 1.

Table B-17. Alternative 1 IFQ allocations (mt) and annual vessel limits (lbs.) under the two at-sea set-aside options for yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. in 2027-28, compared to 2025.

	IFQ Allocation (mt)		IFQ Annual Vessel Limit (lbs.)	
No Action (2025)	4,230		699,416	
	Option 1 (SQ)	Option 2	Option 1 (SQ)	Option 2
2027	2,910	2,950	481,138	487,752
2028	2,749	2,789	454,598	461,212

Table B-18. Utilization of 2024 and 2025 yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. AVLs for the top three accounts with the highest utilization compared to the AVL that year, and the 2027 AVL increase or decrease relative to the 2025 and 2024 AVLs, respectively. Data Source: NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Vessel Account Balance Database

2024 average utilization (lbs.) of top 3 vessel accounts	509,740			
2024 AVL (lbs.)	567,419			
2025 average utilization (lbs.) of top 3 vessel accounts	523,949			
2025 AVL (lbs.)	699,416			
	2027		2028	
	A-S Set-Aside Option 1	A-S Set-Aside Option 2	A-S Set-Aside Option 1	A-S Set-Aside Option 2
2027/28 AVL (lbs.)	481,138	487,752	454,598	461,212
2027/28 AVL decrease relative to 2024	-15.2%	-14.0%	-19.9%	-18.7%
Number of 2024 vessel accounts capped in 2027/28	2	2	3	3
2027/28 AVL decrease relative to 2025	-31.2%	-30.3%	-35.0%	-34.1%
Number of 2025 vessel accounts capped in 2027/28	2	2	4	3

Alternative 2

Chilipepper rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.

There are no additional management options for chilipepper rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. in 2027-28, and there is no at-sea set-aside for the stock. The Alternative 2 HCR would be a constant ACL of 2,114 mt. Therefore, the IFQ allocation under Alternative 2 is 1,470 mt in both 2027 and 2028. Chilipepper rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. IFQ allocations and projected catches, attainment, and revenue (or actual in the case of No Action) are shown for each of the Alternative HCRs in Table B-19

As discussed in the No Action Trawl section, there has been a steady increase in chilipepper rockfish targeting by trawl vessels in recent years.¹⁸ While the lower chilipepper rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. allocation under Alternative 2 could limit the extent to which targeting can continue to increase, the Alternative 2 allocation is only 3 percent lower than the 2025 allocation. IFQ mortality of chilipepper rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. increased steadily since 2016, reaching the historical maximum of 972 mt in 2025 when the allocation was 1,518 mt. At the same time as mortality was increasing, the IFQ allocation steadily decreased from 1,921 mt in 2017 down to 1,518 mt in 2025 (Figure 12-8). This suggests that growth is possible so long as there is still room in the allocation. The 2027-28 Alternative 2 allocation of 1,470 mt is 540 mt higher than the sector's maximum historical mortality. The model projection of 805 mt may underestimate catches under Alternative 2 if the fishery is not constrained by quota availability.

¹⁸ 2024 had the highest amount of trips targeting chilipepper rockfish, as well as the largest amount of IFQ harvest, since the start of the IFQ program. Catch per unit effort of chilipepper rockfish south, where the unit of effort is a trip, has also been steadily increasing since 2016, with a small drop in 2025.

Table B-19. 2027-28 IFQ allocations along with projected catch, attainment, and ex-vessel revenue for chilipepper rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. Projected ex-vessel revenue is based on a \$0.56 price per pound of chilipepper rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. in 2025, which is calculated as total fleetwide ex-vessel revenue divided by fleetwide landings. Price per pound is multiplied by the expected landed proportion of catches. Data Source: Catch projections are based on data from the NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database; ex-vessel revenue is computed based on landings and revenue from PacFIN fish tickets.

2025 (No Action; actual)		
IFQ Allocation (mt)	2,091	
IFQ Catch (mt)	930	
IFQ Ex-Vessel Revenue	\$1,003,044	
2027		
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
IFQ Allocation (mt)	2,236	1,470
IFQ Projected Catch (mt)	932	805
IFQ Projected Attainment	42%	55%
IFQ Projected Ex-vessel Revenue	\$1,070,148	\$924,323
2028		
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
IFQ Allocation (mt)	2,148	1,470
IFQ Projected Catch (mt)	930	805
IFQ Projected Attainment	43%	55%
IFQ Projected Ex-vessel Revenue	\$1,067,841	\$924,323

Slope rockfish complexes north and south of 40° 10' N. lat.

The slope rockfish complex ACLs under the Alternatives, both north and south of 40° 10' N. lat., differ as a result of rougheye/blackspotted rockfish, which is a component of the slope rockfish complexes. Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish is being considered for a more precautionary ACL under Alternative 2 based on new stock assessment information.

The Alternative 2 IFQ allocation for slope rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. is 44 percent lower than the Alternative 1 allocation (Table B-20) but nearly three times higher than the 2025 catches in that fishery (186 mt). The Alternative 2 IFQ allocation for slope rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. is only roughly 2 percent lower than the Alternative 1 allocation (Table B-20), because the vast majority of the rougheye/blackspotted ACL contribution to the complex is distributed north of 40° 10' N. lat. Slope rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. mortality in the IFQ fishery has not exceeded 150 mt since the start of the IFQ program (Figure 12-8), and the Alternative 2 allocation is 357 mt. Therefore, the Alternative 2 HCR for rougheye/blackspotted rockfish is not expected to result in differential impacts to the trawl fishery compared to Alternative 1.

Table B-20. 2027-28 IFQ allocation for the slope rockfish complexes north and south of 40° 10' N. lat. under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. For slope rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat., IFQ allocations are also compared across the three trawl/non-trawl allocation options being considered.

Stock Complex	2027		2028	
	Alternative 1 IFQ Allocation	Alternative 2 IFQ Allocation	Alternative 1 IFQ Allocation	Alternative 2 IFQ Allocation
Slope rockfish north	974	542	957	539
Slope rockfish south				
T/NT Option 1 (SQ)	553	543	551	542
T/NT Option 2	441	434	439	432
T/NT Option 3	364	358	362	357

Yelloweye rockfish

There are no additional management options for yelloweye rockfish in 2027-28, and there is no at-sea set-aside for the stock. The Alternative 2 HCR would be a constant ACL of 85 mt in both 2027 and 2028. The Alternative 2 HCR for yelloweye rockfish was added to the range as a precautionary option, as the 2025 yelloweye rockfish stock assessment estimates the stock's spawning output is 40.1 percent of unfished levels and exceeds the management target of 40 percent, signaling recovery after decades of rebuilding (Johnston et al., 2025). The trawl fishery receives a small portion of the yelloweye rockfish Fishery HG, and the Alternative 2 IFQ allocation is only 1.6 mt lower than the Alternative 1 allocation. Yelloweye rockfish attainment in the IFQ fishery is generally low, and the Alternative 2 HCR is not expected to constrain the fishery, as it will still be nearly twice as high as the 2025 allocation (Figure 8). Under either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2, it is difficult to predict whether effort will increase for certain target stocks in the trawl fishery as yelloweye rockfish transitions out of a rebuilt status, but allocations of 6-7 mt are not likely to incentivize effort shifts in the 2027-28 biennium. The IFQ fishery is projected to attain 21 percent of the Alternative 2 yelloweye rockfish allocations, compared to 20 percent under Alternative 1.

Canary rockfish

In addition to an Alternative HCR, there is also an option to increase the canary rockfish at-sea set-aside from 20 mt to 21.6 mt, which is analyzed in the Alternative 1 section. Alternative 2 would set the canary rockfish ACL equal to ABC without applying the 40-10 rule. This results in Alternative 2 IFQ allocations that are 7 percent higher and catch projections that are 3-4 percent higher than those under Alternative 1 (Table B-21). While these amounts seem small, public comment from trawl participants has indicated that any additional canary rockfish quota available to vessel accounts that can acquire it allows them to operate in less risk averse ways as they target other stocks, thereby increasing overall trawl utilization. Removing the 40-10 rule buffer under Alternative 2 is a less precautionary policy than Alternative 1, but at least 100 mt of canary rockfish is likely to remain unharvested under the IFQ allocation in 2027-28. Therefore, the ACL and ABC (set equal to each other) are unlikely to be at risk of being exceeded under Alternative 2, and Alternative 2 would provide some relief to constrained trawl participants.

Table B- 21. 2027-28 IFQ allocations along with projected catch, attainment, and ex-vessel revenue for canary rockfish. Projected ex-vessel revenue is based on a \$0.36 price per pound of canary rockfish in 2025, calculated as total fleetwide ex-vessel revenue divided by fleetwide landings. Price per pound is multiplied by the expected landed proportion of catches. Data Source: Catch projections are based on data from the NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database; ex-vessel revenue is computed based on landings and revenue from PacFIN fish tickets.

2025 (No Action; actual)				
IFQ Allocation (mt)	348			
IFQ Catch (mt)	223			
IFQ Ex-Vessel Revenue	\$169,585			
2027				
	Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
IFQ Allocation (mt)	375	397	402	424
IFQ Projected Catch (mt)	230	238	239	246
IFQ Projected Attainment	61%	60%	59%	58%
IFQ Projected Ex-vessel Revenue	\$182,067	\$188,400	\$189,192	\$194,733
2028				
	Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
IFQ Allocation (mt)	388	410	417	439
IFQ Projected Catch (mt)	234	241	244	251
IFQ Projected Attainment	60%	59%	59%	57%
IFQ Projected Ex-vessel Revenue	\$185,234	\$190,775	\$193,150	\$198,691

Petrale sole

In addition to an Alternative HCR, the Council is considering an option to remove the petrale sole at-sea set-aside in 2027-28, which is analyzed in the Alternative 1 section. Alternative 2 would set the petrale sole ACL at a constant 2,489 mt in 2027-28, equal to the ABC. This results in Alternative 2 IFQ allocations and catches that are both 2 percent higher than those under Alternative 1 (Table B-22). Petrale sole is a highly attained target stock in the bottom trawl fishery, and the 2025 petrale sole IFQ allocation was fully attained. It is reasonable to expect that any additional petrale sole quota will be fully utilized. Therefore, the Alternative 2 IFQ allocations could provide an additional estimated \$121,000 to the entire fleet in ex-vessel revenue. Both Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 provide more opportunity for petrale sole utilization than the 2025 allocation.

Table B-22. 2027-28 IFQ allocations along with projected catch, attainment, and ex-vessel revenue for petrale sole. Projected ex-vessel revenue is based on a \$1.38 price per pound of petrale sole in 2025, calculated as total fleetwide ex-vessel revenue divided by fleetwide landings. Price per pound is multiplied by the expected landed proportion of catches. Data Source: Catch projections are based on data from the NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database; ex-vessel revenue is computed based on landings and revenue from PacFIN fish tickets.

2025 (No Action; actual)				
IFQ Allocation (mt)	2,001			
IFQ Catch (mt)	2,007			
IFQ Ex-Vessel Revenue	\$5,908,256			
2027				
	Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
IFQ Allocation (mt)	2,073	2,078	2,113	2,118
IFQ Projected Catch (mt)	2,080	2,085	2,120	2,125
IFQ Projected Attainment	100%	100%	100%	100%
IFQ Projected Ex-vessel Revenue	\$6,285,194	\$6,300,302	\$6,406,063	\$6,421,171
2028				
	Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
IFQ Allocation (mt)	2,047	2,052	2,113	2,118
IFQ Projected Catch (mt)	2,054	2,059	2,120	2,125
IFQ Projected Attainment	100%	100%	100%	100%
IFQ Projected Ex-vessel Revenue	\$6,206,629	\$6,221,737	\$6,406,063	\$6,421,171

Shortspine thornyhead

In addition to an Alternative HCR, there is also an option to increase the shortspine thornyhead set-aside from 70 mt to 76.3 mt, which is analyzed in the Alternative 1 section. Alternative 2 would set the shortspine thornyhead ACL at a constant 902 mt. This results in Alternative 2 IFQ allocations that are 8 percent higher and catch projections that are 2-3 percent higher than those under Alternative 2 (Table B-23).

The additional 39 mt in the Alternative 2 IFQ allocation is not likely to substantially alter effort or greatly shift target strategies for vessels. However, it could give bottom trawl vessels some additional flexibility when targeting DTS species. It could also result in an additional roughly \$8,000 for the entire fleet, annually, from shortspine thornyhead landings, as well as additional revenue from Dover sole landings that result from the additional shortspine thornyhead quota availability.

IFQ attainment was 60 percent in 2025, and coastwide catches have been less than 400 mt since 2020, even when the combined northern and southern allocations were greater than 1,000 mt total. Therefore, the shortspine thornyhead trawl allocation is not likely to be fully attained in 2027-28

under either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2. The at-sea sectors caught a recent nine-year maximum of 245 mt of shortspine thornyhead in 2022, and the at-sea set-aside options are 70 mt or 76.3 mt. If the at-sea fishery caught their historical maximum of 245 mt under the lowest at-sea set-aside

Table B-23. 2027-28 IFQ allocations along with projected catch, attainment, and ex-vessel revenue for shortspine thornyhead. Projected ex-vessel revenue is based on a \$0.56 price per pound of shortspine thornyhead in 2025, calculated as total fleetwide ex-vessel revenue divided by fleetwide landings. Price per pound is multiplied by the expected landed proportion of catches. Data Source: Catch projections are based on data from the NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database; ex-vessel revenue is computed based on landings and revenue from PacFIN fish tickets.

2025 (No Action; actual)				
IFQ Allocation (mt)	406			
IFQ Catch (mt)	246			
IFQ Ex-Vessel Revenue	\$253,112			
2027				
	Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
IFQ Allocation (mt)	481	487	520	526
IFQ Projected Catch (mt)	257	259	264	265
IFQ Projected Attainment	53%	53%	51%	50%
IFQ Projected Ex-vessel Revenue	\$301,130	\$303,473	\$309,332	\$310,504
2028				
	Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
IFQ Allocation (mt)	487	493	520	526
IFQ Projected Catch (mt)	259	260	264	265
IFQ Projected Attainment	53%	53%	51%	50%
IFQ Projected Ex-vessel Revenue	\$303,473	\$304,645	\$309,332	\$310,504

Widow rockfish

Alternative 2 for widow rockfish is based on the Council’s November 2025 motion, as described above, and reflects the default HCR applied to the 2023 catch-only update ([Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 14, September 2023](#)). This results in Alternative 2 IFQ allocations and projected catches that are 114-124 percent higher than the Alternative 1 allocations, depending on the at-sea set-aside or trawl/non-trawl allocation options chosen (Table B-24). The GMT analyzed options that would lower the at-sea set-aside from 300 mt to 200 mt as well as lower the non-trawl allocation from 300 mt to 150 mt, all of which would increase the IFQ allocation. As discussed under Alternative 1, the model projections included an IFQ allocation that would result from lowering the at-sea set-aside even further to 150 mt. However, the GMT did not explore that option further, because it was not in the Council’s November motion. The GMT will provide updated IFQ projections for the “high” bookend that reflects lowering the set-aside by only 100 mt ahead of the June FPA decision.

The IFQ model projects that the fishery will catch 97-98 percent of the 2027-28 allocation under Alternative 2. Comparatively, the Alternative 1 widow rockfish allocations are projected to be exceeded because the model assumes that the shoreside whiting fishery will catch the same amount as what they caught in 2025, although this is unlikely. More likely, the Alternative 1 allocation would be fully attained and impose more severe constraints on the midwater rockfish and shoreside whiting fleets than Alternative 2. Alternative 2 results in roughly twice as much in ex-vessel revenue earnings, compared to Alternative 1, and the Alternative 2 earnings would only be 5-7 percent lower than those of 2025. This is a simple calculation and does not account for the wide variation in widow rockfish prices, ranging from <1 cent per pound up to \$10.00 per pound in 2025, with a median of \$0.10 per pound. This is a much wider range than all other IFQ stocks. Therefore, some vessels are likely to see greater economic benefits under Alternative 2 than other vessels, depending on the value of their widow rockfish catch.

Table B-24. 2027-28 IFQ allocations along with projected catch, attainment, and ex-vessel revenue for widow rockfish. Alternative 1 projected ex-vessel revenue assumes 100 percent of the allocation is attained and does not account for catches in exceedance of the allocation. Projected ex-vessel revenue is based on a \$0.27 price per pound of widow rockfish in 2025, calculated as total fleetwide ex-vessel revenue divided by fleetwide landings. Price per pound is multiplied by the expected landed proportion of catches. Data Source: Catch projections are based on data from the NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database; ex-vessel revenue is computed based on landings and revenue from PacFIN fish tickets.

2025 (No Action; actual)				
IFQ Allocation (mt)	10,419			
IFQ Catch (mt)	10,021			
IFQ Ex-Vessel Revenue	\$5,563,380			
2027				
	Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
IFQ Allocation (mt)	3,995	4,295	8,954	9,204
IFQ Projected Catch (mt)	4,260	4,529	8,704	8,928
IFQ Projected Attainment	107%	105%	97%	97%
IFQ Projected Ex-vessel Revenue	\$2,371,128	\$2,549,185	\$5,166,032	\$5,298,981
2028				
	Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
IFQ Allocation (mt)	4,197	4,497	8,455	8,755
IFQ Projected Catch (mt)	4,441	4,710	8,257	8,526
IFQ Projected Attainment	106%	105%	98%	97%
IFQ Projected Ex-vessel Revenue	\$2,491,020	\$2,669,077	\$4,900,726	\$5,060,384

Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.

The 2025 stock assessment of yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. projects a steep drop in the ACLs from 2026 to 2027, followed by a relatively stable trend of around 4,500 mt in the

following 10-year period ([Oken et al., 2025](#)). The Council added an Alternative 2 HCR to the range as a phase-in approach that spreads the decline to 4,500 mt over more than one year. This phase-in approach under Alternative 2 would result in IFQ allocations that are 10 percent higher than Alternative 1 in 2027 and 6 percent higher in 2028.

IFQ catches are projected to be 3-5 percent higher in 2027 under Alternative 2, compared to Alternative 1 catch projections (Table B-25). It is still uncertain what the widow rockfish IFQ allocation could be in 2027-28, and widow rockfish may be a major constraint to yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. attainment if the widow rockfish allocation is closer to Alternative 1 than Alternative 2. 2025 is upweighted in the IFQ model, but 2025 catches of yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. reached their lowest since 2016. Depending on the extent of widow rockfish and canary rockfish constraints, yellowtail rockfish attainment could be higher than what the model currently projects, based on historical catches. Based on the model projections, Alternative 2 could provide an additional roughly \$30,000-\$50,000 in ex-vessel revenue to the entire fleet.

Table B-25. 2027-28 IFQ allocations along with projected catch, attainment, and ex-vessel revenue for yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. Projected ex-vessel revenue is based on a \$0.27 price per pound of yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. in 2025, calculated as total fleetwide ex-vessel revenue divided by fleetwide landings. Price per pound is multiplied by the expected landed proportion of catches. Data Source: Catch projections are based on data from the NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish IFQ Database; ex-vessel revenue is computed based on landings and revenue from PacFIN fish tickets.

2025 (No Action; actual)				
IFQ Allocation (mt)	4,230			
IFQ Catch (mt)	1,870			
IFQ Ex-Vessel Revenue	\$1,087,339			
2027				
	Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
IFQ Allocation (mt)	2,910	2,950	3,198	3,238
IFQ Projected Catch (mt) a/	1,655	1,625	1,705	1,705
IFQ Projected Attainment	57%	56%	53%	53%
IFQ Projected Ex-vessel Revenue	\$983,093	\$965,273	\$1,012,794	\$1,012,794
2028				
	Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
IFQ Allocation (mt)	2,749	2,789	2,916	2,956
IFQ Projected Catch (mt)	1,625	1,633	1,656	1,663
IFQ Projected Attainment	59%	59%	57%	56%
IFQ Projected Ex-vessel Revenue	\$965,273	\$970,025	\$983,687	\$987,845

a/ The low and high allocations under Alternative 2 for yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. were inadvertently both set as the low value in the model and therefore projected the same amount of catch. This will be corrected in the final model run for the June FPA decision.

Appendix C

Attainment

The following two tables show attainments of the trawl allocation across all at-sea and IFQ sectors. Table C-1 shows attainment of the combined Pacific whiting allocation, and Table C-2 shows attainment of a combined allocation amount for several target stocks¹⁹.

Attainment of the Pacific whiting trawl allocation has historically been high but reached its lowest level in 2024 at 43 percent attainment. Under-attainment of the 2024 allocation was likely driven by the fishery's difficulty in finding aggregations of Pacific whiting while balancing the need to minimize bycatch. As discussed under the Trawl No Action section below, both the at-sea and IFQ whiting fleets experienced a better fishing season in 2025, compared to the prior two years.

Trawl attainment of non-whiting target stocks is generally 30-40 percent of their combined allocations and has fluctuated minimally since 2011, despite increases in the combined allocation amount throughout the time series (Table C-2). However, the lack of a trend in the overall attainment masks noteworthy trends of species-specific targeting. Targeting of the dover-thornyhead-sablefish (DTS) complex—a target species complex, not a management complex—has been steadily declining since the start of the IFQ program. Meanwhile, targeting of widow and yellowtail rockfishes has increased following re-development of the midwater rockfish fishery around 2015. Chilipepper rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. is included in the group of non-whiting target stocks. Targeting of chilipepper rockfish declined from the start of the IFQ program through 2019 but has been increasing steadily since then, with more targeting of chilipepper rockfish occurring in 2024 than in any other years of the IFQ program.

Table C-1. Pacific whiting mortality in the trawl sector and attainment of the combined Pacific whiting post-tribal reapportionment trawl allocation, 2011-2025. Data Source: GEMM for mortality estimates 2011-2024 and PacFIN landings combined with the recent three-year average discard mortality for the 2025 mortality estimate.

Year	Pacific Whiting Trawl Mortality (mt)	Pacific Whiting Post-Tribal Reapportionment Trawl Allocation	Pacific Whiting Trawl Attainment
2011	212,700	220,995	96%
2012	159,421	163,481	98%
2013	228,056	234,040	97%
2014	264,022	304,370	87%
2015	154,509	296,684	52%
2016	260,000	335,731	77%
2017	349,589	403,683	87%

¹⁹ Target stocks that make up the combined allocation are chilipepper south of 40° 10' N. lat., Dover sole, lingcod north and south of 40° 10' N. lat., Petrale sole, sablefish north and south of 36° N. lat., shortspine thornyhead, widow rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.

Year	Pacific Whiting Trawl Mortality (mt)	Pacific Whiting Post-Tribal Reapportionment Trawl Allocation	Pacific Whiting Trawl Attainment
2018	312,790	402,683	78%
2019	313,066	402,682	78%
2020	287,064	388,968	74%
2021	265,562	338,650	78%
2022	291,193	371,433	78%
2023	241,157	425,194	57%
2024	164,851	382,528	43%
2025	239,354	284,770	84%

Table C-2. Mortality of non-whiting target stocks* in the trawl sector, and attainment of the collective trawl allocation for those non-whiting target stocks, 2011-2025. Data Source: GEMM for mortality estimates 2011-2024 and PacFIN landings combined with the recent three-year average discard mortality for the 2025 mortality estimate.

Year	Non-Whiting Trawl Mortality (mt)	Non-Whiting Trawl Allocation (mt)	Non-Whiting Trawl Attainment
2011	13,804	33,105	42%
2012	13,436	33,045	41%
2013	15,056	35,855	42%
2014	14,062	35,990	39%
2015	14,624	62,553	23%
2016	15,390	62,610	25%
2017	23,413	74,133	32%
2018	26,753	72,937	37%
2019	25,366	73,008	35%
2020	22,242	71,856	31%
2021	24,416	77,948	31%
2022	27,734	75,906	37%
2023	25,464	75,040	34%
2024	22,458	72,638	31%
2025	25,780	82,036	31%

*Non-whiting target stocks included in this table are chilipepper rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat., Dover sole, lingcod north and south of 40° 10' N. lat., Petrale sole, sablefish north and south of 36° N. lat., shortspine thornyhead, widow rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.

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Description of the Fishery

The commercial non-trawl fishery is comprised of two sectors, limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) and open access (OA) which are further differentiated as the non-nearshore and nearshore sectors. These sectors are described in the [Groundfish SAFE](#). In brief, these sectors use gear that is affixed to either the vessel or a buoy via lines such as hook-and-line gear, bottom longline, or pot gear. Generally, the non-nearshore fishery takes place seaward of the Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) and primarily targets sablefish and slope rockfish species, while the nearshore fishery takes place shoreward of the Non-Trawl RCA and primarily targets shelf and nearshore rockfish species. However more recently, there is a greater degree of overlap in the nearshore and non-nearshore sectors because the size of Non-Trawl RCA is decreasing and both sectors are permitted to use non-bottom contact gear types inside the Non-Trawl RCA.

The true differentiating factor is that “nearshore” vessels have a state-issued limited entry permit to target species within the nearshore complex. LE and OA sectors have separate catch estimates for the nearshore fisheries and sablefish-targeted non-nearshore fisheries. Detailed descriptions of California and Oregon’s state-issued limited entry nearshore permits can be found in the 2023-24 harvest specifications and management measures process ([Informational Report 2, September 2022](#)). Currently, this fishery occurs shoreward of the Non-Trawl RCA (Table). Off Oregon and California, this area includes portions of state and federal waters that are fished by these vessels. North of the Washington-Oregon border, the Non-Trawl RCA extends from 100 fathoms to the state waters boundary (3 nm). In addition, Washington has a state prohibition on commercial groundfish fishing in state waters. Combined, this means that Washington does not have a commercial nearshore fishery in its Federal or state waters. Most vessels participating in nearshore commercial fisheries do not hold Federal limited entry permits; therefore, they are included in the open access sector. While these fisheries are considered Federal OA fisheries, participation is limited by the states. In Oregon, more conservative state quotas than those specified in Federal regulations exist for most nearshore species, and state trip limits apply in these cases. State trip limits continue to be designed to stay within Federal nearshore species quotas while providing a year-round opportunity, if possible. Table 13-3 contains 2025 nearshore fishery landings without projected mortality.

All vessels participating in commercial non-trawl sectors are subject to at-sea monitoring by the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) and are required to carry vessel monitoring systems (VMS) when fishing for groundfish in Federal waters. If vessels are exclusively fishing within state waters, these provisions may not apply..

LE and OA trip limits apply across all depths within a given regulatory area. Most groundfish are managed collectively within the non-trawl allocations for the non-nearshore, nearshore, and recreational fisheries; however, specific harvest guidelines (HG) and shares from within the non-trawl allocation are used to manage select stocks, e.g., canary and yelloweye rockfishes. The non-trawl groundfish regulations are found in detail at [50 CFR Part 660 Subpart E](#) and [Subpart F](#).

13.1 No Action

Under No Action, all non-trawl management measures, including non-trawl allocations, trip limits, closures, etc. that were in place at the end of 2025 would be maintained for the 2027-28 biennium. <https://www.ecfr.gov/on/2025-12-31/title-50/section-660.11> <https://www.ecfr.gov/on/2025-12-31/title-50/section-660.11>

The current Non-Trawl RCA boundaries along the U.S. west coast (as updated at the end of 2025) are shown in Table (50 C.F.R. § 660 app. Table 2a (North), Subpart E, 2025; Table 2a (South), Subpart E; Table 3a (North), Subpart F, 2025; Table 3a (South), Subpart F, 2025).

Table 13-1. Non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (NT RCA) boundaries off the U.S. west coast.

Area	North of 46° 16' N. lat.	46° 16' - 40°10' N. lat.	40°10' - 38° 57' N. lat.	38° 57' - 34° 27' N. lat.	South of 34° 27' N. lat. ^a
Depth boundaries	Shoreward EEZ – 100 fm	30 fm - 75 fm	40 fm - 75 fm	50 fm - 75 fm	100 fm - 150 fm

a/includes areas around the Channel Islands.

Notable 2025 Inseason Adjustments

As a result of the 2025 California quillback rockfish stock assessment, which estimated the stock's spawning output in 2025 to be 43.5 percent of unfished levels, and therefore above the management target of 40 percent, as well as estimating the stock to have never been overfished (Langseth et al, 2025), the Council adopted the following inseason changes to restore access to areas and trip limits as described below:

Non-Trawl RCA Boundary Modifications: Restored the shoreward Non-trawl RCA boundary lines to those in place prior to protect quillback rockfish, specifically for the areas:

- a. 42° to 40°10' N. lat: 30 fm
 - b. 40°10' N. to 38°57' N. lat: 40 fm
 - c. 38°57' to 34°27' N. lat: 50 fm
- A. Trip limit modifications: Restored Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access trip limits as follows: Modified LE, FG, and OA nearshore rockfish complex trip limits from closed to the following.
- 42° to 40°10'
- Black rockfish, 7,000 pounds per two months.
 - Nearshore rockfish excluding black rockfish, 2,000 pounds per two months of which no more may be 75 pounds of copper rockfish.
- South of 40°10'.
- Shallow nearshore rockfish, 2,000 pounds per two months.
 - Deeper nearshore rockfish, 2,000 pounds per two months of which no more than 75 pounds may be copper rockfish.
- B. Modified Limited Entry Fixed Gear and OA Cabezon trip limits from closed to unlimited between 42° to 40°10' and south of 40°10'.

- C. Modified LEFG and OA lingcod trip limits to remove the text, quote, "Seaward of the non-trawl RCA closed inside the non-trawl RCA" end quote. Between 42° to 40°10' and south of 40°10'.
- D. Modified LEFG and OA other flatfish trip limits to remove the text, quote, "Seaward of the non-trawl RCA closed inside the non-trawl RCA", end quote.
- E. Modified LEFG and OA shelf rockfish complex, excluding bronzespotted rockfish trip limits between 40°10' and 34°27' to the following:
 - LEFG, 8,000 pounds per two months of which no more than 500 pounds may be vermilion/sunset rockfish.
 - OA, 4,000 pounds per two months of which no more than 300 pounds may be vermilion/sunset rockfish.

13.1.1 Mortality and Effort

Species of Concern Yelloweye Rockfish

The Council manages yelloweye rockfish under an HG and ACT for the overall non-trawl sector, which is further divided into a commercial non-trawl HG and ACT and recreational HG and ACTs for each state (i.e., non-trawl commercial, Washington recreational, Oregon recreational, and California recreational; see tables 1-11 in the [SAFE \[PFMC, 2025\]](#)). The Council primarily manages the non-trawl fisheries to the more conservative ACT, which is based on the Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) of 70% from the 2018 yelloweye rockfish rebuilding plan. The higher HGs are based on a SPR 65%, which is also the basis of the ACL and the trawl allocation. This strategy provides management flexibility in case a non-trawl sector exceeds their ACT inseason.

Table 13-2 provides an estimate of projected total mortality of yelloweye rockfish for the non-trawl commercial fisheries based on the most current GEMM mortality projections (including discards; 2003-2024). Total estimated mortality of yelloweye rockfish for 2025 from the non-trawl commercial fisheries (non-nearshore and nearshore) is projected to be approximately 9.6 mt based on the 5-year average. However, 2025 discard data will not be available until the GEMM product is ready in September 2026.

Since yelloweye rockfish is a prohibited species within all non-trawl fisheries, most of the mortality is due to discards. Commercial non-trawl discard rate estimates rely on observer data from the WCGOP. Considering the commercial non-trawl fisheries other than the LEFG sablefish-endorsed fishery have a median observer rate of 4-6 percent, limited data is extrapolated to the remainder of the fishery. Therefore, a 5-year average is more representative of an individual year than a 5-year maximum, but there is still uncertainty with this projection. While the commercial non-trawl mortality is projected to exceed the commercial non-trawl ACT and HG, the non-trawl projection (commercial and recreational combined) is projected to be within the non-trawl allocation based on the GEMM estimates from 2024. Additionally, yelloweye rockfish mortality in the commercial non-trawl fishery is showing a downward trend between 2022-2024. This downward trend and the buffers in place under the non-trawl allocation mean the risk of exceeding the ACL is low.

Table 13-2. No Action – Yelloweye rockfish total mortality (mt) for the non-trawl commercial fixed gear sector and all non-trawl sectors (commercial & recreational) combined for 2020-2024 and the GMT projection for 2025. The non-trawl allocation and non-trawl commercial harvest guideline for 2020-2025 from the PacFIN APEX report GMT015 are also provided for reference. Catch and discard data is from the Groundfish Estimated Multiyear Mortality (GEMM) report (Somers et al. 2024).

Year	Non-trawl Allocation (mt)	Commercial Non-Trawl HG (mt)	Commercial Non-Trawl Total Mortality (mt)	Non-Trawl Total Mortality (mt)
2020 a/	39.5	8.3	4.7	14.5
2021 a/	37.9	6.2	5.9	15.8
2022 a/	38.8	6.3	16.7	28.8
2023 a/	38.3	8.0	11.4	28.4
2024 a/	39.2	8.2	9.2	20.8
2025 b/	37.7	7.9	9.6	20.8

a/ GEMM data

b/ GMT projections and GMT015 Apex report

Quillback Rockfish off California

As a result of the 2025 California quillback rockfish stock assessment estimating the stock to have never been overfished (Langseth et al, 2025), and the inseason action taken in September 2025 (see the “Notable 2025 Inseason Adjustments” section above), California quillback rockfish is no longer considered a species of concern and will not be further analyzed as such in the analytical document.

13.1.2 Nearshore Fishery Sector

In the previous specification cycle, nearshore trip limits were modified at a finer scale to limit the impacts of closures to protect quillback rockfish but, as mentioned above, most were restored to their previous stratification north and south of 40° 10' N. lat. Management measures for some stocks are stratified north and south of 42° N. lat. (e.g. quillback rockfish) and others stratified south of 34° 27' N. lat. (e.g., lingcod, California scorpionfish, etc.).

Table 13-3. No Action. 2025 nearshore landings based on 2025 regulations. Source: PacFIN data pull 1/06/2026. “--” indicates there were zero landings in the specified area.

Stock	Area	Actual Landings (mt)	By Area			
			OR Total (mt)	CA Total (mt)	40°10'-42° N lat. (mt)	S. of 40°10' N. lat. (mt)
Black/blue/deacon rockfish	OR	90.2	90.2	--	--	--
-- <i>Black rockfish</i>	OR	75.2	75.2	--	--	--
-- <i>Blue/deacon rockfish</i>	OR	15	15	--	--	--
Black rockfish	CA	24.7	--	24.7	20.9	3.8
Bocaccio	S. 40°10' N. lat.	5.8	--	5.8	--	5.8
Cabazon/ Kelp greenling	OR	29.4	29.4	--	--	--
-- <i>Cabazon</i>	OR	12.1	12.1	--	--	--
-- <i>Kelp Greenling</i>	OR	17.3	17.3	--	--	--
Cabazon	CA	23.5	--	23.5	0.7	22.8
Canary Rockfish	OR & CA	21.8	3.9	17.9	8.3	9.6
Kelp greenling	CA	1.9	--	1.9	0.2	1.7
Lingcod	N. 40°10' N. lat.	74.4	72.7	1.6	--	--
Lingcod	S. 40°10' N. lat.	31.2	--	31.2	--	31.2
Quillback Rockfish	CA	--	--	--	--	--
Quillback Rockfish	OR & WA	0.01	0.01	--	--	--
California scorpionfish	S. 40°10' N. lat.	2.6	--	2.6	--	2.6
Nearshore Rockfish N. a/	N. 40°10' N. lat.	12	7.3	4.7	--	--
Nearshore Rockfish S.	S. 40°10' N. lat.	103	--	103	2	101
-- <i>Shallow Nearshore Rockfish b/</i>	S. 40°10' N. lat.	53.6	--	53.6	--	53.6
-- <i>Deeper Nearshore Rockfish c/</i>	S. 40°10' N. lat.	49.9	--	49.9	--	49.9

a/ Nearshore Rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat. consists of black-and-yellow rockfish, blue rockfish, China rockfish, gopher rockfish, grass rockfish, kelp rockfish, brown rockfish, olive rockfish, copper rockfish, treefish, and calico rockfish.

b/ Shallow Nearshore Rockfish group consists of black-and-yellow rockfish, China rockfish, gopher rockfish, grass rockfish, and kelp rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat. These species are part of the Nearshore Rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat.

c/ In this table, Deeper Nearshore Rockfish group consists of blue, brown, calico, copper, olive rockfishes, and treefish south of 40°10' N. lat. These species are part of the Nearshore Rockfish Complex north of 40°10' N. lat. However, for trip limits south of 40°10' N lat, black rockfish are included in deeper nearshore rockfish grouping.

Copper Rockfish off California

Copper rockfish off California was assessed in 2021 using two separate sub-area models split at 34° 27' N. lat. ([Wetzel et al., 2021a, 2021b](#)). Spawning output in the southern area was estimated to be below the management limit of 25 percent of unfished levels, but when combined with the northern area, spawning output for both areas was estimated to be within the precautionary zone between the management limit and management target. As a precautionary measure, the Council

began reducing mortality of copper rockfish off California at the start of 2022 by setting statewide sub-trip limits of 75 lbs. per two months within the Minor Nearshore Rockfish and Deeper Nearshore Rockfish trip limits (86 FR 72863, December 23, 2021). Copper rockfish in California was again assessed in 2023, as a two sub-area stock, with results similar to the 2021 assessment (Monk et al., 2023; Wetzel et al., 2023). As a result, the harvest control rule is $ABC > ACL$, $P^* = 0.45$ and application of the 40-10 rule, and in 2025, commercial non-trawl copper rockfish landings were well below the ACL contribution in each region (Table 13-4). Non-trawl commercial landings did not exceed the tracking limits, and both the nearshore and OA fixed gear sectors reduced discard mortality of copper rockfish according to the GEMM (Somers et al., 2025) than in the previous cycle. However, the low landings and minor discards could suggest the need to increase the sub-trip limit to reduce regulatory discards while remaining well below the regional ACL contributions to the complex.

Table 13-4. No Action – California copper rockfish non-trawl commercial fixed gear fishery in 2025. Data Source: GMT015 Final Specifications, PacFIN data pull 1/06/2025.

Stock	Area	Landing (mt)	ACL Contribution (mt)	OFL Contribution (mt)
Copper Rockfish	42° - 40° 10' N. lat.	0.2	6.8	7.4
	South of 40° 10'	1.7	125.1	136.1

Quillback Rockfish off California

As previously stated above, quillback rockfish off California was assessed in 2025 (Langseth et al, 2025). Based on the PacFIN Groundfish Species Scorecard and 3-year-average WCGOP discard data, total mortality for California quillback rockfish exceeded the ACL of 1 mt in 2025 under No Action (Somers et al. 2024; [GMT Report 007-01.](#)) However, this average discard mortality includes years before management measures to protect California quillback rockfish went into place. Therefore, it is more likely that the total mortality in 2025 is closer to the 0.12 mt in 2024 than the 2.7 mt provided in the scorecard (Somers et al., 2024). Additionally, the ACL for California quillback rockfish in 2027 is 11.6 mt, based on the 2025 stock assessment (Langseth et al, 2025). Similarly, the GMT projects that the total mortality in the commercial non-trawl fishery exceeded the commercial non-trawl harvest guideline for yelloweye rockfish under No Action in 2025 (Table 13-2). However, this projection is based on an average of discard rates in previous years. Additionally, the overall non-trawl allocation was not exceeded due to a buffer provided by lower recreational discards. The remaining species were under their respective harvest specifications in 2025.

13.1.3 Non-Nearshore Fishery Sector

The non-nearshore fishery describes the portion of the LE and OA fisheries targeting non-nearshore species, primarily sablefish, but there has also been an expanding non-nearshore non-sablefish fishery targeting shelf species and lingcod. Starting on January 1, 2023, as part of the 2023-24 harvest specifications and management measures package, non-bottom contact hook-and-line gear was allowed within the Non-Trawl RCA (Table 13-1. Non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (NT RCA) boundaries off the U.S. west coast.). Participants could access midwater rockfish species within the Non-Trawl RCA using two non-bottom contact hook-and-line gear types (50

CFR 660.330(b)(3)) under OA trip limits. In the Amendment 32 package, this gear type allowance was expanded to LEFG trip limits. This action signified the first time in over 20 years that participants of the non-trawl sector were allowed to fish within the Non-Trawl RCA and became very important considering the restrictions that were placed on California participants due to quillback rockfish.

The seaward boundary of the Non-Trawl RCA off Oregon and California was also pulled back to 75 fm via Amendment 32 (effective January 1, 2024), which allowed participants using any permitted non-trawl gear type to fish in areas that were previously closed. The greatest benefit from this change was access to additional sablefish fishing grounds alongside increased access to mid-water shelf and slope groundfish. The 2025-26 harvest specifications and management measures package included a Directed Open Access Groundfish (DOAG) Fishing Permit, which means this 2027-28 harvest specifications and management measures cycle will be the first time that fishery managers can gauge participation prior to the season without relying on previous years data within the OA fishery.

Table 13-5 summarizes the coastwide commercial non-trawl groundfish landings (mt) for the LE and OA fisheries in 2025 compared to the non-trawl allocation. Commercial discards and recreational catch are not included in Table 13-5, but they nonetheless contribute to the non-trawl allocation. Among all nearshore and non-nearshore stocks, sablefish is the primary target, in terms of volume and revenue, for both the LE and OA sectors. Therefore, the table breaks apart sablefish-directed (i.e., non-nearshore sablefish) and non-sablefish-directed (i.e., non-nearshore non-sablefish) trips to provide a more detailed assessment of the commercial non-trawl groundfish fisheries' contributions to each non-trawl allocation. However, sablefish landings themselves have been broken out and displayed in the sablefish-specific sections.

The non-nearshore non-sablefish sector has been expanding in effort, area, and landings in the last few years, as participants have found direct consumer markets after the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, landings in this sector have increased for lingcod and shelf species, including canary and widow rockfishes. The non-sablefish non-nearshore sector mortality for canary rockfish has increased from an average of 1 metric ton between 2002-2014, 3.7 mt between 2015-2019, to now an average of 21.2 mt post-COVID ([Somers et al., 2024](#)). Bocaccio, chilipepper rockfish, widow rockfish, and other shelf rockfish species exhibit a similar trajectory that is likely to increase with the removal of the Cowcod Conservation Area (CCA) and the ability for LE and OA to fish inside the Non-Trawl RCA with non-bottom contact gear. As a result of directed, non-sablefish markets expanding south of 40°10' N. lat., minor nearshore and minor shelf rockfish are now a major contributor to ex-vessel revenue. In 2025, both complexes brought in over 1 million dollars in ex-vessel revenue. Individual shelf species broken out on the trip limit table like lingcod, canary rockfish, chilipepper rockfish, and bocaccio, collectively brought an additional \$1,140,910 in ex-vessel revenue to the non-sablefish directed groundfish sectors (Table 13-6).

Table 13-5. No Action – Coastwide commercial fixed gear groundfish landings in metric tons (mt) for the limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) fisheries in 2025 compared to the non-trawl allocation. Data Source: GMT015 Final Specifications, PacFIN data pull 1/9/2026. * Indicates confidential data

Stock/Stock Complex	Management Area (FMU)	Nearshore Directed Groundfish (mt)		Non-Nearshore Non-Sablefish (mt)		Non-Nearshore Sablefish (mt)		Total Landings (mt)	Fishery Harvest Guideline (mt)	Non-Trawl Allocation (mt)
		LE	OA	LE	OA	LE	OA			
Arrowtooth Flounder	CW	—	—	*	—	1.1	0.5	1.6	9098	454.9
Bocaccio	S of 40°10'	0.9	4.8	25.4	45	23.2	1.7	101.0	1673.2	1020
Blue/Deacon/Black Rockfish	OR	1.6	89.5	—	*	—	—	91.1	421.4	—
Black Rockfish	CA	*	22.9	—	—	—	—	24.4	222.3	—
Big Skate	CW	—	—	—	—	2.1	*	2.1	1164.6	58.2
Cabazon	CA	0.3	22.9	—	—	—	—	23.2	161.2	—
Chilipepper	S of 40°10'	0.7	1.6	12.3	50	12.3	4.7	81.6	2788	697
Canary Rockfish	CW	1	2.9	9	17.1	3.2	0.3	33.5	508.4	140.8
Darkblotched Rockfish	CW	—	—	—	0	3.8	0.1	3.9	729.8	36.5
Dover Sole	CW	*	*	*	—	1.5	0.1	1.6	45840.1	2292
Pacific Spiny Dogfish	CW	—	0	*	*	0.6	*	0.7	1037.6	—
Cabazon/Kelp Greenling	OR	0.3	29.9	—	—	—	—	30.2	176.1	—
Lingcod	N of 40°10'	1.3	74.9	0.9	42.2	44.2	4.2	167.7	3349.9	1842.4
Lingcod	S of 40°10'	5.4	26	3.5	13.1	1.1	1.2	50.3	736.4	441.8
Longnose Skate	CW	—	—	*	—	21.9	2.3	24.3	1365.8	136.6
Longspine Thornyhead	N of 34° 27'	—	—	*	*	2.2	0.1	2.3	2000.7	100
Longspine Thornyhead	S of 34° 27'	—	—	*	—	3	*	3.5	646	—
Nearshore Rockfish North	N of 40°10'	0.3	11.9	—	—	—	—	12.2	87.8	—
Nearshore Rockfish South	S of 40°10'	11.8	91.4	—	—	—	—	103.2	931.8	—
Other Flatfish	CW	*	0.2	2.1	2.1	0.5	*	6.2	7803	780.3
Other Fish	CW	0.1	2	—	*	*	—	2.1	212.7	—
Pacific Cod	CW	—	—	—	—	0.1	—	0.1	1098.6	54.9
Pacific Ocean Perch	N of 40°10'	—	*	*	—	0.2	*	0.4	3182.5	159.1
Petrable Sole	CW	*	0	0.2	0.3	9.3	0.3	10.1	2035.5	30
Pacific Whiting	CW	—	—	—	*	0.2	*	0.2	293270	0

Stock/Stock Complex	Management Area (FMU)	Nearshore Directed Groundfish (mt)		Non-Nearshore Non-Sablefish (mt)		Non-Nearshore Sablefish (mt)		Total Landings (mt)	Fishery Harvest Guideline (mt)	Non-Trawl Allocation (mt)
		LE	OA	LE	OA	LE	OA			
California Scorpionfish	CW	*	0.1	—	—	—	—	2.3	242	—
Shelf Rockfish North	N of 40°10'	0.1	1.7	0.3	4.1	3	0.8	10.0	1263.8	503
Shelf Rockfish South	S of 40°10'	12.3	10.7	50.6	57.8	5.8	1.9	139.1	1430.5	1256
Slope Rockfish North	N of 40°10'	—	*	1.4	1.1	47.5	1.9	51.9	1430	271.7
Slope Rockfish South	S of 40°10'	0.1	*	1.6	9.5	48.4	6.8	66.4	674.1	249.4
Splitnose Rockfish	S of 40°10'	—	—	—	0	0	*	0.0	1493.9	74.7
Shortspine Thornyhead	CW	—	—	1.3	0.3	102.4	2	106.0	743.3	267.6
Starry Flounder	CW	*	0	—	0.2	*	—	0.2	375.3	187.7
Widow Rockfish	CW	0.2	0.3	0.8	10.2	0.1	0.5	12.1	11018.7	300
Yelloweye Rockfish	CW	—	—	—	—	*	*	0.0	41	37.7
Yellowtail Rockfish	N of 40°10'	0.1	1.1	*	8.7	0.3	—	10.3	5216.1	625.9
Ecosystem component species	CW	*	0.1	—	0.1	9.1	11.1	20.4	—	—

a/ The non-trawl allocation includes the non-nearshore, nearshore, and recreational fisheries.

b/ Values contain unspciated specimens from the "NA" ACL_CODE in PacFin.

c/ Most of this mortality is unspciated grenadier.

Table 13-6. No Action – Total ex-vessel revenue and number of vessels participating in the coastwide commercial fixed gear groundfish limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) fisheries in 2025. Ex-vessel revenue adjusted for inflation. Data Source: NMFS Permit Website, PacFIN data pull 1/9/2026.

Stock/Stock Complex	FMU	Nearshore Directed Groundfish				Non-Nearshore Non-Sablefish				Non-Nearshore Sablefish			
		LE		OA		LE		OA		LE		OA	
		Ex Vessel Rev.	Total Vessels	Ex-Vessel Rev.	Total Vessels	Ex Vessel Rev.	Total Vessels	Ex Vessel Rev.	Total Vessels	Ex Vessel Rev.	Total Vessels	Ex Vessel Rev.	Total Vessels
Arrowtooth Flounder	CW	—	—	—	—	*	*	—	—	\$242	14	\$22	8
Bocaccio	S of 40°10'	\$6,704	10	\$25,335	28	\$94,679	18	\$162,087	88	\$43,456	14	\$4,646	14
Blue/Deacon/Black Rockfish	OR	\$8,717	3	\$499,968	123	—	—	*	*	—	—	—	—
Black Rockfish	CA	*	*	\$147,066	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Big Skate	CW	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$2,387	11	*	*
Cabazon	CA	\$5,806	8	\$379,141	71	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chilipepper	S of 40°10'	\$3,619	4	\$8,334	6	\$54,998	18	\$226,209	64	\$33,860	11	\$19,656	16
Canary Rockfish	CW	\$5,688	12	\$14,024	120	\$35,419	19	\$101,730	91	\$10,983	28	\$2,234	18
Darkblotched Rockfish	CW	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$122	4	\$8,634	37	\$449	10
Dover Sole	CW	*	*	*	*	*	*	—	—	\$877	27	\$77	10
Pacific Spiny Dogfish	CW	—	—	\$249	3	*	*	*	*	\$1,032	8	*	*
Cabazon/Kelp Greenling	OR	\$2,843	3	\$348,127	90	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lingcod	N of 40°10'	\$9,746	4	\$537,354	138	\$6,116	8	\$275,124	78	\$142,201	59	\$17,555	26
Lingcod	S of 40°10'	\$47,788	15	\$224,632	101	\$27,897	17	\$114,767	97	\$7,443	12	\$9,936	16
Longnose Skate	CW	—	—	—	—	*	*	—	—	\$13,404	28	\$1,377	12
Longspine Thornyhead	N of 34° 27'	—	—	—	—	*	*	*	*	\$9,615	19	\$79	6
Longspine Thornyhead	S of 34° 27'	—	—	—	—	*	*	—	—	\$15,635	15	*	*
Nearshore Rockfish North	N of 40°10'	\$1,803	4	\$125,941	90	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Stock/Stock Complex	FMU	Nearshore Directed Groundfish				Non-Nearshore Non-Sablefish				Non-Nearshore Sablefish			
		LE		OA		LE		OA		LE		OA	
		Ex Vessel Rev.	Total Vessels	Ex-Vessel Rev.	Total Vessels	Ex Vessel Rev.	Total Vessels	Ex Vessel Rev.	Total Vessels	Ex Vessel Rev.	Total Vessels	Ex Vessel Rev.	Total Vessels
Nearshore Rockfish South	S of 40°10'	\$218,824	15	\$1,661,198	112	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Flatfish	CW	*	*	\$623	13	\$18,702	8	\$16,521	32	\$4,468	5	*	*
Other Fish	CW	\$559	4	\$31,387	49	—	—	*	*	*	*	—	—
Pacific Cod	CW	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$90	3	—	—
Pacific Ocean Perch	N of 40°10'	—	—	*	*	*	*	—	—	\$239	11	*	*
Petrale Sole	CW	*	*	\$31	3	\$742	7	\$2,547	21	\$20,842	43	\$1,083	16
Pacific Whiting	CW	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	*	\$279	11	*	*
California Scorpionfish	CW	*	*	\$259	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shelf Rockfish North	N of 40°10'	\$354	3	\$12,756	69	\$556	3	\$31,474	18	\$5,944	41	\$3,601	19
Shelf Rockfish South	S of 40°10'	\$119,968	13	\$84,939	95	\$424,103	22	\$389,382	125	\$41,656	19	\$12,980	20
Slope Rockfish North	N of 40°10'	—	—	*	*	\$3,696	4	\$7,745	9	\$90,698	54	\$6,038	25
Slope Rockfish South	S of 40°10'	\$886	3	*	*	\$13,335	14	\$74,703	45	\$189,223	30	\$35,344	31
Splitnose Rockfish	S of 40°10'	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$15	3	\$112	7	*	*
Shortspine Thornyhead	CW	—	—	—	—	\$29,456	7	\$9,910	3	\$2,371,651	83	\$50,364	22
Starry Flounder	CW	*	*	\$142	5	—	—	\$554	6	*	*	—	—
Widow Rockfish	CW	\$1,141	5	\$2,042	27	\$8,088	13	\$55,003	44	\$725	11	\$2,127	10
Yelloweye Rockfish	CW	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	*	*	*
Yellowtail Rockfish	N of 40°10'	\$219	3	\$5,342	60	*	*	\$33,193	22	\$307	16	—	—
Ecosystem component species	CW	*	*	\$161	5	—	—	\$495	4	\$8,305	17	\$6,466	4

a.

Sablefish

Sablefish is managed with a coastwide OFL and ABC ($P^* 0.45$), but there are separate ACLs for the two different management areas north of 36° N. lat. and south of 36° N. lat). The ACLs are set by taking the coastwide ABC and apportioning it to each management area based on the 5-year rolling average of the area-specific biomass estimates from the bottom trawl survey. The fishery comprises the LE north of 36° N. lat (LEN) and LE south of 36° N. lat (LES) sectors and OA north of 36° N. lat (OAN) and OA south of 36° N. lat (OAS) sectors. Table 13-7 summarizes the sablefish landings by sector and area to their respective landings targets (i.e., the landings-only portion of the sector-specific catch share after discard mortality is accounted for). Sablefish north of 36° N. lat. attainment is generally higher than south of 36° N. lat. However, 2025 sablefish north attainment has decreased due to landing targets that have increased 3 to 4-fold compared to those in 2023-24. Continued market restrictions (i.e., processors not buying, prices too low to go out to fish, etc.) have also reduced attainment levels in recent years. Landings in the LEN, LES, OAN, and OAS sectors have remained similar to those seen in 2023, while the landings in the primary (tier) sector (PRI) increased proportionally with the increased landing target. This suggests that the primary sector is either not as sensitive to market restrictions or the lower prices are still enough of an incentive to fish when the amount of quota is high (see [50 CFR 660.231](#) and Table 13-8 for No Action quota limits.)

Table 13-7. No Action – Round weight landings of sablefish in metric tons (mt) for the 2025 year in the fixed gear fishery. Data Source: PacFIN data pull 1/9/2026.

Sector	Landings (mt)	Landings Target (mt)	Attainment of Target (%)	Ex-vessel Revenue (2025)	Number of Participating Vessels
LEN	244	1413	17	\$1,284,390	31
LES	301	3122	10	\$2,960,259	25
OAN	418	2327	18	\$2,099,000	86
OAS	51	1338	4	\$284,373	20
PRI	4634	8006	58	\$14,283,619	70

In 2025, the sablefish stock was the primary target, in terms of volume and revenue, for both the non-nearshore LEFG and OA sectors (Figure 1, right panel). The left panel of Figure 12 shows the total metric tons (mt) of sablefish landed by the non-nearshore fixed gear fleet between 2019-2025, with the LE Daily Trip Limit (DTL), LE primary sablefish tier fishery, and OA sectors represented by color. The LE Primary landings increased by almost 3-fold between 2024 and 2025 due to the increased sablefish HG that went into place in 2025. However, the OA sector landings have remained relatively consistent between 2023-2025 with 2024 having lower sablefish landings overall for the non-trawl non-nearshore fishery. Although sablefish are the primary target across the sectors, individual businesses may rely on other nearshore, shelf, or slope species as their main economic contributor. The commercial non-trawl business and fishing strategies vary across area, gear type, vessel size, and proximity to processors/markets.

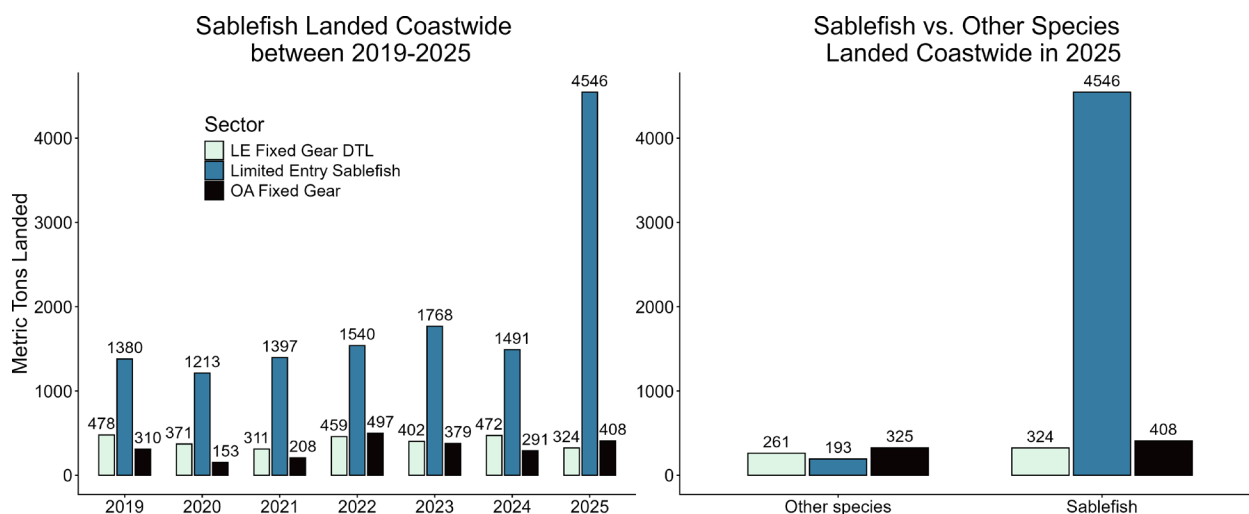


Figure 13-1. Sablefish landed coastwide (mt) between 2019-2025 by non-nearshore fixed gear sectors (left). Total metric tons of sablefish versus other species landed coastwide by non-nearshore fixed gear sectors in 2025 (right). Sectors are color coded. Data Source: PacFIN data pull 1/9/2026.

Sablefish North of 36° N latitude

The No Action sablefish allocations are shown in Table 13-8 and Table 13-9. The northern non-nearshore sablefish fisheries include the primary fishery (tier) and the LEN and OAN daily trip limit fisheries (DTL). The No Action (2025) tier 1-3 limits for the primary fishery are shown in Table 13-8. The northern DTL fisheries are managed with sector-specific landings targets (Table 13-8) and trip limits that are established each biennium to optimize utilization of the landings targets but are commonly adjusted inseason as price and participation vary. Trip limits for other stocks may also be adjusted inseason to achieve conservation and/or management goals. In 2025, LEN is estimated to have taken 17 percent of the LEN landings target and OAN is estimated to have taken 18 percent of the OAN landings target (Table 13-7).

Table 13-8. No Action – 2025 limited entry sablefish FMP allocation amounts north of 36° N. lat. Data source: [PacFIN APEX Report GMT015 - Final Specifications](#)

Year	Non-Tribal Com. HG (mt)	LE Share (mt)	LE FG Share (mt) a/			Landings Target (mt) b/			Estimated Tier Limits (lbs.) b/c/		
			LE FG	Pri. Tier	LE FG DTL	LE FG	Pri. Tier	LE FG DTL	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
2025	25,729	23,311	9,791	8,322	1,469	9,418	8,006	1,413	246,822	112,192	64,110

a/ Shares include anticipated discard mortality.

b/ The limited entry fixed gear landings target is the catch share reduced by the anticipated discard mortality of sablefish, based on WCGOP data from 2002 to 2024. In the limited entry fixed gear sector, 19 percent of the sablefish caught are assumed to be discarded with a 20 percent mortality rate.

c/ Ratio of limits between the tiers is approximately 1:1.75:3.85 for Tier 3:Tier 2:Tier 1, respectively.

Table 13-9. No Action – 2025 OA FMP sablefish allocation amounts north of 36° N. lat. Data source: [PacFIN APEX Report GMT015 - Final Specifications](#)

Year	OA Catch Share (mt) a/	OA Landings Target (mt) b/
2025	2,419	2,327

a/ Shares include anticipated discard mortality.

b/ The OA landings target is the OA share reduced by the anticipated discard mortality of sablefish, based on WCGOP data from 2002 to 2024. In the OA sector, 19 percent of the sablefish caught were anticipated to be discarded with a 20 percent mortality rate.

Sablefish South of 36° N latitude

The 2025 sablefish south non-trawl allocation, shares, and landings targets are shown in Table 13-10. LES and OAS trip limits are established each biennium. Historically, attainment is low in the southern sectors, and 2025 was no exception. In 2025, LES is estimated to have taken 6 percent of the LEFG landings target and OAS is estimated to have taken 3 percent of the OA landings target Table 13-10. However, OAS has seen an increase in landings and participation when compared to previous years. This increase in participation could be due to the increasing price and demand for the co-occurring species, shortspine thornyhead.

Table 13-10. No Action - 2025 sablefish allocations in metric tons (mt) south of 36° N. lat.. Data source: [PacFIN APEX Report GMT015 - Final Specifications](#).

Year	Commercial HG (mt)	Non-Trawl Allocation (mt)	Rec. Set-Aside (mt)	LE FG Total Catch Share (mt) a/	OA Total Catch Share (mt) a/	LE FG Landed Catch Target (mt) b/	OA Landed Catch Target (mt) b/
2025	7,830	4,541	10	3,172	1,359	3,127	1,340

a/ Shares include anticipated discard mortality.

b/ The limited entry and open access fixed gear catch shares are reduced by the anticipated discard mortality of sablefish, based on WCGOP data from 2002 to 2024. In the limited entry fixed gear sector, 7 percent of the sablefish caught were anticipated to be discarded, with a 20 percent mortality.

13.1.4 Impact Analysis

Table 13-11 shows a summary of the impacts of the major management measures that are in place for No Action. Overall, the scaling back of management measures in response to California quillback rockfish no longer being overfished, the allowance of non-bottom contact gear within the NT RCA, and the change in the NT RCA seaward boundary contributed positive socioeconomic impacts to the fishery and fishing communities. On the other hand, this stepwise approach to RCA reductions provide more opportunity for fishing, which also means the potential for negative interactions with protected species and habitat. However, these changes appear to have a relatively neutral conservational impact.

Table 13-11. Summary of impacts from management measures affecting the commercial non-trawl fishery in 2025.

	Fishery	Protected species	Habitat	Socio-economics
NT RCA opened from 100-75 fm between 46° 16' - 34° 27' N. lat.	+	- / <i>Neutral</i>	- / <i>Neutral</i>	+
Non-bottom contact gear allowed in NT RCA	+	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	+
Inseason action in response to California quillback rockfish assessment	+	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	+

13.2 Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, default HCRs would be implemented for the 2027-28 biennium, and management measures for the LEFG and OA fisheries that differ from No Action (2025) are detailed below. For reference, under Alternative 1 (default HCR), the non-nearshore LEFG and OA sector impacts have historically been driven by the sablefish ACLs. However, as described in the No Action section, since 2017 there has been a growing non-nearshore, non-sablefish midwater rockfish fishery. The nearshore fishery is driven by nearshore and shallow shelf species, specifically the live rockfish fishery.

13.2.1 Impact (Groundfish Mortality)-

Sablefish North of 36° N. Lat.

The Alternative 1 sablefish allocations and landings targets are shown in Table 13-12 and Table 13-13. Due to the sablefish stock assessment in 2025 (Wetzel et al., 2025), the ACL from No Action (2025) is reducing back to levels similar to those in the 2023-24 harvest specifications and management measures cycle. Therefore, there will be a reduction in harvest opportunity for these fisheries. However, while the 2027-28 landings targets are decreasing during this biennium under Alternative 1, they are still higher than those during the 2023-24 harvest specifications and management measures cycle (Figure 13).

Table 13-12. Alternative 1 - Limited entry sablefish FMP allocations of sablefish north of 36° N. lat., based on the default harvest control rule of a P* of 0.45. Data source: [PacFIN APEX Report GMT012 - Draft Annual N. Sablefish Specifications](#).

Year	Non-Tribal Com. HG (mt)	LE Share (mt)	LE FG Share (mt) a/			Landings Target (mt) b/			Estimated Tier Limits (lbs.) b/ c/		
			LE FG	Pri. Tier	LE FG DTL	LE FG	Pri. Tier	LE FG DTL	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
2027	9,795	8,874	3,727	3,168	559	3,586	3,048	538	93,962	42,710	24,406
2028	10,600	9,603	4,033	3,428	605	3,880	3,298	582	101,682	46,219	26,411

a/ Shares include anticipated discard mortality.

b/ The limited entry fixed gear share is the limited entry total share reduced by the anticipated discard mortality of sablefish, based on WCGOP data from 2002 to 2024. For the 2027-28 Harvest Specification cycle, 19 percent of the sablefish caught were anticipated to be discarded with a 20 percent mortality rate.

c/ Ratio of limits between the tiers is approximately 1:1.75:3.85 for Tier 3:Tier 2:Tier 1, respectively.

Table 13-13. Alternative 1 – Open Access sablefish FMP allocations of sablefish north of 36° N. lat., based on the default harvest control rule of a P* of 0.45. Data source: [PacFIN APEX Report GMT012 - Draft Annual N. Sablefish Specifications](#).

Year	OA Share (mt) a/	OA Landings Target (mt) b/
2027	921	886
2028	996	958

a/ Shares include anticipated discard mortality.

b/ The OA Landed Catch Share is the OA share reduced by the anticipated discard mortality of sablefish, based on WCGOP data from 2002 to 2024. For the 2027-2028 Harvest Specification cycle, 19 percent of the sablefish caught were anticipated to be discarded with a 20 percent mortality rate.

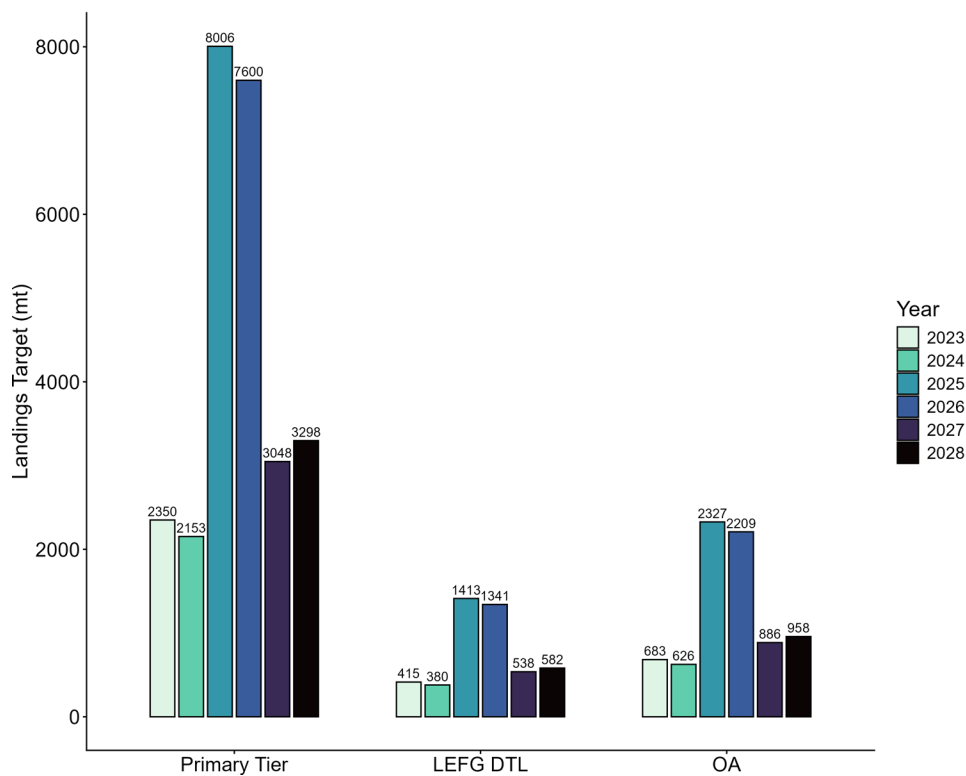


Figure 13-2.. Landing targets in metric tons for the sablefish north of 36° N. lat. Primary (Tier), LEFG DTL, and OA fisheries using harvest specifications from 2023 to 2028. Alt 1 is shown for 2027-28. Years are color coded.

13.2.2 Limited Entry North Trip Limits

In 2025, seven of 14 participating vessels attained more than 90 percent of the sablefish trip limit at least once following the June 2025 inseason management action ([Agenda Item E.3.a., supplemental GMT Report 2](#)). However, 2025 had the lowest participation on record in the LE DTL fishery with 31 vessels participating. Discussions with the GAP indicated the low participation in the DTL fishery is likely due to the high Primary tier limits that vessels in the LE sector were not fully attaining, and thus, they did not need to transition to DTL. Therefore, with the tier limits decreasing during the 2027-28 harvest specifications and management measures cycle, we expect to see an increase in vessel participation in the LE DTL fishery.

Although vessel participation in 2025 was low relative to the historical time series, fleetwide landings still totaled 189 metric tons and brought in \$907,701 ex-vessel revenue. Although the LEN landing target in 2027 dropped from 1,413 mt under No Action to 538 mt under Alternative 1, a trip limit increase could still be warranted to better attain the catch target. To increase attainment relative to the catch target, the GMT analyzed trip limit increases for LEN as described in Table 13-14. Option 2 increases attainment to meet the objective of the catch target with 90 percent attainment under the high price scenario.

Table 13-14. Options for sablefish trip limit increases in the LEN sector. Projected Expected prices are set based on the median (per period) of actual prices 2019-2025.

	Trip Limit	Projected Landings (rd. wt. mt) under Three Price Scenarios			Target (mt)	Attainment under Three Price Scenarios		
		Low	Median	High		Low	Median	High
1 (SQ)	5,500 lbs. per week, not to exceed 11,000 lbs. bimonthly	313	364	415	538	58%	68%	77%
2	6,500 lbs. per week, not to exceed 13,000 lbs. bimonthly	366	426	486		68%	79%	90%

13.2.3 Open Access North Trip Limits

In 2025 fishing, 11 of the 55 participating vessels attained more than 90 percent of the sablefish trip limit at least once following the June 2025 inseason management action ([Agenda Item E.3.a., supplemental GMT Report 2](#)). Similar to the LEN sector, the OAN sector had the lowest participation on record in 2025. Members from the GAP mentioned that this also had to do with the high primary tier limits because the markets had limited capacity. We will likely see an increase (back to levels similar to 2023-24) in OAN fishery participation in 2027 with the reduction in the primary tier permit limits since there is the potential for more market capacity. Despite low participation, fleetwide landings and ex-vessel revenue remained similar to 2023 and 2024 with 393 mt bringing in \$2,020,858. Although the OAN north landing target dropped from 2,327 mt under No Action to 886 mt under Alternative 1 in 2027, a trip limit increase could still be warranted to better attain the catch target. To increase attainment relative to the catch, target the GMT analyzed trip limit increases for OAN as described in Table 13-15. Option two increases attainment to meet the objective of the catch target over the other two options with an estimated 70 percent attainment under the high price scenario.

Table 13-15. Options for sablefish trip limit increases in the OAN sector. Projected Expected prices are set based on the median (per period) of actual prices 2018-2025.

	Trip Limit	Projected Landings (rd. wt. mt) under Three Price Scenarios			Target (mt)	Attainment under Three Price Scenarios		
		Low	Median	High		Low	Median	High
1 (SQ)	4,000 lbs. per week, not to exceed 8,000 lbs. bimonthly	367	403	439	886	41%	45%	50%
2	6,000 lbs. per week, not to exceed 12,000 lbs. bimonthly	519	569	620		59%	64%	70%

Projected Non-nearshore Groundfish Mortality from Targeted Sablefish trips N of 36° N lat.

The following tables show the projected incidental harvest of groundfish species caught in the sablefish fishery. The non-nearshore model historically uses the incidental harvest ratios from past years combined to project incidental harvest values based on full attainment of the fixed gear

shares of sablefish north of 36° N. lat. During this harvest specifications cycle, 2012 - 24 mortality data was used as the input years. However, considering current market conditions, input from the GAP, and trends in sablefish fisheries north of 36° N. lat. under No Action (2025), the values derived from full attainment of the LEFG and OA shares are unlikely to occur (see more details about sablefish markets in [Agenda Item F.7.a., Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)). The incidental harvest values in Table 13-16 and Table 13-17 represent what could happen if the LE fishery attained 100 percent of the LE share and the OA fishery attained 50 percent of the OA share. In this attainment scenario, some of the mortality values are close to or approaching the non-trawl allocation. Longnose skate is projected to be close to, but still below, the non-trawl allocation. Slope rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. is projected to be about half of the non-trawl allocation. Pacific spiny dogfish does not have a non-trawl allocation, but the projection is close to a third of the Fishery HG. Given the results of the 2021 stock assessment (Gertseva et al, 2021), Pacific spiny dogfish attainment is being closely watched by managers. If the attainment of sablefish is similar to No Action (2025) in future years (~100 percent attainment of LE share and 50 percent attainment of OA share), the incidental harvest of longnose skate and minor slope rockfish will likely be within the non-trawl allocation and no further action will be needed. Catch will be monitored closely to determine if inseason action would need to be taken to reduce either trawl or non-trawl trip limits.

Table 13-16. Alternative 1. Projected non-nearshore groundfish mortality from targeted sablefish for the limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) fixed gear fisheries north of 36° N. lat. (in mt) for 2027 compared to the non-trawl allocation (excluding proposed routine adjustments) and the commercial non-trawl share if applicable. Bolded and underlined stock/stock complex indicates a value that exceeds or is close to the non-trawl allocation. Projections are based on a sablefish Alternative 1 default harvest control rule of P* of 0.45 with the limited entry sector attaining 100 percent of the LE share and the open access sector attaining 50 percent of the OA share based on trends in the 2025 fishery.

Stock/Stock Complex and Fishery Management Unit	LEFG (mt)	OA (mt)	Total (mt)	Fishery HG (mt)	Non-Trawl Allocation a/ (mt)	Non-Trawl Commercial Share (mt)
Arrowtooth flounder	76.93	6.33	83.27	5,879.5	294.0	-
Big skate	8.75	0.73	9.49	1,105.8	55.3	-
Black rockfish (California)	0.02	0.00	0.02	293.8	-	-
Black rockfish (Washington)	0.00	0.00	0.00	221.7	-	-
Black/blue/deacon rockfish (Oregon)	0.01	0.00	0.01	447.5	-	-
Bocaccio rockfish (South of 40°10' N. lat.)	3.38	0.39	3.77	2,284.9	1,393.8	430.7
Cabezon/kelp greenling (Oregon)	0.01	0.00	0.01	173.5	-	-
Canary rockfish	2.05	0.17	2.22	549.5	152.2	54.8
Chilipepper rockfish (South of 40°10' N. lat.)	3.44	0.39	3.84	2,980.6	745.2	
Cowcod rockfish (South of 40°10' N. lat.)	0.00	0.00	0.00	73.3	46.9	23.5
Darkblotched rockfish	7.81	0.72	8.53	751.9	37.6	-
Dover sole	8.86	0.91	9.77	37,026.2	1,851.3	-
Ecosystem component species	125.20	13.89	139.09	-	0.0	-
English sole	0.04	0.00	0.04	2,956.0	147.8	-

Stock/Stock Complex and Fishery Management Unit	LEFG (mt)	OA (mt)	Total (mt)	Fishery HG (mt)	Non-Trawl Allocation a/ (mt)	Non-Trawl Commercial Share (mt)
Lingcod (North of 40°10' N. lat.)	32.87	2.28	35.16	3,212.9	1,767.1	-
Lingcod (South of 40°10' N. lat.)	4.50	2.05	6.56	786.8	472.1	-
<u>Longnose skate</u>	<u>106.69</u>	<u>9.48</u>	<u>116.17</u>	1,303.8	<u>130.4</u>	-
Longspine thornyhead (N of 34°27' N. lat.)	3.11	0.34	3.44	1,833.9	91.7	-
Minor nearshore rockfish (N of 40°10' N. lat.)	0.15	0.01	0.16	82.3	-	-
Minor nearshore rockfish (S of 40°10' N. lat.)	0.01	0.00	0.01	925.6	-	-
Minor shelf rockfish (North of 40°10' N. lat.)	9.25	0.76	10.01	1,293.3	514.7	-
Minor shelf rockfish (South of 40°10' N. lat.)	0.54	0.06	0.61	1,446.7	1,270.2	-
<u>Minor slope rockfish (N of 40°10' N. lat.)</u>	<u>140.94</u>	<u>11.50</u>	<u>152.44</u>	1,572.8	<u>298.8</u>	-
Minor slope rockfish (South of 40°10' N. lat.)	43.25	6.29	49.54	697.7	258.1	-
Mixed thornyheads	1.58	0.17	1.76	-	0.0	-
Other flatfish	0.32	0.03	0.34	6,451.7	645.2	-
Other fish	0.18	0.02	0.20	218.5	-	-
Pacific cod	3.47	0.29	3.75	1,099.9	55.0	-
Pacific hake	1.13	0.10	1.23	-	-	-
Pacific ocean perch (North of 40°10' N. lat.)	0.86	0.07	0.93	2,987.6	149.4	-
Petrale sole	3.66	0.31	3.97	2,108.4	30.0	-
Shortspine thornyhead (N of 34°27' N. lat.)	49.20	4.89	54.09	784.3	227.4	-
<u>Spiny dogfish</u>	<u>348.15</u>	<u>29.24</u>	<u>377.39</u>	<u>990.2</u>	-	-
Splitnose rockfish (South of 40°10' N. lat.)	0.09	0.02	0.11	615.9	30.8	-
Starry flounder	0.01	0.00	0.01	377.8	188.9	-
Widow rockfish	0.32	0.03	0.34	4,595.4	300.0*	-
Yelloweye rockfish	2.72	0.23	2.95	92.6	85.2	17.8
Yellowtail rockfish (North of 40°10' N. lat.)	1.49	0.12	1.61	3,715.8	445.9	-

* This non-trawl/trawl allocation is subject to change based on Council decision, Option 1: Status Quo: 300; Option 2: 150 mt.

Table 13-17. Alternative 1. Projected non-nearshore groundfish mortality from targeted sablefish for the limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) fixed gear fisheries north of 36° N. lat. (in mt) for 2028 compared to the non-trawl allocation (excluding proposed routine adjustments) and the commercial non-trawl share if applicable. Bolded and underlined stock/stock complex indicates a value that exceeds or is close to the non-trawl allocation. Projections are based on a sablefish Alternative 1 default harvest control rule of P* of 0.45 with the LE sector attaining 100 percent of the LE share and the OA sector attaining 50 percent of the OA share based on trends in the 2025 fisheries.

Stock/Stock Complex and Fishery Management Unit	LEFG (mt)	OA (mt)	Total (mt)	Fishery HG (mt)	Non-Trawl Allocation a/ (mt)	Non-Trawl Commercial Share (mt)
Arrowtooth flounder	83.25	6.85	90.11	5,062.79	253.1	

Stock/Stock Complex and Fishery Management Unit	LEFG (mt)	OA (mt)	Total (mt)	Fishery HG (mt)	Non-Trawl Allocation a/ (mt)	Non-Trawl Commercial Share (mt)
Big skate	9.47	0.79	10.27	1,072.80	53.6	
Black rockfish (California)	0.02	0.00	0.02	260.70	NA	
Black rockfish (Washington)	0.00	0.00	0.00	222.26	NA	
Black/blue/deacon rockfish (Oregon)	0.01	0.00	0.01	451.66	NA	
Bocaccio rockfish (South of 40°10' N. lat.)	3.66	0.42	4.08	2,355.87	1,331.1	411.3
Cabezon/kelp greenling (Oregon)	0.01	0.00	0.01	12.42	NA	
Canary rockfish	2.22	0.19	2.40	566.50	156.9	56.5
Chilipepper rockfish (South of 40°10' N. lat.)	3.73	0.43	4.15	2,864.09	716.0	
Cowcod rockfish (South of 40°10' N. lat.)	0.00	0.00	0.00	72.01	46.1	23.1
Darkblotched rockfish	8.45	0.78	9.23	733.23	36.7	
Dover sole	9.59	0.98	10.57	34,069.63	1,703.5	
Ecosystem component species	135.48	15.03	150.51	-	NA	
English sole	0.04	0.00	0.04	2,956.00	147.8	
Lingcod (North of 40°10' N. lat.)	35.57	2.47	38.04	3,170.12	1,743.6	
Lingcod (South of 40°10' N. lat.)	4.87	2.22	7.09	793.75	476.3	
<u>Longnose skate</u>	<u>115.45</u>	<u>10.26</u>	<u>125.71</u>	<u>1,272.40</u>	<u>127.2</u>	
Longspine thornyhead (N of 34°27' N. lat.)	3.36	0.36	3.73	1,789.34	89.5	
Minor nearshore rockfish (North of 40°10' N. lat.)	0.16	0.01	0.17	80.98	NA	
Minor nearshore rockfish (S of 40°10' N. lat.)	0.01	0.00	0.01	921.75	NA	
Minor shelf rockfish (North of 40°10' N. lat.)	10.01	0.83	10.84	1,284.14	511.1	
Minor shelf rockfish (South of 40°10' N. lat.)	0.59	0.07	0.66	1,453.16	1,267.3	
<u>Minor slope rockfish (N of 40°10' N. lat.)</u>	<u>152.52</u>	<u>12.45</u>	<u>164.96</u>	<u>1,601.82</u>	<u>294.8</u>	
Minor slope rockfish (S of 40°10' N. lat.)	46.80	6.80	53.61	696.02	257.0	
Mixed thornyheads	1.71	0.19	1.90	-	NA	
Other flatfish	0.34	0.03	0.37	6,067.65	606.8	
Other rockfish	0.20	0.03	0.22	218.50	NA	
Pacific cod	3.75	0.31	4.06	1,099.90	55.0	
Pacific hake	1.22	0.11	1.33	-	NA	
Pacific ocean perch (North of 40°10' N. lat.)	0.93	0.08	1.00	2,900.34	145.0	
Petrable sole	3.96	0.34	4.30	2,082.12	30.0	
Shortspine thornyhead	53.24	5.29	58.53	793.30	230.1	
<u>Spiny dogfish</u>	<u>376.75</u>	<u>31.65</u>	<u>408.39</u>	<u>952.47</u>	<u>NA</u>	
Splitnose rockfish (South of 40°10' N. lat.)	0.10	0.02	0.12	615.90	30.8	
Starry flounder	0.01	0.00	0.02	377.80	188.9	
Widow rockfish	0.34	0.03	0.37	4,797.40	300.0*	
Yelloweye rockfish	2.94	0.25	3.19	92.78	85.4	17.8

Stock/Stock Complex and Fishery Management Unit	LEFG (mt)	OA (mt)	Total (mt)	Fishery HG (mt)	Non-Trawl Allocation a/ (mt)	Non-Trawl Commercial Share (mt)
Yellowtail rockfish (North of 40°10' N. lat.)	1.61	0.13	1.75	3,533.36	424.0	

* This non-trawl/trawl allocation is subject to change based on Council decision, Option 1: Status Quo: 300; Option 2: 150 mt.

Sablefish South of 36° N. Lat.

Sablefish south of 36° N. lat. has historically been under attained. Public testimony has noted that under attainment is most likely due to lack of infrastructure and low market value in recent years. However, there has been a recent resurgence in the OA sector with participation and landing increasing, possibly due to strengthening markets and co-occurring catch of other valuable species for the live market such as shortspine thornyhead. Status Quo trip limits are 3,000 lb. per week for the LES sector and 2,500 lb. per week, not to exceed 7,500 lb. per two months in the OAS sector. The sablefish allocation in the area south of 36° N. lat. is shown in Table 13-18.

Table 13-18. Alternative 1 - Short-term sablefish allocations south of 36° N. lat. for the non-trawl sector, based on the default harvest control rule of a P* of 0.45. Limited entry and open access catch shares under the No Action sharing alternative (70 percent to limited entry; 30 percent to open access).

Year	Commercial HG (mt)	Non-Trawl Allocation (mt)	Rec. Set-Aside (mt)	LE FG Total Catch Share (mt) a/	OA Total Catch Share (mt) a/	LE FG Landed Catch Target (mt) b/	OA Landed Catch Target (mt) b/
2027	2990	1256	10	1207	517	1,190	510
2028	3235	1359	10	1306	560	1,288	552

a/ Shares include anticipated discard mortality.

b/ The limited entry and open access fixed gear catch shares are reduced by the anticipated discard mortality of sablefish, based on WCGOP data from 2002 to 2024. In the limited entry fixed gear sector, 7 percent of the sablefish caught were anticipated to be discarded, with a 20 percent mortality rate

Figure 14 shows the landings targets in metric tons for the LE and OA fisheries using sablefish south of 36° N. lat. harvest specifications from 2023 to 2028. Alt 1 is shown for 2027-28. While the 2027-28 landings targets are decreasing during this biennium under Alternative 1, they are still higher than those during the 2023-24 harvest specifications and management measures cycle.

13.2.4 Limited Entry South

In 2025, following the June inseason management action ([Agenda Item E.3.a., Supplemental GMT Report 2](#)), fewer than three of the 17 participating vessels attained more than 90 percent of their sablefish trip limit at least once, indicating limited trip-limit utilization across the fleet. Although vessel participation in 2025 remained low relative to the historical time series, participation levels exceeded those observed during the previous three years. Fleetwide landings totaled 194 metric tons, the highest level recorded since 2021. Although the LES south landing target dropped from 3,127 mt under No Action to 1,190 mt under Alternative 1, a trip limit increase could still be warranted to better attain the catch target. To increase attainment relative to the catch target, the GMT analyzed trip limit increases for LES as described in Table 13-19 projections indicate that

Option 3 would provide the most opportunity and increase the attainment of the catch target more than the other two Options.

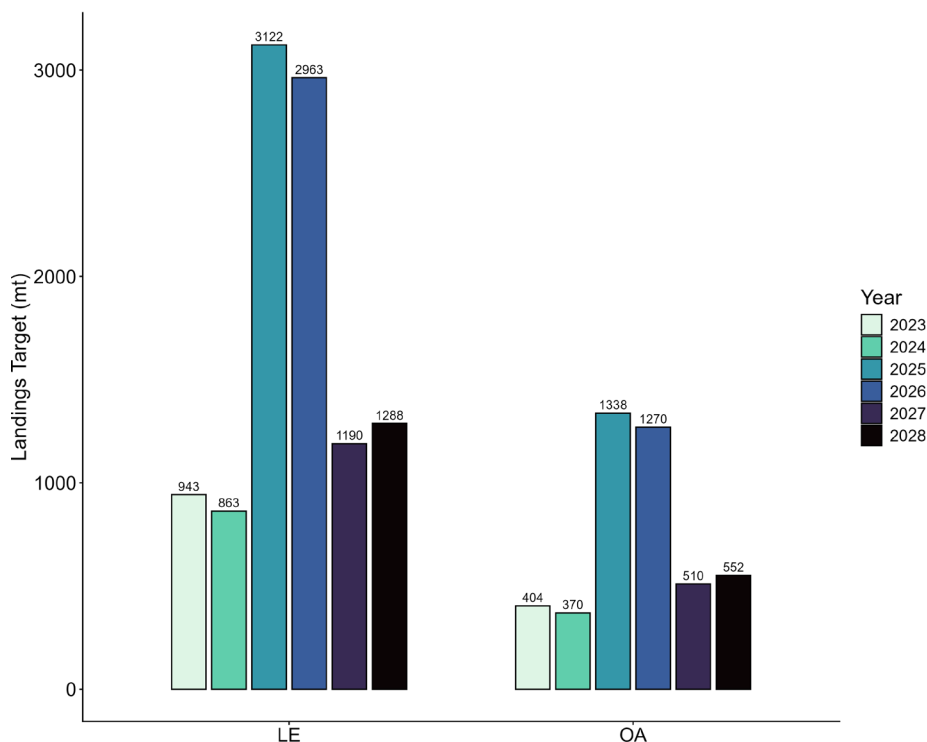


Figure 13-3. Landing targets in metric tons for the sablefish south of 36° N. lat. LE and OA fisheries using harvest specifications from 2023 to 2028. Alt 1 is shown for 2027-28. Years are color coded.

Table 13-19. Options for sablefish trip limit increases in the LES sector. Projected Expected prices are set based on the median (per period) of actual prices 2020-2025.

	Trip Limit	Projected Landings (rd. wt. mt) under Three Price Scenarios			Target (mt)	Attainment under Three Price Scenarios		
		Low	Median	High		Low	Median	High
1 (SQ)	3,000 lbs. per week	227	270	314	1,190	19%	23%	26%
2	6,000 lbs. per week	305	363	422		26%	31%	35%
3	9,000 lbs. per week	383	456	529		32%	38%	44%

13.2.5 Open Access South

In 2025, three vessels attained more than 90 percent of the sablefish trip limit at least once following the June inseason management action. Vessel participation in 2025 increased to 21 vessels, representing the highest level observed since 2016. Fleetwide landings totaled 44 metric tons, exceeding landings in all years since 2014, with the second-highest landings during that period occurring in 2014 at 33 metric tons. Despite increased participation and landings, ex-vessel

prices remained low, comparable to or lower than levels observed in recent years. Period 1 landings in 2025 were more than three times higher than any other Period 1 landings since 2016, and landings in all other periods also exceeded historical levels, though to a lesser extent. Although the OAS landing target dropped from 1,340 mt under No Action to 510 mt under Alternative 1 a trip limit increase could still be warranted to better attain the catch target. To increase attainment relative to the catch, target the GMT analyzed trip limit increases for OAS as described in Table 13-20. Options for sablefish trip limit increases in the OAS sector. Projected Expected prices are set based on the median (per period) of actual prices 2020-2025.. Option 3 was included to match the tripling of the LES sector's trip limit seen in LES Option 2. Option 3 increases attainment to meet the objective of the catch target over the other two options. The recent resurgence of the OAS sector indicates a higher trip limit increase may be utilized increasing landings and potentially profits for participants.

Table 13-20. Options for sablefish trip limit increases in the OAS sector. Projected Expected prices are set based on the median (per period) of actual prices 2020-2025.

	Trip Limit	Projected Landings (rd. wt. mt) under Three Price Scenarios			Target (mt)	Attainment under Three Price Scenarios		
		Low	Median	High		Low	Median	High
1 (SQ)	2,500 lbs. per week, not to exceed 7,500 lbs. bimonthly	62	63	65	510	12.1%	12.4%	12.7%
2	5,000 lbs. per week, not to exceed 15,000 lbs. bimonthly	149	153	157		29%	30%	31%
3	7,500 lbs. per week, not to exceed 22,500 lbs. bimonthly	236	242	248		46%	47%	49%

Recreational Sablefish Set-Aside South of 36° N. Lat.

As described under No Action, attainment of the sablefish allocation south of 36° N latitude has remained low in recent years. Project mortality in 2026 remains low under all attainment scenarios. Although the allocation to the commercial sectors would be reduced under the alternative control rule, as described above, and participation in the OAS sector has increased, the current recreational sablefish set-aside south of 36° N latitude of 10 metric tons is not expected to constrain the commercial fishery, while continuing to allow for effective catch accounting in the recreational sector (§9.3).

13.2.6 Trip Limits for Species with Proposed Alternative Harvest Control Rule:

Canary Rockfish

Under Alternative 1, the canary rockfish default HCR is $ABC > ACL$, $P^* 0.45$ and application of the 40-10 rule, resulting in 54.8 and 56.5 mt commercial non-trawl harvest guidelines for 2027 and 2028, respectively. In November 2023 the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) recommended reducing canary rockfish trip limits for both LEFG and OA fisheries, north and south of 40°10' N. lat., by approximately 25 percent ([Agenda Item E.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2023](#)) in response to the 2023 stock assessment (Langseth et al., 2023). Due to those precautionary reductions, the combined projected 2027 commercial non-trawl mortality

projection represents 61 percent (33.5 mt) of the 54.8 mt Alternative 1, 2027 allocation. Along with the low attainment (Table 13-21) discard mortality in the commercial fixed gear sector has increased approximately six-fold in 2024, relative to 2023 ([G.1.b NWFSC Report 2: Groundfish Mortality Table](#)). Participants approached their trip limits in 2025, with 11 vessels landing 80 percent or more of their trip limit in one or more periods. These data suggest that current limits are constraining fishing opportunities, increasing regulatory discards, and that a trip limit increase could reduce waste and improve attainment without posing a risk to the HG.

Table 13-21. Canary rockfish total mortality in recent years compared to the 2027 default harvest control rule non-trawl allocation. Data from 2020-2024 (GEMM) 2025 data is landings data (PacFIN) and three-year average discard mortality (GEMM).

Year	Open Access (mt)	Limited Entry (mt)	Total Mortality (mt)	% Attain. (54.8 mt)
2020	23.3	3.2	26.5	48%
2021	27.3	4.4	31.6	58%
2022	25.5	6.5	32.1	59%
2023	23.3	5.3	28.6	52%
2024	20.1	9.5	29.5	54%
2025	22.2	12.0	34.2	62%

The GMT analyzed two options for revising trip limits:

1. Option 1: Increase the trip limit in the area north of 40° 10' N. lat. to be consistent with that in the area south of 40° 10' N. lat.
2. Option 2: Set trip limits that are equivalent to coastwide with 4,000 lbs per two months for LEFG and 2,000 lbs per two months for OA.

Table 13-22 provides the projected canary rockfish mortality associated with each option compared to the 2027 Alternative 1 non-trawl HG (54.8 mt). Under Option 1, attainment of the commercial non-trawl HG is projected to increase to 70 percent. Under Option 2, attainment would increase to 87 percent. Option 2 provides a substantial buffer between projected mortality and the fishery HG, while increasing access to shelf species, reducing discards, improving HG attainment, and simplifying management. Option 2 would still allow additional participation into the fishery. In November 2025 the GMT recommended Option 2 ([Agenda Item F.6.a Supplemental GMT Report 1 November 2025](#)) but due to the federal furlough final action could not be taken at the meeting.

Table 13-22. Projected canary rockfish non-trawl landings, discards, and total mortality in 2027 relative to the canary rockfish non-trawl HG. NT = NonTrawl. Attainment is compared to the 2027 non-trawl HG (54.8 mt).

Option	Sector	Trip Limit	Landing Projection (mt)	Est. Discard Mort(mt)	Est. Total Mortality (mt)	NT Attain. (54.8 mt)
No action	LEN	3,000 lbs. /2 months	6.6	2.5	33.7	61%
	OAN	1,000 lbs. /2 months	7			
	LES	3,500 lbs. /2 months	5.1			

Option	Sector	Trip Limit	Landing Projection (mt)	Est. Discard Mort(mt)	Est. Total Mortality (mt)	NT Attain. (54.8 mt)
	OAS	1,500 lbs. /2 months	12.5			
Option 1	LE	3,500 lbs. /2 months	12.8	2.5	38.3	70%
	OA	1,500 lbs. /2 months	23			
Option 2	LEN	4,000 lbs. /2 months	14.6	2.5	47.7	87%
	OAN	2,000 lbs. /2 months	30.6			

Chilipepper Rockfish

The 2025 stock assessment for chilipepper rockfish was coastwide and designated as a Category 1 assessment (Dick et al., 2025). Because chilipepper rockfish is managed as part of the shelf complex north of 40°10' N lat., but as a separate stock south of 40°10' N lat., the OFLs are apportioned between the North (7 percent) and South (93 percent) based on average historical landings. This section focuses on management measures for the southern stock, as the northern management measure options under Alternative 1 are described in the shelf complex north of 40°10' N lat. trip limit adjustment section below. The default HCR for chilipepper rockfish is ABC=ACL, P* 0.45, resulting in ACLs south of 40°10' N lat. of 2,986 mt for 2027 and 2,870 mt for 2028. The non-trawl allocation shared with the recreational sector would be 745 mt in 2027 and 716 mt in 2028. The 2027 non-trawl allocation represents an increase of 48 mt compared to 2025. Although mortality in both sectors remains moderate, year-over-year increases in attainment indicate that fishery participants are increasingly able to effectively target and market chilipepper rockfish, with non-trawl mortality reaching 97 mt in 2025, nearly a fivefold increase from 2020 (Table 13-23).

Table 13-23. Chilipepper rockfish south of 40°10' N lat. total mortality in recent years compared to the 2027 default harvest control rule non-trawl allocation. Data from 2020-2024 (GEMM) 2025 data is landings data (PacFIN) and three-year average discard mortality (GEMM).

Year	Open Access (mt)	Limited Entry (mt)	Total Mortality (mt)	% Attain. (745.2 mt)
2020	3.1	16.8	19.8	3%
2021	4.8	23.7	28.4	4%
2022	14.3	25.1	39.4	5%
2023	39.6	22.9	62.5	8%
2024	38.8	32.4	71.2	10%
2025	66.0	31.0	97.0	13%

Commercial non-trawl attainment of chilipepper rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat. has increased in recent years, therefore adjusting trip limits could further improve attainment for these participants and may encourage broader participation in the fishery. Currently, differential trip limits apply to the LE and OA sectors between 40°10' N. lat. and 34°27' N. lat., and south of 34°27' N. lat. To reduce regulatory complexity, the areas south of 40°10' N. lat. are combined under Options one, two, and three. To address these opportunities, the GMT presents four options, as summarized in

Table 13-24. Option three is expected to increase attainment without posing risk to the non-trawl allocation and would provide the greatest benefit to the fishery.

Table 13-24. Trip limit options for increasing LE and OA and projected attainment of chilipepper rockfish compared to the non-trawl allocation south of 40°10' N. lat. C (central) = between 40°10' N. lat. and 34°27' N. lat. S = south of 34°27' N. lat.

Option	Sector	Trip Limit	landings Projection (mt)	Est. Discard Mortality (mt)	Est. Total Mortality (mt)	NT Attain. (745 mt)
Status Quo	LEC	10,000 lbs./2 months	22.6	0.3	75.6	10%
	OAC	6,000 lbs./2 months	49.7			
	LES	8,000 lbs./2 months	0.9			
	OAS	4,000 lbs./2 months	1.7			
Option 1	LEC + S	10,000 lbs./2 months	24.1	0.3	76.7	10%
	OAC + S	6,000 lbs./2 months	52.3			
Option 2	LEC + S	15,000 lbs./2 months	36.1	0.3	114.9	15%
	OAC + S	19,000 lbs./2 months	78.5			
Option 3	LEC + S	32,000 lbs./2 months	77.1	0.3	251.5	34%
	OAC + S	20,000 lbs./2 months	174.4			

Shortspine Thornyhead

The default HCR for shortspine thornyhead is $ABC > ACL$, $P^* 0.45$ and application of the 40-10 rule, as the stock remains within the precautionary zone between the management limit and management target. Applying the 40-10 rule with a P^* of 0.45 results in ACLs of 847 mt and 856 mt for 2027 and 2028, respectively. The most recent stock assessment was designated as a Category 2 assessment completed in 2023 (Zahner et al., 2023), and was followed by a catch-only projection in 2025 ([Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 3, November 2025](#)). The resulting non-trawl allocation is 227 mt with an ACT north of 34°27' N. lat. of 56.9 mt and 230 mt with an ACT north of 34°27' N. lat. of 57.5 mt for 2027 and 2028, respectively. Additionally, in 2026 the non-trawl allocation for shortspine thornyhead changed from 36 percent of the fishery HG in 2025 to 29 percent. Table 13-25 displays coastwide mortality in recent years compared to the default harvest control rule non-trawl allocation and Table 13-26 displays mortality north of 34°27' N. lat. compared to the non-trawl ACT. Recreational catches are minimal, see appropriate chapters.

Table 13-25. Shortspine Thornyhead coastwide total mortality in recent years compared to the 2027 default harvest control rule non-trawl allocation. Data from 2020-2024 (GEMM) 2025 data is landings data (PacFIN) and three-year average discard mortality (GEMM).

Year	Open Access (mt)	Limited Entry (mt)	Total Mortality (mt)	%Attain. (227.4 mt)
2020	2.3	81.4	83.7	37%
2021	2.6	72.8	75.3	33%
2022	3.5	56.0	59.5	26%
2023	5.5	55.9	61.4	27%

Year	Open Access (mt)	Limited Entry (mt)	Total Mortality (mt)	%Attain. (227.4 mt)
2024	1.9	73.6	75.5	33%
2025	3.2	103.3	106.5	47%

Table 13-26. Shortspine Thornyhead total mortality north of 34°27' N. lat. in recent years compared to the 2027 default harvest control rule non-trawl ACT. Data from 2020-2024 (GEMM) 2025 data is landings data (PacFIN) and three-year average discard mortality (GEMM).

Year	Open Access (mt)	Limited Entry (mt)	Total Mortality (mt)	%Attain. (56.9 mt)
2020	1.9	31.7	33.6	59%
2021	2.3	32.5	34.8	61%
2022	3.2	24.2	27.3	48%
2023	1.8	31.2	32.9	58%
2024	1.9	36.3	38.1	67%
2025	2.8	55.7	58.5	103%

The updated stock assessment, combined with the reduced allocation percentage in 2026, resulted in a decrease in the non-trawl allocation from 268 mt in 2025 to 227 mt under the default harvest control rule. In 2026, the ACT was met in the area north of 34°27' N. lat.; however, there remains potential for increased attainment south of 34°27' N. lat. In the southern area, five vessels attained 80 percent or more of their trip limit in at least one period during 2025, indicating that current trip limits may be constraining the sector's ability to fully attain its allocation. Based on these considerations, the GMT developed three options for shortspine thornyhead trip limit adjustments, none of which would increase trip limits in the area north of 34°27' N. lat., where the ACT has been met under existing limits (Table 13-27). Option two increases attainment without posing a risk to the non-trawl allocation providing the largest benefit to the fishery.

Table 13-27. Trip limit options for increasing LES and OAS trip limits for shortspine thornyhead south of 34°27' N. lat. and attainment compared to the coastwide non-trawl allocation and mortality north of 34°27' N. lat. compared to the non-trawl ACT. LEN and OAN (north of 34°27' N. lat.) were not adjusted.

Option	Sector	Trip Limit	landings Projection (mt)	Est. Discard Mortality (mt)	Est. Total Mortality (mt)	NT Attain. (227.4 mt)	N. ACT Attain. (56.9 mt)
Status Quo	LEN	3,000 lbs./2 months	53.8	1.9	55.7	46.9%	97.9%
	OAN	100 lbs./2 months	2.5	0.3	2.8		
	LES	4,000 lbs./2 months	47.4	0.3	47.7		
	OAS	100 lbs./2 months	0.4	0.0	0.4		
Option 1	LEN	3,000 lbs./2 months	53.8	1.9	55.7	52.0%	97.9%
	OAN	100 lbs./2 months	2.5	0.3	2.8		
	LES	5,000 lbs./2 months	59.1	0.3	59.4		
	OAS	100 lbs./2 months	0.4	0.0	0.4		
Option 2	LEN	3,000 lbs./2 months	53.8	1.9	55.7	57.1%	97.9%
	OAN	100 lbs./2 months	2.5	0.3	2.8		

Option	Sector	Trip Limit	landings Projection (mt)	Est. Discard Mortality (mt)	Est. Total Mortality (mt)	NT Attain. (227.4 mt)	N. ACT Attain. (56.9 mt)
	LES	6,000 lbs./2 months	70.7	0.3	71.0		
	OAS	100 lbs./2 months	0.4	0.0	0.4		
Option	Sector	Trip Limit	landings Projection (mt)	Est. Discard Mortality (mt)	Est. Total Mortality (mt)	NT Attain. (227.4 mt)	N. ACT Attain. (56.9 mt)
Option 3	LEN	3,000 lbs./2 months	53.8	1.9	55.7	77.2%	97.9%
	OAN	100 lbs./2 months	2.5	0.3	2.8		
	LES	10,000 lbs./2 months	116.2	0.3	116.5		
	OAS	100 lbs./2 months	0.4	0.0	0.4		

Widow Rockfish

At the time of drafting of this document, the Council has yet to adopt a widow rockfish assessment for use in management in 2027-28 or adopt default harvest specifications. However, in November the Council provided guidance to analyze a range of potential harvest specifications to inform the analysis. For Alternative 1, the default HCR for widow rockfish is ABC=ACL, P* value of 0.45, resulting in ACLs of 5,129 mt and 5,375 mt for 2027 and 2028, respectively based on the November 2025 assessment (Kinneen et al., 2025). Although the ACL declined by approximately half, under the status quo, the non-trawl allocation remains a fixed value of 300 mt, recently reduced from 400 mt in 2024. While mortality in both sectors remains low, year-over-year increases in attainment indicate that fishery participants are increasingly able to target and market widow rockfish effectively (Table 13-28). Under the widow allocation discussion of this document there is an option where the non-trawl allocation will be reduced to 150 mt. Under that option the percent attainment would be doubled in Table 13-28.

Table 13-28. Widow rockfish coastwide total mortality in recent years compared to the 2027 default harvest control rule non-trawl allocation. Brackets indicate the reduction of the non-trawl allocation to 150 mt. Data from 2020-2024 (GEMM) 2025 data is landings data (PacFIN) and three-year average discard mortality (GEMM).

Year	Open Access (mt)	Limited Entry (mt)	Total Mortality (mt)	% Attain. of 2027 Alloc. (300 mt [150 mt])
2020	1.9	0.7	2.6	1% [2%]
2021	4.1	0.6	4.7	2% [4%]
2022	8.6	0.9	9.4	3% [6%]
2023	8.1	0.7	8.8	3% [6%]
2024	12.1	1.3	13.4	4% [8%]
2025	11.6	1.0	12.7	4% [8%]

LE vessels are not landing widow rockfish in large numbers; however, some OA vessels attained 80 percent of their trip limit in one or more periods during 2025. Increasing trip limits could improve attainment for participants targeting widow rockfish and may also incentivize increased

participation. To address low attainment, the GMT offers three options, provided in Table 13-29. Currently, differential trip limits apply to the LE and OA sectors north of 40°10' N. lat., between 40°10' N. lat. and 34°27' N. lat., and south of 34°27' N. lat. Recognizing the coastwide stock definition, while accounting for differential participation along the coast and reducing regulatory complexity, the areas south of 40°10' N. lat. are combined in Options one and two. Option two is expected to increase attainment without posing risk to the non-trawl allocation, providing the greatest benefit to fishery. However, the projections do not account for increased participation into the fishery. Currently there are very few participants attaining 80% or more of their trip limit. If five more vessels fished the trip limit under status quo trip limits the 150 mt allocation option would be exceeded. Recreational catches remain minimal but have increased in recent years; see the appropriate chapters for additional discussion.

Table 13-29. Trip limit options for increasing LE and OA for widow rockfish and projected attainment compared to the coastwide non-trawl allocation Brackets indicate the reduction of the non-trawl allocation to 150 mt. N = north of 40°10' N. lat. C = between 40°10' N. lat. and 34°27' N. lat. S = south of 34°27' N. lat.

Option	Sector	Trip Limit	landings Projection (mt)	Est. Discard Mortality (mt)	Est. Total Mortality (mt)	NT Attain. (300 mt [150 mt])
Status Quo	LEN	4,000 lbs./2 months	2.8	0.3	15.34	5% [10%]
	OAN	2,000 lbs./2 months	8.3			
	LEC	10,000 lbs./2 months	0.2			
	OAC	6,000 lbs./2 months	2.6			
	LES	8,000 lbs./2 months	0.8			
	OAS	4,000 lbs./2 months	0.4			
Option 1	LEN	5,000 lbs./2 months	3.5	0.3	20.57	7% [14%]
	OAN	3,000 lbs./2 months	12.5			
	LEC + S	10,000 lbs./2 months	1.1			
	OAC + S	6,000 lbs./2 months	3.2			
Option 2	LEN	6,000 lbs./2 months	5.2	0.3	27.75	9% [18%]
	OAN	4,000 lbs./2 months	16.7			
	LEC + S	12,000 lbs./2 months	1.3			
	OAC + S	8,000 lbs./2 months	4.3			
Option 3	LEN	12,000 lbs./2 months	0.2	0.3	44.3	15% [30%]
	OAN	8,000 lbs./2 months	32.8			
	LEC + S	24,000 lbs./2 months	8.6			
	OAC + S	16,000 lbs./2 months	2.7			

Yellowtail North of 40°10' N. Lat.

The default HCR for yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat. ABC=ACL, with a P* value of 0.45, resulting in ACLs of 4,723 mt and 4,540 mt for 2027 and 2028, respectively. Yellowtail rockfish was assessed in 2025 and designated as a Category 1 assessment (Oken et al., 2025). Under Alternative 1, the non-trawl allocation is 12 percent of the fishery HG or 445 mt and 424

mt in 2027 and 2028, respectively. The non-trawl commercial allocation under Alternative 1 decreases in 2027 by 180 mt when compared to 2025. Commercial non-trawl attainment has been low in recent years; however, 2025 OA mortality nearly doubled compared to the two preceding years, indicating that some participants are increasingly able to target and market yellowtail rockfish effectively (Table 13-30).

Table 13-30. Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat. total mortality in recent years compared to the 2027 default harvest control rule non-trawl allocation. Data from 2020-2024 (GEMM) 2025 data is landings data (PacFIN) and three-year average discard mortality (GEMM).

Year	Open Access (mt)	Limited Entry (mt)	Total Mortality (mt)	Percent Attain. (449.5 mt)
2020	3.5	0.3	3.8	1%
2021	9.0	0.4	9.5	2%
2022	7.6	0.9	8.5	2%
2023	6.0	0.6	6.5	1%
2024	6.1	0.9	7.0	2%
2025	10.3	0.4	10.7	2%

Adjusting trip limits could improve attainment for these participants and may further encourage broader participation in the fishery. To address these opportunities, the GMT presents three options, as summarized in Table 13-31. Option two is expected to increase attainment without posing risk to the non-trawl allocation, providing the greatest benefit to the fishery. . However, the projections do not account for increased participation into the fishery. Currently there are very few participants attaining 80% or more of their trip limit. If participation increased under the trip limit under status quo trip limits attainment would increase relative to the allocation. Recreational catches remain minimal but have increased in recent years (see the appropriate chapters for additional discussion.)

Table 13-31. Options for increasing LE and OA Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat. trip limits and projected attainment compared to the non-trawl allocation.

Option	Sector	Trip Limit	landings Projection (mt)	Est. Discard Mortality (mt)	Est. Total Mortality (mt)	NT Attain. (449.5 mt)
Status Quo	LE	6,000 lbs./2 months	0.4	0.1	10.7	2.4%
	OA	3,000 lbs./2 months	9.9	0.5		
Option 1	LE	7,000 lbs./2 months	0.4	0.1	14.1	3.2%
	OA	4,000 lbs./2 months	13.2	0.5		
Option 2	LE	7,000 lbs./2 months	0.5	0.1	17.0	3.9%
	OA	5,000 lbs./2 months	16.4	0.5		
Option 3	LE	20,000 lbs./2 months	1.2	0.1	43.4	10%
	OA	15,000 lbs./2 months	41.7	0.5		

Yelloweye Rockfish

The 2025 yelloweye rockfish stock assessment indicated that the stock's spawning output now exceeds the management target of 40 percent of unfished levels, signaling recovery after decades of rebuilding (Johnston et al., 2025). Based on this updated information, the default HCR for yelloweye rockfish is now ABC=ACL, $P^* 0.40$, which results in ACLs of 113 mt for both 2027 and 2028. The resulting commercial non-trawl share is 17.8 mt each year, a nearly 10 mt increase from 2025. This additional 9.9 mt could allow limited retention. A conservative approach to retention is considered, recognizing that the stock has only recently been rebuilt following nearly two decades under a rebuilding plan that included a complete prohibition on retention in the non-trawl sectors.

Yelloweye rockfish landings are prohibited in the non-trawl commercial fisheries, and all incidental catch must be discarded. Discards therefore account for all coastwide yelloweye rockfish mortality in the commercial non-trawl sectors (Table 13-32). The Council is considering limited retention of this stock in this fishery. Allowing limited retention could benefit the fishery by allowing participants to sell their incidentally landed yelloweye rockfish as opposed to discarding them at sea. If designed correctly, these trip limits will decrease waste without increasing risk to the stock, provided that trip limits are set sufficiently low to prevent changes in fishing behavior, such as targeting yelloweye rockfish. Limited retention may also facilitate the collection of fisheries-dependent data to support future stock assessments.

Table 13-32. Yelloweye rockfish total mortality between 2020 and 2025 compared to the 2027 default (17.8 mt) harvest control rule non-trawl allocation. Data from 2020-2024 (GEMM); 2025 data is landings data (PacFIN) and three-year average discard mortality (GEMM).

Year	Open Access attainment (mt)	Limited Entry attainment (mt)	Total Attain. (mt)	%Attain. (17.8 mt)
2020	3.7	1.1	4.7	27%
2021	3.5	2.4	5.9	33%
2022	13.6	3.1	16.7	94%
2023	6.0	5.5	11.4	64%
2024	4.0	5.2	9.2	52%
2025	7.8	4.6	12.4	70%

Due to limited landings data, evaluating the rate at which observed vessels encounter yelloweye rockfish provides insight into the likelihood that individual trip types encounter yelloweye rockfish while targeting other species. Table 13-33 indicates that encounters with yelloweye rockfish are uncommon on observed trips coastwide, and even less frequent south of 40°10' N. lat. Although observer coverage is low (Fishery Description of this chapter), these encounter rates help inform the likelihood of yelloweye rockfish interactions if trip limits were designed to allow retention of previously discarded fish without incentivizing targeting. For example, the likelihood of an OA vessel encountering a yelloweye rockfish may be as low as less than 1 percent on any given trip.

Table 13-33. The average discard rate (observed discard divided by observed target landings) of the most recent 5 years of FOS sample data for each sector north and south of 40°10' N. lat.

Area	Sector	Average Observed Discard Rate (2020-2024)
North of 40°10' N lat.	LE Fixed Gear DTL	0.00%
	Limited Entry Sablefish	0.20%
	Nearshore	2.16%
	OA Fixed Gear	0.79%
South of 40°10' N lat.	LE Fixed Gear DTL	0.12%
	Limited Entry Sablefish	0.00%
	Nearshore	0.23%
	OA Fixed Gear	0.08%

As shown in the table above, encounter rates on observed trips differ north and south of 40°10' N. lat. In addition, the number of observed trips that encounter yelloweye rockfish varies between these areas (Figure 15). Due to differences in encounter rates and the number of trips encountering yelloweye rockfish, the GMT proposes trip limit options that are separated north and south of 40°10' N. lat. The initial proposed trip limit options are equal in both areas. The 40°10' N. lat. boundary provides an inseason management tool, allowing adjustments in one area independent of the other, if needed.

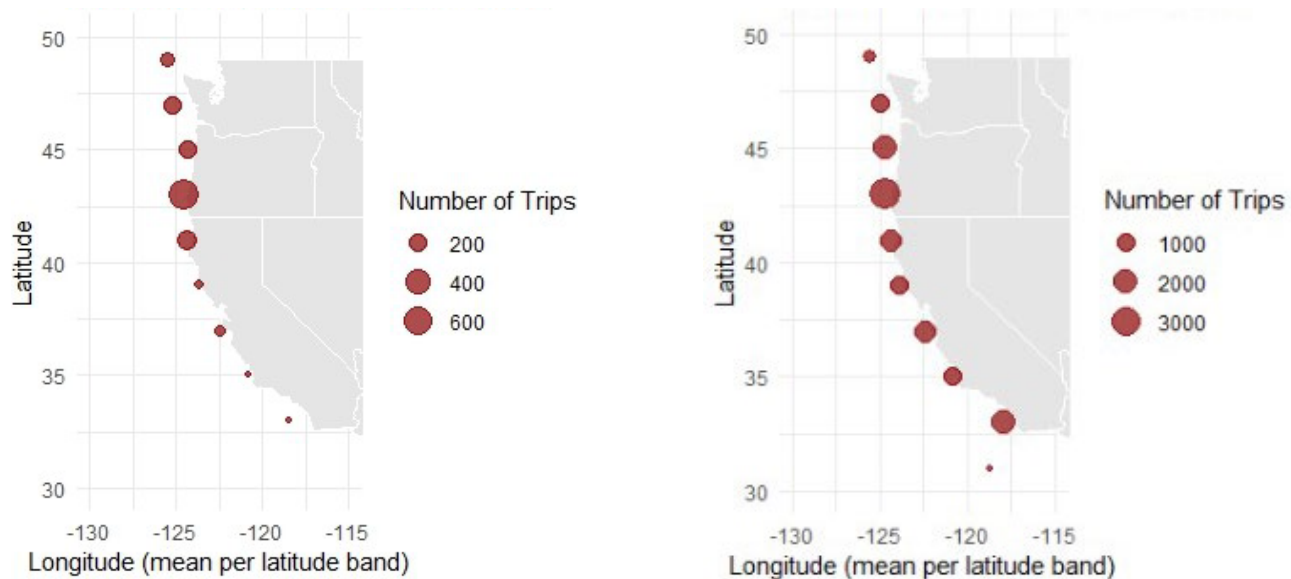


Figure 13-4. FOS observed trips that encountered yelloweye rockfish (left) and total number of observed non-trawl commercial trips on the right, summarized by 2° lat. (2002-2024)

Due to the uncertainty and lack of landings data, a precautionary approach was utilized to project limited retention of yelloweye rockfish mortality. The range analyzed is ‘bookend’ with the one end of the range projecting the maximum estimated mortality (Table 13-34.) and the other end is a projection more in line with how the sectors typically utilize their trip limits (

Table 13-35). The maximum mortality assumes every participant that took at least one trip (LE and OA) utilizes their entire trip limit in each period and the previous discards are converted to landings. Typically, only a few vessels target any one stock and land more than 80% of their trip limit. The second projection is more in line with standard practices, but still conservatively assumes 25% of the fleet will utilize their entire trip limit in each period and discards are converted into landings. On observed trips that encountered yelloweye rockfish, the average weight trip across all sectors in recent years is 69 pounds.

Table 13-34. High estimate of yelloweye mortality assuming every participant in each sector lands their full proposed trip limit. Discards are assumed to be converted to landings.

Coastwide	Sector	Trip Limit /period (mt)	Period Landings (mt)						Total Est. Mortality (mt)
			1	2	3	4	5	6	
Option 1	LE	75	0.0	0.8	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.1	45.9
	OA	50	4.9	5.6	7.2	7.5	6.9	6.5	
	<i>Period Total</i>		4.9	6.4	8.9	9.4	8.6	7.7	
Option 2	LE	100	0.0	0.9	2.2	2.4	2.4	1.5	67.2
	OA	75	7.3	8.4	10.8	11.2	10.3	9.8	
	<i>Period Total</i>		7.3	9.3	13.0	13.7	12.7	11.2	
Option 3	LE	150	0.0	1.4	3.3	3.7	3.5	2.2	91.2
	OA	100	9.8	11.2	14.4	15.0	13.7	13.1	
	<i>Period Total</i>		9.8	12.6	17.7	18.6	17.3	15.2	

Table 13-35. Moderate estimate of yelloweye assuming 25 percent of the fleet utilized the proposed yelloweye trip limit. Discards are assumed to be converted to landings.

Coastwide	Sector	Trip Limit /period (mt)	Period Estimated Mortality (mt)						Total Est. Mortality (mt)
			1	2	3	4	5	6	
Option 1	LE	75	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	11.4
	OA	50	1.2	1.4	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.6	
	<i>Period Total</i>		1.2	1.6	2.2	2.3	2.2	1.9	
Option 2	LE	100	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	16.8
	OA	75	1.8	2.1	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.4	
	<i>Period Total</i>		1.8	2.3	3.3	3.4	3.2	2.8	
Option 3	LE	150	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.5	22.8
	OA	100	2.4	2.8	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.3	
	<i>Period Total</i>		2.4	3.1	4.4	4.7	4.3	3.8	

Based on these considerations, the GMT developed three options for limited yelloweye rockfish retention in the non-trawl commercial fishery (Table 13-36). The options below are based on the moderate projection described above. Neither projection is certain, and a risk tolerance judgement must be considered when evaluating the options.

Table 13-36. Yelloweye rockfish trip limit options for increasing LE and OA and projected attainment compared to the alternative 1 2027 non-trawl allocation (17.8 mt) . lat. N = north of 40°10' N. lat. S = south of 34°27' N. lat.

Option	Sector	Trip Limit	landings Projection (mt)	Est. Discard Mortality (mt)	Est. Total Mortality (mt)	NT Attain. (17.8)
Status Quo	LEN	Prohibited	0.00	12.4	12.4	70%
	OAN	Prohibited	0.00			
	LES	Prohibited	0.00			
	OAS	Prohibited	0.00			
Option 1	LEN	75 lbs./2 months	1.32	1.0	12.4	70%
	OAN	50 lbs./2 months	4.02			
	LES	75 lbs./2 months	0.44			
	OAS	50 lbs./2 months	5.62			
Option 2	LEN	100 lbs./2 months	1.76	0.0	16.8	94%
	OAN	75 lbs./2 months	6.03			
	LES	100 lbs./2 months	0.59			
	OAS	75 lbs./2 months	8.43			

13.2.7 Trip Limits for Other Species

Cowcod South of 40°10' N. Lat.

Cowcod was declared overfished in 2000. After nearly two decades of being under a rebuilding plan, cowcod was reassessed in 2019. The 2019 assessment indicated that the stock's spawning output was 57 percent of the unfished level in 2019 and above the management target of 40 percent, signaling recovery (Dick and He 2019). NMFS declared the stock rebuilt in September 2019 based on the results of the 2019 assessment. The SSC endorsed the cowcod stock assessment as a Category 2 assessment since recruitment deviations were not estimated. The default HCR for cowcod is ABC=ACL, P* value of 0.4, resulting in ACLs south of 40°10' N lat. of 77 mt for 2027 and 2028. The non-trawl sectors are allocated 64 percent of the fishery HG is split 50/50 recreational/commercial resulting in a commercial non-trawl share of 23.5 mt in 2027 and 23.1 mt in 2028.

Under the current prohibition on cowcod landings, fisheries participants must discard all catch. Therefore, discards account for cowcod mortality in the commercial non-trawl sectors prior to 2027. (Table 13-37). Since 2019, the Council has taken a stepwise approach when expanding access to the stock. For example, the Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCAs) in southern California were removed and replaced with smaller Groundfish Exclusion Areas in 2024 with the implementation of Amendment 32, allowing commercial non-trawl participants to access fishing grounds important to the stock. A next step could be to allow limited retention of cowcod. Allowing limited retention to convert discards into landings could benefit the fishery without increasing risk to the stock, provided that trip limits are set sufficiently low to prevent changes in fishing behavior, such as targeting cowcod.

Table 13-37. Cowcod total mortality south of 40°10' N lat. in recent years compared to the 2027 default harvest control rule non-trawl allocation. Data from 2020-2024 (GEMM) 2025 data is landings data (PacFIN) and three-year average discard mortality (GEMM).

Year	Open Access (mt)	Limited Entry (mt)	Total Mortality (mt)	% Attain. (23.5 mt)
2020	--	4.0	4.0	17.1%
2021	1.8	--	1.8	7.5%
2022	0.6	--	0.6	2.7%
2023	3.9	--	3.9	16.5%
2024	2.7	6.1	8.7	37.2%
2025	2.4	2.0	4.4	18.8%

Due to the lack of landings data, limited observer coverage (less than 50 observations over 20 years), recent opening of the CCAs, and expanded access in the RCAs across the sectors, a more conservative approach was utilized to project a range of mortalities assuming limited retention of cowcod: the highest possible mortality (Table 13-38) and a projection more in line with how the sectors typically utilize their trip limits (Table 13-38. High estimate of cowcod mortality assuming every participant in each sector south of 40° 10' N. lat. lands their full proposed trip limit. Discards are assumed to be converted to landings.). The maximum mortality assumes every participant that takes at least one trip (LE and OA) utilizes their entire trip limit in each period, and all previous discards are accounted for within the landings projection. Typically, only a few vessels target any one stock and land more than 80% of their trip limit. The second, more in line with standard practice, but still conservative mortality projection assumes 50% of the fleet utilize their entire trip limit in each period and discards are converted into landings. On observed trips that encountered cowcod, the average weight trip across all sectors and years is 35 pounds.

Table 13-38. High estimate of cowcod mortality assuming every participant in each sector south of 40° 10' N. lat. lands their full proposed trip limit. Discards are assumed to be converted to landings.

South	Sector	Trip Limit lb/period	Period Landings (mt)						Total (mt)
			1	2	3	4	5	6	
Option 1	LE	75	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	20.7
	OA	50	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.2	
	<i>Period Total</i>		3.0	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.8	3.5	
Option 2	LE	100	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.7	29.7
	OA	75	2.6	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.6	3.3	
	<i>Period Total</i>		4.3	4.9	5.0	4.9	5.5	5.0	
Option 3	LE	150	2.5	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.5	41.3
	OA	100	3.5	3.8	4.3	4.2	4.9	4.4	
	<i>Period Total</i>		6.0	6.9	7.0	6.9	7.6	6.9	

Table 13-39. Moderate estimate of cowcod assuming 50 percent of the fleet south of 40°10' N. lat. utilized the proposed cowcod trip limit. Discards are assumed to be converted to landings.

Coastwide	Sector	Trip Limit lb/period	Period Mortality (mt)						Total (mt)
			1	2	3	4	5	6	
Option 1	LE	75	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	14.8
	OA	50	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	
	<i>Period Total</i>		2.2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.5	
Option 2	LE	100	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	19.2
	OA	75	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.0	
	<i>Period Total</i>		2.9	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.2	
Option 3	LE	150	1.6	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	25.1
	OA	100	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.6	
	<i>Period Total</i>		3.7	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.6	4.2	

Based on these considerations, the GMT developed three options for limited retention of cowcod (Table 13-40). The options below, in Table 13-40 are based on the moderate projection described above. Both projections include uncertainties and a risk tolerance judgement must be considered when evaluating the options.

Table 13-40. Cowcod trip limit options for increasing LE and OA and projected attainment compared to the non-trawl allocation south of 40°10' N. lat.

Option	Sector	Trip Limit	Landings Projection (mt)	Est. Discard Mortality (mt)	Est. Total Mortality (mt)	NT Attain. (23.5 mt)
Status Quo	LEN	Prohibited	0.00	4.4	4.4	19%
	OAN	Prohibited	0.00			
Option 1	LEN	75 lbs./2 months	4.07	0.0	10.3	44%
	OAN	50 lbs./2 months	6.27			
Option 2	LEN	100 lbs./2 months	5.42	0.0	14.8	63%
	OAN	75 lbs./2 months	9.41			

Shelf Rockfish Complex North of 40°10' N. Lat.

The GAP requested that the GMT address under-attainment of underutilized groundfish stocks managed in a complex. This request originated as an inseason request during the November 2024 meeting; however, the GMT was informed by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that an inseason action was not an appropriate rulemaking vehicle for creating a new sub-trip limit for a species managed within a stock complex ([Agenda Item I.6.a Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2024](#)).

At present, shelf and slope rockfish stock complexes are managed by trip limits at the complex level. Meaning, component stocks of the complexes do not have individual trip limits. Therefore, if one stock within the complex is constraining, then trip limits for the entire complex cannot be

increased as there is a risk of overfishing the constraining stock. This situation results in the under attainment of other stocks within the complex. Thus, this rigid structure does not afford the industry flexibility in harvesting and reduces access to healthy stocks. In recent years, non-trawl attainment of the shelf complex north of 40° 10' N. lat. allocation has remained below 4 percent Table 13-41 while the California vermilion/sunset rockfish contribution to the shelf complex ACL has consistently been met or exceeded ([Agenda Item H.9.a Supplemental CDFW Report 1 March 2025](#)). To increase the shelf complex trip limit and improve access to the underutilized portion of the complex allocation, the GMT investigated implementing a sub-trip limit on vermilion/sunset rockfish. A similar sub-trip limit has already been successfully implemented south of 40° 10' N. lat. and affords more opportunity and flexibility for industry to achieve catch limits.

Table 13-41. Shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. total mortality in recent years compared to the 2027 default harvest control rule non-trawl allocation. Data from 2020-2024 (GEMM) 2025 data is landings data (PacFIN) and three-year average discard mortality (GEMM).

Year	Open Access (mt)	Limited Entry (mt)	Est. Total Mortality (mt)	% Attain. (514.7 mt)
2020	7.1	1.4	8.5	2%
2021	7.2	6.2	13.4	3%
2022	7.1	3.3	10.4	2%
2023	5.9	7.0	13.0	3%
2024	4.8	5.2	10.0	2%
2025	13.2	5.4	18.6	4%

LE vessels are not landing the shelf rockfish complex in large numbers; however, some OA vessels attained 80 percent of their trip limit in one or more periods during 2025. Increasing trip limits could improve attainment for participants targeting shelf rockfish and may also incentivize increased participation. To address low attainment while keeping mortality of vermilion/sunset rockfish below harvest limits, the GMT offers three options, provided in Table 13-42. Option three is expected to increase attainment without posing risk to the non-trawl allocation, providing the greatest benefit to the fishery. Implementing an OA and LE vermilion/sunset rockfish sub-trip limit of 300 lbs. per two months within the shelf rockfish complex 40° 10' N. will enable the fleets to access underutilized stocks while ensuring vermilion/sunset rockfish remain within their allocated ACL contribution to the complex (in accordance with [Objective 9](#) of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan [FMP]). The proposed sub-trip limit will reduce vermilion/sunset rockfish mortality without a major negative impact to the fishery because less than three vessels landed more than 300 lbs. of vermilion rockfish in a single period in 2025. At present, there is no need for other sub-trip limits in the shelf complex north of 40° 10' N. lat.. Bocaccio and chilipepper rockfish are 61 percent of the catch composition of both sectors, followed by vermilion rockfish at 20 percent. The other species combined are nominal and do not warrant a sub-trip limit at this time. The GMT will continue to monitor mortality to see if other sub-trip limits for species within the shelf complex are need in the future.

Table 13-42. Options for increasing LE and OA shelf rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. trip limits, projected attainment compared to the non-trawl allocation, and vermilion/sunset rockfish projected mortality with and without the sub-trip limit.

Option	Sector	Trip Limit	landings Projection (mt)	Est. Discard Mortality (mt)	Est. Total Mortality (mt)	NT Attain.	Ver. Mortality w/o sub trip (mt)	Ver. Mortality w/ sub trip (mt)
Status Quo	LE	1,600 lbs./2 months	2.76	2.6	18.6	3.6%	3.1	3.5
	OA	1,600 lbs./2 months	12.9	0.3				
Option 1	LE	4,000 lbs./2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish	3.45	2.6	32.2	6.3%	6.3	2.6
	OA	3,200 lbs./2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish	25.9	0.3				
Option 2	LE	8,000 lbs./2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish	5.18	2.6	59.8	11.6%	12.6	2.6
	OA	6,400 lbs./2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish	51.7	0.3				
Option	Sector	Trip Limit	landings Projection (mt)	Est. Discard Mortality (mt)	Est. Total Mortality (mt)	NT Attain.	Ver. Mortality w/o sub trip (mt)	Ver. Mortality w/ sub trip (mt)
Option 3	LE	16,000 lbs./2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish	6.90	2.6	114.9	22.3%	25.5	2.6
	OA	13,000 lbs./2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermilion/sunset rockfish	105.1	0.3				

Nearshore Rockfish Complex off California

Currently, the majority on nearshore rockfish species off California are managed within the nearshore complex north and south of 40° 10' N lat., except for black and quillback rockfish. Black rockfish between 42°N lat. and 40° 10' N lat. is managed with a separate trip limit where as black rockfish south of 40° 10' N lat., is a part of the deeper nearshore trip limit. Quillback rockfish is managed as a single California stock with a trip limit and harvest targets separate from the nearshore complex coast wide. Harvest specifications for minor nearshore rockfish north of 40° 10' N lat. are apportioned to state specific harvest guidelines, based upon each species' estimated

population distribution for those assessments spanning states. In California, allowable harvests of black, quillback and nearshore rockfish are shared by the commercial and recreational sectors.

Participation in California's commercial nearshore fishery is limited by state-issued restricted access permits, with a nearshore permit required to land shallow nearshore rockfish and a deeper nearshore permit required for the species that comprise deeper nearshore rockfish. While the fishery is considered open access, Federally, participation is limited by the state, with many participating vessels not holding a Federal limited entry permit. As a result, Federal limited entry and open access trip limits for nearshore species have been set equal. In recent years attainment of the nearshore complex both north and south of 40° 10' N lat. has been low (Table 13-43 and Table 13-44).

Table 13-43. Recent combined recreational and commercial mortality (mt), including estimated discard mortality of minor nearshore rockfish north of 40° 10' N lat. off California and percent attainment of the California Fishery Harvest Guideline for 2027 under Alternative 1, from 2020 to 2025.

Year	Source	Recreational (mt)	Commercial (mt)	Comb. Mortality (mt)	% Attain.
2020	GEMM	18.3	9.2	27.5	71%
2021	GEMM	15.3	9.2	24.5	63%
2022	GEMM	21.0	12.0	33.0	85%
2023	GEMM	12.7	10.5	23.2	60%
2024	GEMM	13.5	5.9	19.4	50%
2025*	RecFIN / PacFIN	18.6	6.3	24.9	64%

* 2025 landings and catch data are preliminary.

Table 13-44. Recent combined recreational and commercial mortality (mt), including estimated discard mortality of minor nearshore rockfish south of 40° 10' N lat. off California and percent attainment of the California Harvest Guideline for 2028 under Alternative 1, from 2020 to 2025.

Year	Source	Recreational (mt)	Commercial (mt)	Comb. Mortality (mt)	% Attain.
2020	GEMM	255.8	112.3	368.1	40%
2021	GEMM	431	110.3	541.3	59%
2022	GEMM	427.6	131.9	559.5	61%
2023	GEMM	191.7	88.2	279.9	32%
2024	GEMM	252.6	89.8	342.4	37%
2025	RecFIN / PacFIN	349.5	99.2	448.7	49%

* 2025 landings and catch data are preliminary.

Prior to 2023, quillback rockfish was managed within the minor nearshore rockfish complex, contributing to the complex harvest limits north and south of 40° 10' N latitude. The Alternative 1 fishery harvest guideline for 2027 (11.6 mt) is compared to recent combined mortality in the recreational and commercial sectors (Table 13-45).

Table 13-45. Recent combined recreational and commercial mortality, including estimated discard mortality of quillback rockfish off California and percent attainment of the California Fishery Harvest Guideline for 2027 under Alternative 1.

Year	Source	Recreational (mt)	Commercial (mt)	Comb. Mortality (mt)	% Attain.
2020	GEMM	7.8	4.2	12	103%
2021		10.5	4.8	15.3	132%
2022		9.2	8.7	17.9	154%
2023		2.3	2.4	4.7	41%
2024		1.2	0.1	1.3	11%
2025*	RecFIN / PacFIN	1.1	0.1	1.2	10%

* 2025 landings and catch data are preliminary.

Combined mortality of the recreational and commercial sectors has been within the fishery harvest guideline for California black rockfish in recent years (Table 13-46). However, mortality (i.e., catch and landings) of California black rockfish is variable from year to year and may be influenced by fishing conditions and availability of other fisheries (e.g., Dungeness crab).

Table 13-46. Recent combined recreational and commercial mortality (mt), including estimated discard mortality of California black rockfish and percent attainment of the California Fishery Harvest Guideline for 2027 under Alternative 1.

Year	Source	Recreational (mt)	Commercial (mt)	Comb. Mortality (mt)	% Attain.
2020	GEMM	75.1	42.1	117.2	47%
2021	GEMM	197.1	38.9	236	95%
2022	GEMM	212.1	58.8	270.9	109%
2023	GEMM	113.5	34.9	148.4	60%
2024	GEMM	143.5	29.3	172.8	70%
2025*	RecFIN / PacFIN	165.6	24.8	190.4	77%

* 2025 landings and catch data are preliminary.

To address the under attainment of the nearshore complex both north and south of 40° 10' N lat., and to respond to the recent quillback rockfish stock assessment estimating the stock to have never been overfished (Langseth et al, 2025), the GMT analyzed trip limit adjustments to increase attainment. Like the species listed above, the non-trawl attainment has been low in recent years; however, some permitted vessels reached 80 percent or more of their trip limit in one or more periods during 2025, indicating that some participants are increasingly able to target and market nearshore rockfish effectively. Adjusting trip limits could improve attainment for these participants and may further encourage greater utilization of the state issued nearshore permits.

To address these opportunities, the GMT presents three options per stock, as summarized in Table 13-42. Option 3 is expected to increase attainment while posing a low risk to the non-trawl

allocation, providing the greatest benefit to the fishery. The selection of an option for one stock does not preclude choosing a different option for another stock. Management measures for California's nearshore fishery have historically been and continue to be stratified north and south of 40° 10' N latitude, with some measures stratified north and south of 34° 27' N latitude. Maintaining similar management structure,

Table 13-47 displays the per period trip limits for nearshore rockfish by species or species complex and area for status quo and options for trip limit increases. Option 1 maintains status quo per period trip limit amounts, except it removes the prohibition on quillback rockfish, and, north of 34° 27' N latitude, the copper rockfish sub trip limit are removed. Options 2 and 3 evaluate increased per period trip limit amounts, in addition to allowing retention of quillback rockfish and removal of the copper rockfish sub trip limit north 34° 27' N latitude. Under all options, both copper and quillback rockfish would be limited by the aggregate trip limit for that area.

Table 13-47. California nearshore rockfish per period trip limits (in pounds) under status quo, Option 1a, Option 2a and Option 3a, by species or species complex and area. Note, values shown after a semi colon indicate a species-specific sub-trip limit within the complex or prohibited retention.

Species or species complex	Per Period (2 mos.) Trip Limit			
	SQ	Option 1a	Option 2a	Option 3a
Black rockfish north of 40° 10' N lat.	7,000lbs	7,000lbs	8,000lbs	9,000lbs
Nearshore (NS) rockfish north of 40° 10' N lat.	2,000; 75lbs copper; 0lbs QB	2,000lbs	3,000lbs	4,000lbs
Shallow NS rockfish south of 40° 10' N lat.	2,000lbs	2,000lbs	3,000lbs	4,000lbs
Deeper NS rockfish 40° 10' to 34° 27' N lat.	2,000lbs; 75lbs copper; 0lbs QB	2,000lbs	3,000lbs	4,000lbs
Deeper NS rockfish south of 34° 27' N lat.		2,000; 75lbs copper	3,000; 75lbs copper	4,000; 75lbs copper

Options 1 – 3 (A &B) removes the copper rockfish sub bag limit north of 34° 27' N lat. Copper rockfish off California was assessed in 2023 as a two sub-area stock, split at 34° 27' N lat. While south of 34° 27' N lat., the stock's spawning output was estimated to be below the management limit of 25 percent of unfished levels (Wetzel et al., 2023), the spawning output of the northern portion of the stock off California was estimated to be above the management target of 40 percent of unfished levels (Monk et al. 2023). For purposes of setting harvest specifications, the two sub-areas were combined and found to be in the precautionary zone between the limit and target, although more constraining management measures were implemented on both the recreational and commercial fisheries to address biological concerns presented by the southern portion of the stock. The options 1 – 3 address the need for precaution south of 34° 27' N lat. while allowing for more flexibility in the north.

Options 1 – 3 (A) removes prohibition of quillback rockfish off California. Considering the increase of 10.4 mt to the California quillback rockfish fishery harvest guideline under Alternative

1, mortality has not approached attainment of the harvest limits for most nearshore rockfish in recent years. Further, given that participation in the deeper nearshore fishery is limited by issued state permit (175 permittees statewide in 2025), the Council may wish to consider the removal of the quillback prohibition and include it back in the nearshore and deeper nearshore trip limits, for nearshore rockfish. If extra caution is needed the sub-trip limit of 75 lbs. per period could be considered in Options 1 – 3 (B)Table 13-48.

Table 13-48.. California nearshore rockfish per period trip limits (in pounds) under status quo, Option 1b, Option 2b and Option 3b, by species or species complex and area. Note, values shown after a semi colon indicate a species-specific sub-trip limit within the complex or prohibited retention.

Species or species complex	Per Period (2 mos.) Trip Limit			
	SQ	Option 1b	Option 2b	Option 3b
Black rockfish north of 40° 10' N lat.	7,000lbs	7,000lbs	8,000lbs	9,000lbs
Nearshore (NS) rockfish north of 40° 10' N lat.	2,000; 75lbs copper; 0lbs quillback	2,000lbs; 75lbs quillback	3,000lbs; 75lbs quillback	4,000lbs; 75lbs quillback
Shallow NS rockfish south of 40° 10' N lat.	2,000lbs	2,000lbs	3,000lbs	4,000lbs
Deeper NS rockfish 40° 10' to 34° 27' N lat.	2,000lbs; 75lbs	2,000lbs; 75lbs quillback	3,000lbs; 75lbs quillback	4,000lbs; 75lbs quillback
Deeper NS rockfish south of 34° 27' N lat.	copper; 0lbs quillback	2,000; 75lbs copper; 75lbs quillback	3,000; 75lbs copper; 75lbs quillback	4,000; 75lbs copper; 75lbs quillback

Table 13-49 through Table 13-53 provide projected commercial mortality (landings and discards) under status quo and Options 1 through 3. Because harvest limits for nearshore rockfish are shared among the commercial and recreational sectors, recreational Option 5 is used to calculate combined mortality and the lesser of the 2027-2028 Alternative 1 harvest specification was used to calculate percent attainment (Chapter 16). Nearshore fishery landings are influenced by a variety of factors, including weather and market conditions. As such, there is a degree of uncertainty surrounding the commercial nearshore mortality projections. In the event that fishery performance exceeds projections and harvest limits for nearshore species or species complexes are anticipated to be attained (or exceeded), routine management measures may be implemented through inseason action.

Table 13-49. Projected mortality (mt), including discard mortality, for California quillback rockfish under status quo and options 1a – 3a for trip limit increases. California recreational Option 5 is used to calculate combined mortality and percent attainment under Alternative 1 2027 harvest specifications.

Option	Comm. Projected Mortality (mt)	Rec. Projected Mortality (mt)	Combine. Mortality (mt)	Percent Attain. (11.6mt)
SQ	0.2	3.2	3.4	29%
Opt. 1	4.7		7.9	68%
Opt. 2	5.9		9.1	78%
Opt. 3	6.8		10.0	86%

Table 13-50. Projected mortality (mt), including discard mortality, for California quillback rockfish under status quo and options 1a – 3b for trip limit increases (including a 7b lb. per period trip limit). California recreational Option 5 is used to calculate combined mortality and percent attainment under Alternative 1 2027 harvest specifications.

Option	Comm. Projected Mortality (mt)	Rec. Projected Mortality (mt)	Combined Mortality (mt)	Percent Attain. (11.6 mt)
SQ	0.2	3.2	3.4	29%
Opt. 1	2.5		5.7	49%
Opt. 2	2.5		5.7	49%
Opt. 3	2.5		5.7	49%

Table 13-51. Projected mortality (mt), including discard mortality, for California black rockfish under status quo and options for trip limit increases. California recreational Option 5 is used to calculate combined mortality and percent attainment under Alternative 1 2027 harvest specifications.

Option	Comm. Projected Mortality (mt)	Rec. Projected Mortality (mt)	Combined Mortality (mt)	Percent Attain. (293.8 mt)
SQ	42.0	111.7	153.7	52%
Opt. 1	42.0		153.7	52%
Opt. 2	56.4		168.1	57%
Opt. 3	64.2		175.9	60%

Table 13-52. Projected mortality (mt), including discard mortality, for minor nearshore rockfish north of 40° 10' N latitude under status quo and options for trip limit increases. California recreational Option 5 is used to calculate combined mortality and percent attainment under Alternative 2028 harvest specifications. Note, projected mortality of copper rockfish is provided in brackets.

Option	Comm. Projected Mortality (mt)	Rec. Projected Mortality (mt)	Combined Mortality (mt)	Percent Attain. (82.3 mt)
SQ	9.7 [0.2]	10.6	20.3	25%
Opt. 1	9.7 [2.9]		20.3	25%
Opt. 2	16.9 [5.0]		27.5	33%
Opt. 3	21.8 [6.5]		32.4	39%

Table 13-53. Projected mortality (mt), including discard mortality, for minor nearshore rockfish south of 40° 10' N latitude under status quo and options for trip limit increases. California recreational Option 5 is used to calculate combined mortality and percent attainment under Alternative 1 2028 harvest specifications. Note, projected mortality of copper rockfish is provided in brackets.

Option	Comm. Projected Mortality (mt)	Rec. Projected Mortality (mt)	Combined Mortality (mt)	Percent Attain. (925.6 mt)
SQ	105.4 [1.8]	310.2	415.6	45%
Opt. 1	105.4 [8.8]		415.6	45%
Opt. 2	137.8 [13.2]		448.0	48%
Opt. 3	183.8 [17.7]		494.0	53%

13.3 Alternative 2

13.3.1 Impact (Groundfish Mortality)

Management measures would not change from Alternative 1 to Alternative 2. Under Alternative 2 for shortspine thornyhead, yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat., canary rockfish, and widow rockfish, an additional buffer is added between projected stock mortality and the associated harvest limit; however, this Alternative does not support changes to management measures. Similarly, under Alternative 2 for rougheye/blackspotted, chilipepper, and yelloweye rockfishes, the buffer between projected stock mortality and the harvest guideline is reduced, but this Alternative, likewise, does not support changes to management measures.

13.3.2 Impact Comparison/Tradeoffs

The sablefish north of 36° N. lat. bycatch model projects that none of the non-trawl allocations will be at risk of being exceeded under either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2 in 2027-28 (Table 13-54 and Table 13-55). The one stock where the projection is close to the non-trawl allocation is slope rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat., but that stock allocation is still unlikely to be exceeded because the projection is 45.1 to 31.9 mt under the allocation in 2027 and 2028, respectively.

Table 13-54. Alternative 1 compared to Alternative 2. Projected non-nearshore groundfish mortality from targeted sablefish for the combined fixed gear fisheries north of 36° N. lat. (in mt) for 2027 compared to the non-trawl allocation (excluding proposed routine adjustments) and the commercial non-trawl share if applicable. Bolded stock/stock complex indicates a value that exceeds or is close to the non-trawl allocation. Projections are based on a sablefish Alternative 1 default harvest control rule of P* of 0.45 with the limited entry sector attaining 100 percent of the LE share and the open access sector attaining 50 percent of the OA share based on trends in the 2025 fishery.

Stock/Stock Complex (Management Area)	Total Bycatch Projected (mt)	Non-Trawl Allocation a/ (mt)	Non-Trawl Commercial Share (mt)	Non-Trawl Allocation a/ (mt)	Non-Trawl Commercial Share (mt)
Canary rockfish	2.2	152.2	54.8	162.5	58.5
Chilipepper rockfish (S of 40°10' N. lat.)	3.8	745.2	--	490.1	--
Shelf rockfish (N of 40°10' N. lat.)	10.0	514.7	--	484.2	--
Slope rockfish (N. of 40°10' N. lat.)	152.4	298.8	--	197.5	--
Slope rockfish (S. of 40°10' N. lat.)	49.5	258.1	--	254.1	--
Petrale sole	4.0	30.0	--	30.0	--
Shortspine thornyhead (N. of 34°27' N. lat.)	54.1	227.4	--	243.4	--
Yelloweye rockfish	3.0	85.2	17.8	66.9	14
Yellowtail rockfish (N of 40°10' N. lat.)	1.6	445.9	--	485.2	--

Table 13-55. Alternative 1 compared to Alternative 2. Projected non-nearshore groundfish mortality from targeted sablefish for the combined fixed gear fisheries north of 36° N. lat. (in mt) for 2028 compared to the non-trawl allocation (excluding proposed routine adjustments) and the commercial non-trawl share if applicable. Bolded stock/stock complex indicates a value that exceeds or is close to the non-trawl allocation. Projections are based on a sablefish Alternative 1 default harvest control rule of P* of 0.45 with the limited entry sector attaining 100 percent of the LE share and the open access sector attaining 50 percent of the OA share based on trends in the 2025 fishery.

Stock/Stock Complex (Management Area)	Total Bycatch Projected (mt)	Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
		Non- Trawl Allocation a/ (mt)	Non-Trawl Commercial Share	Non-Trawl Allocation a/ (mt)	Non-Trawl Commercial Share
Canary rockfish	2.4	156.9	56.5	168.3	60.6
Chilipepper rockfish (South of 40°10' N. lat.)	4.2	716.0	--	490.1	--
Minor shelf rockfish (North of 40°10' N. lat.)	10.8	511.1	--	484.0	--
Minor slope rockfish (North of 40°10' N. lat.)	165.0	294.8	--	196.9	--
Minor slope rockfish (South of 40°10' N. lat.)	53.6	257.0	--	253.1	--
Petrable sole	4.3	30.0	--	30.0	--
Shortspine thornyhead (North of 34°27' N. lat.)	58.5	230.1	--	243.4	--
Yelloweye rockfish	3.2	85.4	17.8	66.9	14
Yellowtail rockfish (North of 40°10' N. lat.)	1.8	424.0	--	446.8	--

Table 13-56 and Table 13-57 compare the ACL, Fishery HG, and non-trawl allocations under each alternative. Alternative 1 uses the default harvest control rule based on the 2025 stock assessments for sablefish north of 36° N. lat., sablefish south of 36° N. lat., and California quillback rockfish. Alternative 2 for canary rockfish and yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. would provide more opportunity for the commercial non-trawl fisheries than Alternative 1. Alternative 2 for chilipepper rockfish north and south of 40° 10' N. lat., rougheye/blackspotted rockfishes north and south of 40° 10' N. lat., and yelloweye rockfish would provide a precautionary buffer while still providing greater opportunity for fishery compared to No Action. Alternative 2 for petrale sole and shortspine thornyhead would provide opportunity for the trawl fisheries while minimally impacting the commercial non-trawl fisheries. Widow rockfish harvest has been expanding in the commercial non-trawl fisheries since 2022 (Table 7-6 in §7.2). Since the current non-trawl allocation is set at a fixed value of 300 mt, the commercial non-trawl fishery harvest guideline is not directly affected by choice of an ACL Alternative. However, the harvest guideline is affected by the trawl/non-trawl biennial allocation options (see in §7.2 for more details on tradeoffs.) Under allocation Option 1, the commercial non-trawl fisheries has opportunity for expansion, while Option 2 could limit expansion by requiring a reduction in trip limits if new participants enter the fishery.

Table 13-56. Comparison between No Action, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2 harvest control rules in 2027 for species that have more than one alternative HCR. The change from No Action values is shown in parentheses. Cells highlighted in light green indicate an increase between alternatives, but if there are two alternatives with increasing values, then the dark green indicates the higher of the two alternatives. Yellow cells indicate no change between alternatives. Light pink cells indicate a decrease between alternatives, but if there are two alternatives with decreasing values, then the dark pink indicates the lower of the two alternatives. Note that all values except those for California quillback have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

	No Action				Alt 1				Alt 2			
Stock (Management Area)	ACL	Fishery HG	All GF Non-Trawl	NT Comm.	ACL	Fishery HG	All GF Non-Trawl	NT Comm.	ACL	Fishery HG	All GF Non-Trawl	NT Comm.
Canary rockfish (CW)	572	508	141	51	606 (+34)	550 (+41)	152 (+11)	55 (+4)	643 (+71)	587 (+78)	163 (+22)	59 (+8)
Chilipepper rockfish (S of 40° 10' N. lat.)	2,815	2,788	697	NA	2,986 (+171)	2,981 (+193)	745 (+48)	NA	1,966 (-849)	1,960 (-828)	490 (-207)	NA
Chilipepper rockfish contrib. to shelf (N of 40° 10' N. lat.)	212	Shelf complex			245 (+33)	shelf complex			148 (-64)	Shelf complex		
Petrable sole (CW)	2,354	2,036	30	NA	2,449 (+95)	2,108 (+73)	30	NA	2,489 (+135)	2,148 (+113)	30	NA
Quillback rockfish (CA)	1.3	1.2	NA	NA	11.6 (+10.3)	11.6 (+10.4)	NA	NA	NA			
Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish – Slope (N of 40° 10' N. lat.)	185	Slope complex			827 (+642)	Slope complex			294 (+109)	Slope complex		
Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish – Slope (S of 40° 10' N. lat.)	4	Slope complex			17 (+13)	Slope complex			6 (+2)	Slope complex		
Sablefish (N of 36°)	28,688	25,729	See individual tables		10,962 (-17,726)	See individual tables			NA			
Sablefish (S of 36°)	7,857	7,830	4,541	4531	3,002 (-4,855)	2,990 (-4840)	1,734 (-2807)	1,724 (-2807)	NA			
Shortspine thornyhead	815	743	267	NA	847 (+32)	784 (+41)	227 (-40)	NA	902 (+87)	839 (+96)	243 (-24)	NA

Stock (Management Area)	No Action				Alt 1				Alt 2			
	ACL	Fishery HG	All GF Non-Trawl	NT Comm.	ACL	Fishery HG	All GF Non-Trawl	NT Comm.	ACL	Fishery HG	All GF Non-Trawl	NT Comm.
Widow rockfish (CW)	11,237	11,019	300	NA	4,796 – 9,754 ^{a/} (-6,441 to -1,483)	4,595 – 9,554 ^{a/} (-6,424 to -1,465)	300 or 150	NA	TBD	TBD	300 or 150	NA
Yelloweye rockfish (CW)	56	41	38	8	113 (+57)	93 (+52)	85 (+48)	18 (+10)	85 (+29)	73 (+32)	67 (+29)	14 (+6)
Yellowtail rockfish (N of 40° 10')	6,241	5,216	626	NA	4,723 (-1,518)	3,716 (-1,500)	446 (-180)	NA	5,050 (-1,191)	4,043 (-1,173)	485 (-141)	NA

a/ At the time of development of this analysis, the Council has yet to adopt the harvest specifications for widow rockfish for 2027-28 due to consideration of the stock assessment. Therefore, based on the Council's guidance in November, the GMT analyzed two wide bookends to encompass the impacts from the lowest and highest possible ACLs. The low bookend is from the October 2025 "Proposed new widow rockfish base model and changes from August 2025", Table 4. This low bookend is higher than the ACL that was presented in the 2025 "new widow rockfish base model", Kinneen et. al., 2025. The high bookend is from the 2023 Catch-only Projection.

Table 13-57. Comparison between No Action, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2 harvest control rules in 2028 for species that have more than one alternative HCR. Cells highlighted in light teal indicate an increase between alternatives, but if there are two alternatives with increasing values, then the dark green indicates the higher of the two alternatives. Yellow cells indicate no change between alternatives. Light salmon cells indicate a decrease between alternatives, but if there are two alternatives with decreasing values, then the fuchsia indicates the lower of the two alternatives. Note that all values except those for California quillback have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Stock (Management Area)	No Action				Alternative 1				Alternative 2			
	ACL	Fishery HG	All GF Non-Trawl	NT Comm.	ACL	Fishery HG	All GF Non-Trawl	NT Comm.	ACL	Fishery HG	All GF Non-Trawl	NT Comm.
Canary rockfish (CW)	572	508	141	51	623 (+51)	567 (+59)	157 (+16)	57 (+6)	664 (+92)	608 (+100)	168 (+27)	61 (+10)
Chilipepper rockfish (S of 40° 10' N. lat.)	2,815	2,788	697	NA	2,870 (+55)	2864 (+76)	716 (+19)	NA	1,966 (-849)	1,960 (-828)	490 (-207)	NA
Chilipepper rockfish contrib. to shelf (N of 40° 10' N. lat.)	212	Shelf complex			216 (+4)	Shelf complex			148 (-64)	Shelf complex		

	No Action				Alternative 1				Alternative 2			
Stock (Management Area)	ACL	Fishery HG	All GF Non-Trawl	NT Comm.	ACL	Fishery HG	All GF Non-Trawl	NT Comm.	ACL	Fishery HG	All GF Non-Trawl	NT Comm.
Petrale sole (CW)	2,354	2,036	30	NA	2,423 (+69)	2,082 (+46)	30	NA	2,489 (+135)	2,148 (+112)	30	NA
Quillback rockfish (CA)	1.3	1.2	NA	NA	12 (+10.7)	11.9 (+10.7)	NA	NA	NA			
Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish – Slope (N of 40° 10’ N. lat.)	185	Slope complex			810 (+625)	Slope complex			294 (+109)	Slope complex		
Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish – Slope (S of 40° 10’ N. lat.)	4	Slope complex			17 (+13)	Slope complex			6 (+2)	Slope complex		
Sablefish (N of 36°)	28,688	25,729	See individual tables		11,856 (-16,832)	See individual tables			NA			
Sablefish (S of 36°)	7,857	7,830	4,541	4,531	3,247 (-4,610)	3,235 (-4,595)	1,876 (-2,665)	1,840 (-2,691)	NA			
Shortspine thornyhead	815	743	267	NA	856 (+41)	793 (+50)	230 (-37)	NA	902 (+87)	839 (+96)	243 (-24)	NA
Widow rockfish (CW)	11,237	11,019	300	NA	4,998 – 9,255a/ (-6,239 to -1,982)	4,797 – 9,055a/ (-6,222 to -1,964)	300 or 150		TBD	TBD	300 or 150	NA
Yelloweye rockfish (CW)	56	41	38	8	113 (+57)	93 (+52)	85 (+47)	18 (+10)	85 (+29)	73 (+32)	67 (+29)	14 (+6)
Yellowtail rockfish (N of 40° 10’)	6,241	5,216	626	NA	4,540 (-1,701)	3,533 (-1,683)	424 (-202)	NA	4,730 (-1,511)	3,723 (-1,493)	447 (-179)	NA

a/ At the time of development of this analysis, the Council has yet to adopt the harvest specifications for widow rockfish for 2027-28 due to consideration of the stock assessment. Therefore, based on the Council's guidance in November, the GMT analyzed two wide bookends to encompass the impacts from the lowest and highest possible ACLs. The low bookend is from the October 2025 “Proposed new widow rockfish base model and changes from August 2025”, Table 4. This low bookend is higher than the ACL that was presented in the 2025 “new widow rockfish base model”, Kinneen et. al., 2025. The high bookend is from the 2023 Catch-only Projection.

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14.1 No Action

The Washington recreational fishery comprises of a vessel-based private and charter sector and a smaller shore-based sector. Primary target species include rockfish, mainly black rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and lingcod. Pacific halibut anglers also impact recreational groundfish species, including yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish. Primary catch controls include season dates, depth closures, daily limits, and Groundfish Conservation Areas (GCAs), including Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas (YRCAs). The purpose of the YRCA depth restrictions on the recreational fishery has been to direct fishing effort to shallower areas where yelloweye rockfish encounters and mortality of discarded fish are lower. YRCAs are the main management measures for reducing catches of this stock. YRCAs are discussed in more detail in Chapter 2.

14.1.1 Fishing Season

The Washington recreational season for groundfish is currently open from the second Saturday in March through the third Saturday in October in all marine areas, but region-specific species/area/depth restrictions exist ([50 CFR 660.360\(c\)\(1\)](#)).

14.1.2 Area Management

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) manages the Washington recreational fishery by four areas as shown in Figure 14-1 The depth/area and species restrictions by marine area are summarized in Table below.

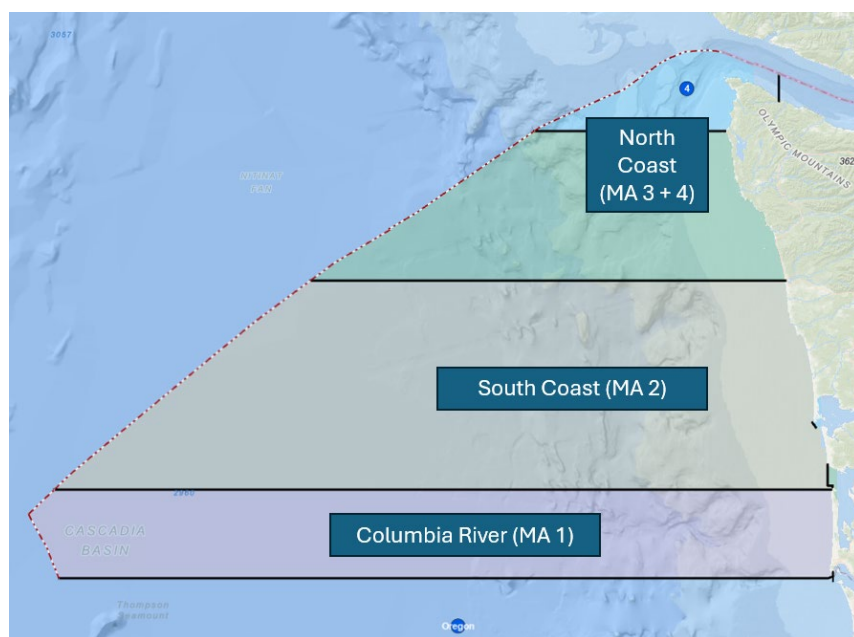


Figure 14-1. Washington Marine Areas.

North Coast (Marine Areas 3 and 4)

Yelloweye rockfish abundance and encounters are higher on the north coast (Marine Areas 3 and 4A) compared to the south coast (Marine Areas 2) and Columbia River (Marine Area 1). Thus, restrictions on the north coast constrain anglers to shallower water whereas on the south coast,

where incidental catch of yelloweye rockfish is lower, fishing deeper is allowed. On the North Coast, the retention of groundfish is prohibited seaward of a line approximating 20 fathoms from June 1 through July 31, except lingcod, Pacific cod, sablefish, bocaccio, silvergray rockfish, canary rockfish, widow rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish, may be retained seaward of 20 fathoms on days that Pacific halibut fishing is open. In addition, yellowtail rockfish and widow rockfish retention are allowed seaward of 20 fathoms in July. In addition, fishing for, retention, or possession of groundfish and Pacific halibut is prohibited in the C-shaped YRCA to protect yelloweye rockfish Figure 14-2).([50 CFR 660.360\(c\)\(1\)\(i\)\(A\)](#))

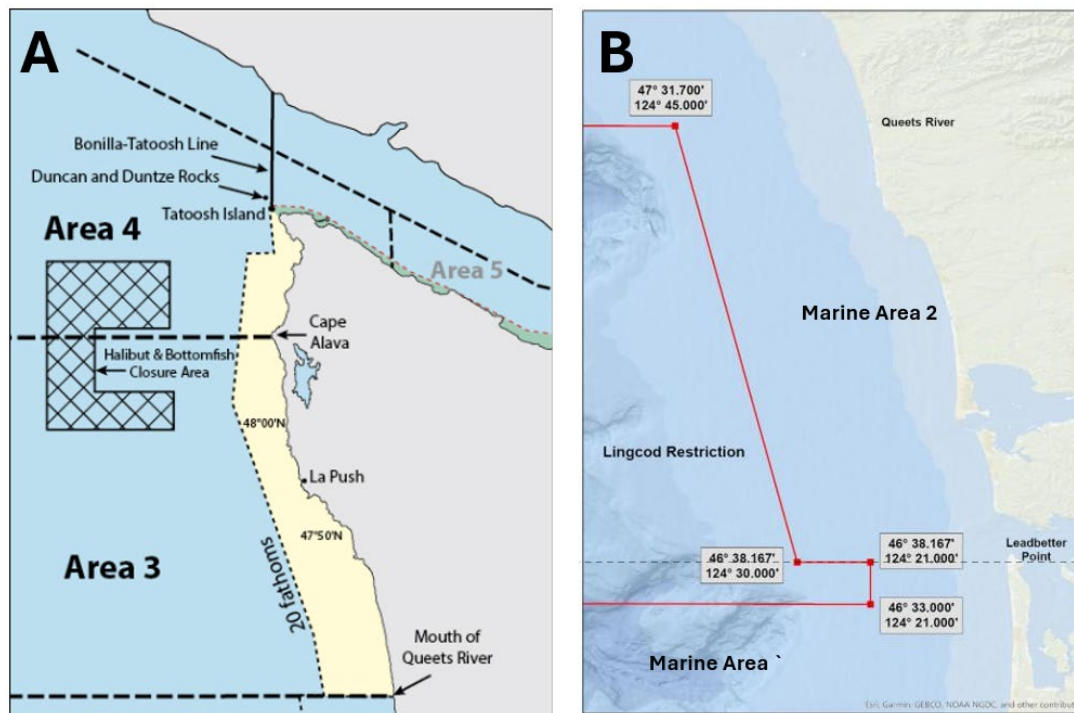


Figure 14-2. Panel A: North Coast YRCA, Panel B: Deepwater Lingcod restriction on the South Coast and Columbia River.

South Coast (Marine Area 2)

The retention of lingcod is prohibited seaward of 30 fathoms from May 1 through May 31, except lingcod retention is allowed on days open to the all-depth Pacific halibut fishery. Fishing for, retention, or possession of lingcod is prohibited in deepwater areas seaward of a line extending from 47° 31.70' N. lat., 124° 45.00' W. long. to 46° 38.17' N. lat., 124° 30.00' W. long. except on days open to the Pacific halibut fishery and from June 1 through 15 and September 1 through 30.

Columbia River (Marine Area 1)

Retention of sablefish, flatfish other than Pacific halibut, Pacific cod, yellowtail rockfish, widow rockfish, canary rockfish, redstripe rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, silvergray rockfish, chilipepper rockfish, bocaccio, blue/deacon rockfish, and lingcod north of the Washington – Oregon border is allowed with Pacific halibut onboard during the Pacific halibut fishery. Additionally, fishing for, retention, or possession of lingcod in deepwater areas seaward of a line extending from 46°

38.17' N. lat., 124° 21.00' W. long. to 46° 33.00' N. lat., 124° 21.00' W. long. is prohibited except from June 1 through June 15 and September 1 through September 30.

Table 14-1. Washington Recreational seasons and groundfish retention restrictions. hd = halibut days.

Management Area	Depth/Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
North Coast (MA3 & MA4A)	<= 20 fm	closed		open		open except group c			open		closed		
	> 20 fm	closed		open			group a only and only on hd	group a only on hd and group b	open		closed		
South Coast (MA2)	all depths	closed		open		open except group c			open		closed		
	30 - 50 fm: lingcod	closed		open		lingcod closed except hd	open				closed		
	deepwater: lincod	closed		lingcod closed except hd			lingcod open	lingcod closed except hd		lingcod open	lingcod closed except hd	closed	
Columbia River (MA1)	all depths	closed		open*		open* except group c			open*		closed		
	deepwater: lingcod	closed		lingcod closed			lingcod open	lingcod closed		lingcod open	lingcod closed	closed	

- * during the all-depth halibut fishery, cannot retain bottomfish if halibut on board, except: sablefish, Pacific cod, flatfish species, yellowtail rockfish, widow rockfish, canary rockfish, redstripe rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, silvergray rockfish, chilipepper, bocaccio, blue/deacon rockfish, and lingcod caught north of the Washington-Oregon border (46°16.00' N lat.)
- group a: lingcod, Pacific cod, sablefish, bocaccio, silvergray, canary, widow and yellowtail
- group b: yellowtail and widow
- group c: copper, quillback, vermilion
- see text and Figure 2B for exact location of deepwater lingcod restriction in areas 1 and 2
- yelloweye rockfish prohibited

14.1.3 Bag Limits

The Washington recreational groundfish bag limit is nine fish per day. Of the nine recreational groundfish allowed to be landed per day, sub-bag limits of seven rockfish, two lingcod, and one cabezon apply in Marine Areas 1-4. Of the seven rockfish, only five may be canary rockfish. Five flatfish, not including Pacific halibut, can be retained in addition to the nine groundfish daily limit. Retention of yelloweye rockfish is prohibited, year-round. Retention of copper, quillback, and vermilion rockfishes is prohibited May 1 through July 31.

14.1.4 Inseason Management

The precision of recreational groundfish catch estimates or projections based on previous seasons are influenced by factors such as the duration and success of salmon, Pacific halibut, and albacore seasons, weather, and any other unforeseen factors. However, WDFW has an effective and thorough monitoring system through the Washington Ocean Sampling Program (OSP) which produces bottomfish estimates by marine area monthly with a one-month lag time. Further, Washington's management and regulatory processes can react quickly to the need for additional depth restrictions, area closures, groundfish retention restrictions, or changes to seasons through emergency changes to state regulations. Inseason action can be used if inseason catch reports

indicate that recreational harvests of overfished species or non-overfished species are exceeding pre-season projections to the point where HGs, ACTs, or ACLs are at risk of being exceeded.

In 2025, no inseason action was taken to keep catch within state specific HGs.

14.1.5 Mortality and Effort

The harvest guidelines under No Action along with total mortality in 2024 and 2025 are shown in Table 14-2. In addition, Figure 14-3 shows attainment in the Washington Recreational Fishery for the stocks with harvest guidelines and other species of importance to the sector. Table 3 shows effort by mode (Private vs. Charter) over the past 10 years and Figure 14-4 shows effort by mode, region, and trip type.

The West Coast states coordinate to track and manage catches of nearshore rockfish north of 40°10'N. lat. If harvest levels in Washington approach 75 percent of the state-specific HG the state of Washington will consult with the other West Coast states and determine if inseason action is needed. In the event inseason action is needed, WDFW will make changes through state regulation.

Table 14-2. No Action (2025) – Harvest Guidelines (HG) in metric tons (mt) for the Washington recreational fisheries in 2025 and total mortality in 2024 and 2025. Mortality Source: RecFIN (Jan 2026).

Species	2025 HG	Total Mortality (2024)	Total Mortality (2025)
Canary Rockfish	17.3	26.8	22.7
Yelloweye Rockfish	9.6	3.1	2.0
Black Rockfish	226.0	146.0	152.0
Nearshore Rockfish	16.1	8.8	7.4
Cabazon/Kelp Greenling	12.2	8.8	8.5

Table 14-3. Effort in angler trips by mode (private vs. charter) and total angler trips over the past 10 years for recreational trips targeting bottomfish or halibut. Source: OSP (Feb 2026).

Year	Charter	Private	Total
2016	23,148	21,726	44,874
2017	21,404	21,238	42,642
2018	23,687	24,862	48,549
2019	21,241	28,832	50,073
2020	14,969	18,059	33,028
2021	21,965	22,162	44,127
2022	16,939	23,956	40,895
2023	15,450	27,807	43,257
2024	16,637	29,440	46,077
2025	13,284	25,872	39,156

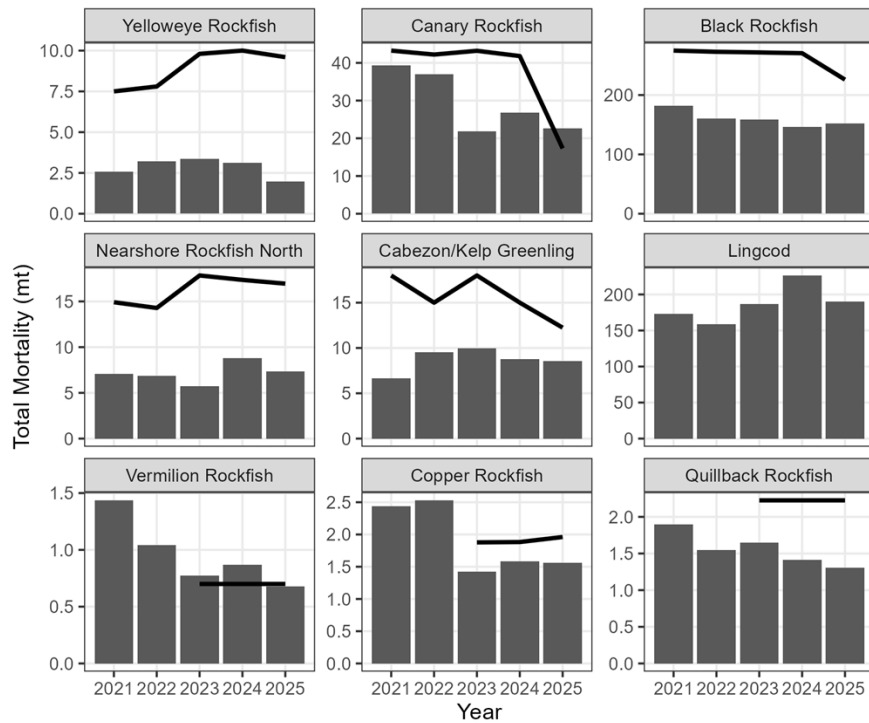


Figure 14-3. Total mortality for select species and stocks for the Washington Recreational Fishery over the past five years. Where stock-specific harvest guidelines exist, they are indicated as black lines. Note that copper and quillback rockfish are part of the Nearshore Rockfish North Complex but are also shown separately in this figure. Mortality Source: RecFIN (Jan 2026).

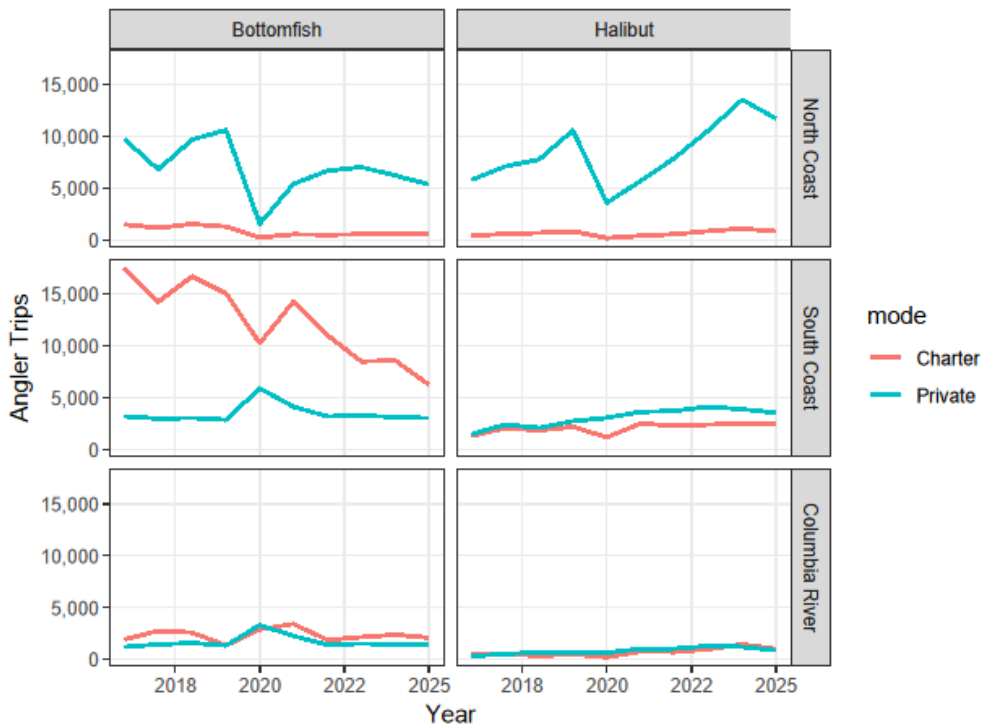


Figure 14-4. Effort in the private and charter fleets of the Washington Recreational Fishery for bottomfish and halibut-directed trips. Source: OSP (Feb 2026).

14.1.6 Impact Analysis

Total bottomfish and halibut fishing effort has been stable over the past five years (Table 3), but region, mode, and trip type-specific trends do exist: charter effort has been decreasing, especially in bottomfish trips on the South Coast, and private angler-trips have been increasing, especially on the North Coast for trips targeting halibut (Figure 4). In 2025, the number of private angler trips targeting bottomfish or halibut was almost double that of charter angler trips (Table 14-3), and there were more angler trips targeting halibut than bottomfish. This has implications for canary and yelloweye rockfish management, as most yelloweye rockfish are currently caught by the private sector on the North Coast and most canary rockfish are caught by the charter sector on the South Coast.

The 2025 HG for canary rockfish (17.3 mt) was exceeded by 5.4 mt in 2025. Under No Action, similar overages are expected in the future. Anglers are targeting canary rockfish, especially on the South Coast. Total mortality in 2021 and 2022 was particularly high (Figure 3) following the re-opening of two YRCAs on the South Coast. Since then, total mortality for the South Coast charter fleet has been stable, despite declining angler-trips on the South Coast charter fleet because the average number of canary caught per trip increased. The five-fish daily bag limit implemented in 2025 has had limited effect on reducing canary mortality, but there can be a lag between rule implementation and compliance, and OSP sampling data show a higher rate of non-compliance with the bag limit in 2025 than in previous years.

One of the primary tools used to limit yelloweye and canary rockfish mortalities is fishing depth restrictions. By prohibiting lingcod retention in deeper waters, recreational fishing effort in those waters, where encounters with yelloweye and canary rockfish are highest, is discouraged. However, Washington state rules currently allow accessing depth-restricted areas during the all-depth halibut fishery in Marine Area 2, where most of the canary rockfish total mortality occurs. The Washington recreational fishery for Pacific halibut has not been catching its quota, and consequently, the Pacific halibut season has been extending and more fishing days have been added within open months. This has resulted in more fishing effort in deeper waters and more fishing trips that encounter canary and yelloweye rockfishes. Consequently, a higher proportion of the total mortality for both species is occurring on halibut trip types (Figure 14-5).

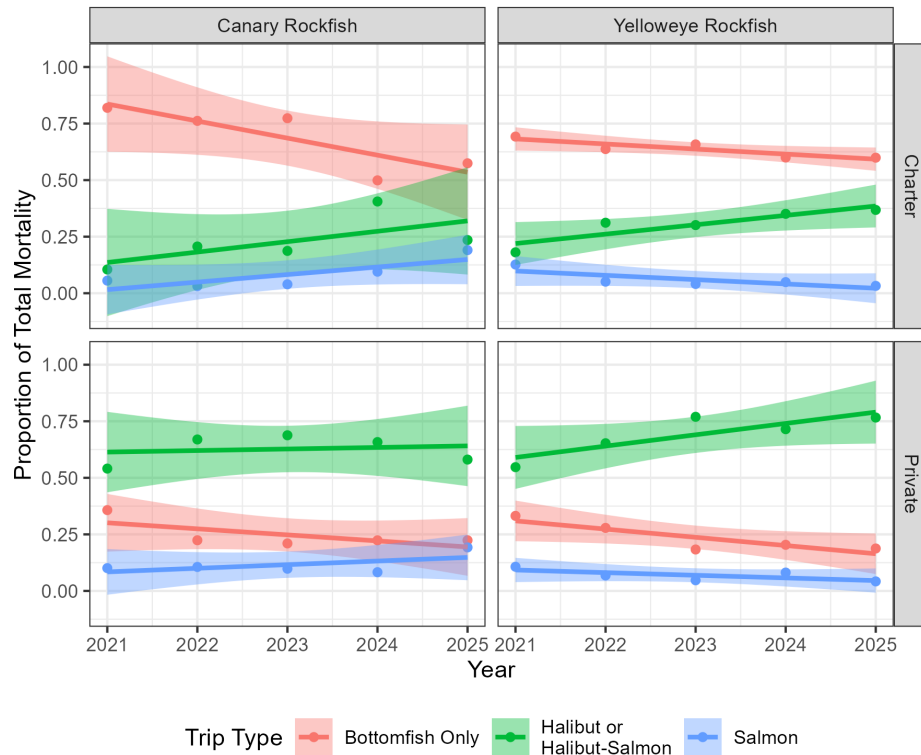


Figure 14-5 Proportion of total mortality by trip type over time for Canary and Yelloweye Rockfish for each fishing mode (Charter and Private). The proportion of total mortality occurring in bottomfish-only trips is showing a downward trend for all species-mode combinations, and the proportion of total mortality occurring in halibut/halibut-salmon trips is showing an increasing trend for all but the private mode for Canary Rockfish (bottom left panel).

The Washington recreational fishery has been below its HG for all species for the past few years, except canary and vermilion rockfishes (Figure 18). The HG for vermilion rockfish (0.7 mt) was exceeded in 2023 and 2024 (total mortality was 0.77 and 0.87, respectively). In 2025, however, the fishery stayed below its HG (total mortality = 0.68 mt). Management measures have been successful at preventing HG overages for nearshore rockfish of concern (i.e., copper rockfish and quillback rockfish Figure 18).

14.2 Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, fishery HGs are similar to No Action, except for higher HGs for yelloweye and canary rockfishes (See 1.2.1.1 and 1.2.1.2 below, respectively). Proposed changes to routine management measures would allow limited yelloweye rockfish retention, after over 20 years of prohibition, and would further relax depth restrictions in Marine Areas 1 and 2 to allow increased fishing opportunities there.

14.2.1 Projected Mortality and Effort

In the absence of changes to groundfish fishing regulations (such as changing bag limits, or spatio-temporal retention restrictions), prior years' total mortality has been a good predictor of next years' total mortality in the Washington recreational fishery. Table 14-4 below uses the 2023-2024 mean total mortality for projected mortality, except for canary and yelloweye rockfishes (See 1.2.1.1 and 1.2.1.2 below, respectively).

Total effort in the Washington recreational fishery for trips targeting bottomfish or halibut is expected to stay at recent levels. Recent trends of increasing angler-trips in the private sector and decreasing angler-trips in the charter sector may continue. If the number of halibut fishing days keeps increasing, recent trends of an increasing share of effort targeting halibut and a decreasing share of bottomfish-only trips may also continue. Conversely, recent average may stabilize, or trends may reverse. Using the 2023-2025 average, the expected future effort is shown in Table 14-5.

Table 14-4. Alternative 1: Projected total mortality for black rockfish, Washington cabezon/kelp greenling complex, and the nearshore rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat.. off of Washington.

Species/ Stock	Al. 1 2027 (2028) (mt)	Projected Total Mortality (mt)
Black Rockfish	221.7 (222.3)	151
Cabezon/Kelp Greenling	12.5 (12.42)	8.9
Nearshore Rockfish	16.1 (15.8)	7.3

Table 14-5.. Projected effort in angler-trips in the Washington Recreational Fishery by mode and trip type, based on 2023-2025 averages.

Trip Type/ Mode	Charter	Private	Total
Bottomfish	10,600	10,800	21,400
Halibut	4,600	16,900	21,500
Total	15,200	27,700	42,900

Yelloweye Rockfish Mortality Projection

Yelloweye rockfish has been a prohibited species in the Washington recreational fishery since 2002. The average annual total mortality for the fishery between 1990 and 2000, when there was no yelloweye rockfish bag limit yet, was 11.4 mt (Figure 20), with annual values as high as 16.6 mt. Before 2000, about half of the annual total mortality occurred on the South Coast, and 99% of it in the charter sector. The North Coast contributed about 38% of the annual total mortality, and

only about 32% of it was attributable to the charter sector. Since retention has been prohibited, total mortality in the charter sector (coastwide) has gone down by 93% while total mortality in the private sector has gone down by 39%. In recent years, the majority of the total mortality (53%) comes from private vessels on the North Coast.

It is clear from the data and industry accounts that recreational fishing vessels, especially charter vessels, have modified their fishing behavior to actively avoid catching yelloweye rockfish. It is unclear how quickly and to what extent former targeting behavior will resume once yelloweye rockfish retention is permitted again. A comparison of the yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish total mortality time series (Figure 14-6) can be informative here. Total mortality for canary rockfish had been increasing in the years prior to 2017 when retention was allowed again. Total mortality in 2017 (when the bag limit went from 0 to 1 fish in Marine Areas 1 and 2) doubled compared to 2016 and increased by 73% compared to the prior 5-year average.

If we assume yelloweye rockfish mortality patterns post-bag limit increase will follow the same pattern as canary rockfish mortality and simply double, the expected total mortality for yelloweye rockfish in the 2027-2028 biennium is 5.7 mt. Taking last year's trip data and assuming 100% mortality shows 4.1 mt, but this number likely underestimates expected mortality because it does not take into account angler behavior change.

We can also use the historical trip data prior to yelloweye rockfish prohibition (i.e., 1990 – 2001) and do a bag limit analysis for a hypothetical 1-fish bag limit. If we do that, with an assumed discard mortality rate of 0.65, we get an average total mortality of 10.3 mt. However, the caveat is that the stock assessment estimates that spawning biomass has doubled between the mid-90s and now, meaning the same amount of fishing effort would be expected to result in a) a higher proportion of trips catching yelloweye rockfish compared to the historical trip data and b) a larger amount of yelloweye rockfish caught on trips that do encounter them compared to the historical data. Consequently, under similar behavior and fishing effort as to the historical period, we would expect higher mortality for a more abundant stock.

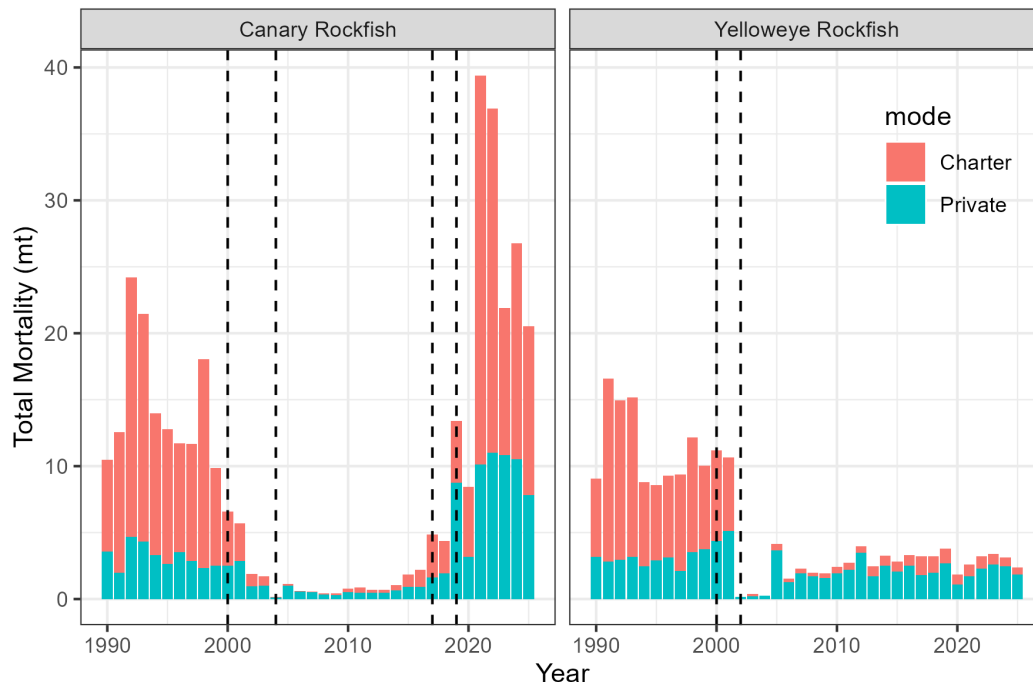


Figure 14-6. Canary Rockfish and Yelloweye Rockfish total mortality over time in the Washington recreational fishery. The vertical lines on the plot indicate bag limit changes. A 2-fish bag limit for both species was implemented in 2000. The bag limit went to zero for yelloweye rockfish in 2002 and for canary rockfish in 2004. The canary rockfish bag limit went to 1 in the Columbia River and South Coast areas in 2017 and by 2019, the canary rockfish bag limit had been removed in all marine areas.

14.2.2 Proposed Updates to Routine Management Measures

Yelloweye Rockfish

Option 1: Status quo

Under Option 1 yelloweye rockfish would remain a prohibited species and could not be retained, i.e., as under No Action management measures. Modeling indicates mortality to be similar to that of No Action, at approximately 2.8 mt

Option 2: Allow limited yelloweye rockfish retention

The 2025 yelloweye rockfish stock assessment estimates that the stock's spawning output is now 40.1 percent of unfished levels and exceeds management target of 40 percent (Johnston et al., 2025). Under Alternative 1, the Washington recreational HG is 21.8 mt in 2027, which is an order of magnitude higher than the estimated total mortality for yelloweye rockfish in the Washington recreational fishery in 2025 (Table 14-6). This amount may allow for some limited harvesting in the recreational fishery.

Sub-option 2.1: 1 fish sub-bag limit

As discussed in the previous section, there is a large amount of uncertainty projecting yelloweye rockfish mortality, with likely estimates for a 1 fish sub-bag limit ranging from about 6 to 10 mt and could very well be higher. For reference, the highest ever estimated total mortality for the WA recreational sector was 17.7 mt in 1989 when the population was estimated to be at 0.33 fraction unfished and there was no yelloweye sub-bag limit and no depth restrictions (Table 14-6).

Sub-option 2.2: 1 fish sub-bag limit only on halibut days in May

Allowing yelloweye rockfish take only on halibut days in May would result in lower total mortality compared to a one-fish bag limit for the entire bottomfish season. The expected total mortality depends on angler behavior and the number of halibut fishing days in May. It is unknown at this point how many halibut fishing days there will be in May of 2027 and 2028; however, number of days has been steadily increasing over the past years, from between 7 or 8 per marine area in 2022 to between 14 and 18 per area in 2026. May has been the month with the highest proportion of yelloweye rockfish mortality over the past three years (41%). Assuming total mortality on May halibut trips doubles compared to 2023-2025 levels, total mortality on May bottomfish-only trips increases by 20% (implying some targeting on bottomfish trips during halibut days), and total mortality for all other months is at the recent 3-year average, projected mortality for this Option is 3.6 mt (Table 14-6). Again, this number must be considered highly uncertain. For reference, the largest May total mortality since 1990 for yelloweye rockfish was 4.1 mt in 1993, when there was no sub-bag limit. This Option has only a very low probability of exceeding the HG under Alternative 1.

Table 14-6. Projected mortality estimated for yelloweye rockfish. Estimates should be considered highly uncertain, and that for canary rockfish uncertain (see text for details).

Species/ Stock	Al. 1 2027 (2028) (mt)	Projected Total Mortality (mt)	
Yelloweye Rockfish	21.8 (21.9)	Option 1 (SQ)	2.8
		Option2.1	5.7
		Option2.2	3.6

14.2.3 Canary Rockfish

Option 1: Status Quo

Under Option 1, management of canary rockfish would be the same as under No Action, a sub-bag limit of five canary rockfish. Total mortality is expected to continue being around 23 or 24 mt, which is higher than the Washington HG under Alternative 1 (Table 14-7).

Option 2: reduce the daily sub-bag limit from the current 5 fish per person

Option 2, alternative management measures are presented to reduce canary rockfish mortality. Using OSP sample data from 2023–2025, a bag limit analysis was conducted to estimate total mortality under alternative bag limits. To reflect observed angler behavior, the model incorporated changes in the probability of a positive trip (i.e., encountering at least one fish) under more restrictive bag limits. Historical data indicate that the probability of a positive trip was approximately three times higher during periods without a sub-bag limit compared to periods when retention was prohibited. To account for this pattern, encounter probability was allowed to vary smoothly as a function of the bag limit, with the largest modeled bag limit representing full observed behavior. Under lower bag limits, some trips that would have resulted in encounters under status quo conditions were assumed to have no encounters. However, even under a zero bag limit, some incidental encounters were assumed to occur, consistent with past observations.

For trips with encounters, retained catch was capped at the trip bag limit (number of anglers multiplied by the bag limit). Once the trip bag limit was reached, only 20% of any additional encounters were assumed to occur, and those fish were treated as released and subject to discard

mortality using average release mortality rates from RecFIN. The estimated number of dead fish under each bag limit scenario was then expanded to total fishery mortality by scaling from the sample to the final catch estimates and converted to weight using average weights from RecFIN.

The resulting projected total mortalities for various bag limits are show in Table 14-7. A sub-bag limit of 4 fish is projected to result in a total mortality of 20.3 mt which is slightly above the 2027/2028 HG of 18.7/19.3 mt, while a sub-bag limit of 3 fish per angler is projected to result in 17.0 mt total mortality which is below the Alternative 1 HG (Table 14-7)..

Table 14-7. Estimated total mortality for canary rockfish under different sub-bag limit options.

Daily Bag	Projected Mortality (mt)
0	1.9
1	6.6
2	12.3
3	17.2
4	20.5
5 (Status Quo)	22.2
6	23.4
7	23.8

Option 3: Remove 30 fm lingcod restriction in May in Marine Area 2

Under Option 2, the 30 fm lingcod restriction currently in effect in Marine Area 2 from May 1 to 31 would be removed. This would increase fishing opportunities in waters between 30 fathoms and ~50 fm (where the deepwater lingcod closure starts) in May in Marine Area 2. The expected impacts of this action is increased canary rockfish and yelloweye rockfish encounters in May in Marine Area 2. Based on the proportion of estimated angler-trips in waters deeper vs shallower than 30 fathoms in the other months and when the deepwater lingcod closure is in effect, a reasonable expectation is that about ten percent of trips targeting bottomfish would shift into deeper waters. Such a shift would add an estimated 0.7 mt of total mortality for canary rockfish. The effect of a five or twenty percent shift instead would be an added 0.4 and 1.4 mt of mortality, respectively. (Table 14-7).

Option 4: Increase the period during which the deepwater lingcod closure is in effect in Marine Areas 1 and 2

The deepwater lingcod closure in Marine Areas 1 and 2 is currently in effect at all times except from June 1 through 15 and September 1 through 30. Under Option 3, the deepwater lingcod closure would be in effect at all times except from June 1 through 15 and September 1 through 15, reducing the closure by 15 days.

The proportion of canary rockfish total mortality occurring in September on bottomfish-only charter trips on the South Coast has been highly variable over the last five years, but it can be substantial. It ranges from a high of 30 percent in 2021 to a low of five percent in 2025, and typically over 90% of it is from deep areas. If the trend of decreasing proportion of total canary rockfish mortality in September continues or the proportion stays at current low levels, the amount of canary rockfish mortality that would be reduced from restricting deepwater access in the second half of September will be small, on the order of 0.5 mt. The mean total annual mortality in deep

waters in Marine Areas 1 and 2 in September for bottomfish-only trips over the past three years is 2.4 mt, so this management action could reduce canary rockfish total mortality by about 1 mt, depending on future trends in the fishery. (Table 14-7).

Option 5: Modify the deepwater lingcod restriction in Marine Area 1

Option 4 modifies the existing deepwater lingcod restriction in Marine Area 2 to remove the discontinuity in the shape of the closed area between Marine Areas 1 and 2. The new restriction spanning MA1 and MA2 would be seaward of a line extending from 47° 31.70' N. lat., 124° 45.00' W. long. to 46° 33.00' N. lat., 124° 28.55' W. long. (Figure 7). The new closed area would simplify the regulations, make it easier for anglers to comply with the restriction, and increase fishing opportunities in deeper waters. It will also increase deepwater fishing opportunities for lingcod and rockfish found in deeper waters like canary rockfish and yelloweye rockfish in the area proposed for removal from the closure. The impacts from this change on canary rockfish total mortality are expected to be minimal. The share of canary rockfish annual total mortality from bottomfish-only trips in Marine Area 1 has been low, ranging from 0.6 mt to 1 mt per year over the last three years. Additionally, no appreciable increase in mortality was observed in June and September after 2020, when the deepwater lingcod closure was first lifted from June 1 through 15 and September 1 through 30 (prior to 2021, the closure was in effect year-round). Specifically, canary rockfish total mortality in Marine Area 2 in bottomfish-only trips increased on average by 50% from 2021 to 2025 compared to 2016 to 2020 for the months of June and September combined. This was the same amount of increase observed for all other months combined over the same period, when the deepwater closure was in effect. (Table 14-8).

Table 14-8. Alternative 1: Projected mortality for canary rockfish under the Options. The projected mortality impacts for options 2 through 5 for canary rockfish are with respect to status quo; the various options presented can be combined to achieve the total mortality for a particular combination of options. Option 2 corresponds to a 4-fish sub-bag limit.

Species/ Stock	Al. 1 2027 (2028) (mt)	Projected Total Mortality (mt)	
Canary Rockfish	18.7 (19.3)	Option 1 (SQ)	22.7
		Option2	- 2.2
		Option3	+ 0.7
		Option4	- 0.5
		Option5	+/- 0



Figure 14-7. Shape of the new deepwater lingcod closure (dashed black lines) under Option 3 on top of the existing closure (red lines).

14.2.4 Impact Analysis

Option 1: Allow limited yelloweye rockfish retention

The goal of allowing limited retention of yelloweye rockfish is not to incentivize targeting but rather to convert what would otherwise be dead discards to retained landings (discard mortality in deeper waters where yelloweye are encountered is high) and additionally to provide data from the Washington recreational fishery for the next stock assessment. If the fishery remained closed, there would be little opportunity for biological data collection from the Washington recreational fishery, which would be to the detriment of future stock assessments. On the other hand, opening the fishery up to quickly could result in excessive mortality necessitating future fishery restriction. A key point to consider is the uncertainty projecting impacts due to known changes in fishing behavior affecting yelloweye encounters and retention.

Despite the projection uncertainty, all projection estimates for a one-fish bag limit are well below the HG under Alternative 1; therefore, it is unlikely that the Washington recreational fishery would exceed its harvest specifications under this option, and in-season action is available to course-correct, if in-season mortality tracking indicates it is needed. It should be noted that some charter operators oppose a one-fish sub-bag limit per angler pay day for the entire bottomfish season because they feel it is not precautionary enough, given the large amount of uncertainty in targeting behavior that might result from reopening. These anglers would feel more comfortable with something much more restrictive, like a one-fish sub bag limit per person for day only during halibut days and only during the month of May. This Option is expected to have only a very low chance of exceeding the HG. Observing angler behavior change for a couple of years under a rule

like that would also generate data that could be used to produce better projections for yelloweye rockfish mortality under different management options for the entire year in the future.

Option 2: Change management measures to decrease mortality for canary rockfish

Around 50% of the total canary rockfish mortality comes from the charter sector on the South Coast. For the entire state, between 60 and 70% of canary mortality has been coming from the charter sector between 2023 and 2025. WDFW has received feedback from the charter sector that it has been hard to sustain charter businesses. Corroborating this, the number of registered charters has been declining, from around 60 per year ten years ago to around 40 per year now. The number of charter angler trips has also been declining, particularly on the South Coast (Figure 19). The charter industry does not wish to see a decrease in the canary rockfish daily sub-bag limit as they believe it will exacerbate the difficulties for charter operators to attract customers and deliver satisfying charter experience for their customers.

Canary rockfish mortality reductions of 4–5 mt would be needed for the Washington recreational fishery to remain below its 18.7/19.3 mt HG under Alternative 1 for 2027/2028. While lowering the bag limit would reduce Washington recreational mortality, the conservation benefit at the stock level would be minimal. Coastwide canary rockfish mortality has remained well below the ACL in recent years, including more than 150 mt below the ACL in 2025, indicating substantial conservation buffer. In addition, the 2023 [canary rockfish stock assessment](#) estimated that 49% of the canary rockfish population occurred in Washington waters during 2017–2022. Given this large biomass and the relatively small magnitude of Washington recreational removals, the Washington recreational fishery represents a small component of total coastwide fishing mortality. As a result, additional restrictions would have negligible impact on coastwide stock status, though they would reduce Washington recreational catch to meet HG targets and harm charter businesses.

Options 3-5: Changes to the deepwater lingcod restriction in Marine Areas 1 and 2

Management actions under options 3-5 would change the spatial and temporal extent of existing deepwater lingcod restrictions in Marine Areas 1 and 2 to simplify the regulations and provide improved fishing opportunities while limiting or preventing increases to canary rockfish total mortality. Changes in Marine Area 1 are expected to have minimal impacts on yelloweye and canary rockfish mortality as only small proportions of total mortality come from this area (about 6% for canary rockfish and 11% for yelloweye rockfish over the past three years). Removing the 30 fm May lingcod restriction in Marine Area 2 (Option 3) is expected to increase canary rockfish mortality by less than 1 mt while shortening the time window during which the (roughly 50 fm) deepwater lingcod restriction is lifted in September (Option 4) could reduce canary rockfish mortality by 0.5 to 1 mt, but this is highly dependent on effort distribution in September. The latter half of the month, during which time the restriction would newly apply, likely has less effort due to worsening weather than the first half of the month.

Table 14-9. Comparison of Management Options under No Action (2025) and Alternative 1.

Management Issue	No Action (2025)	Alternative 1	
	Second Saturday in March through third Saturday in October in all Marine Areas	Same as No Action	
Area/ Species/ Depth Restrictions			
<u>Marine Area 1</u> Deepwater Lingcod Restriction	<u>Rule:</u> Retention of lingcod is prohibited seaward of the deepwater lingcod line <u>Deepwater Lingcod Line Definition:</u> From Leadbetter Point (46° 38.17' N. Lat., 124°21.00' W. Lon.) to 46° 33.00' N. Lat., 124°21.00' W. Lon.	Option 5	<u>Deepwater Lingcod Line Definition:</u> From Leadbetter Point (46° 38.17' N. Lat., 124°30.00' W. Lon.) to 46° 33.00' N. Lat., 124° 28.55' W. Lon
	<u>Period when restriction in effect:</u> Year round except June 1 - June 15 and Sept 1 - Sept 30	Option 4	<u>Period when restriction in effect:</u> Year round except June 1 - June 15 and Sept 1 - Sept 15
<u>Marine Area 1</u> bottomfish restrictions during all-depth halibut fishery	Cannot retain bottomfish if halibut on board, except: sablefish, Pacific cod, flatfish species, yellowtail rockfish, widow rockfish, canary rockfish, redstriped rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, silvergray rockfish, chilipepper, bocaccio, blue/deacon rockfish, and lingcod caught north of the Washington-Oregon border	Same as No Action	
<u>Marine Area 2</u> 30 fm lingcod restriction	Cannot retain lingcod seaward of 30 fathoms from May 1 through May 31, except during all-depth halibut fishery	Option 3	Remove the 30 fm lingcod restriction in Marine Area 2
<u>Marine Area 2</u> Deepwater Lingcod Restriction	<u>Rule:</u> Retention of lingcod is prohibited seaward of a line extending from 47° 31.70' N. lat., 124° 45.00' W. lon. to 46° 38.17' N. lat., 124° 30.00' W. lon.	Same as No Action	
	<u>Period when restriction in effect:</u> Year round except on days open to the all-depth halibut fishery and June 1 - June 15 and Sept 1 - Sept 30	Option 4	<u>Period when restriction in effect:</u> Year round except on days open to the all-depth halibut fishery and June 1 - June 15 and Sept 1 - Sept 15
<u>Marine Area 3 & 4A</u> copper, quillback and vermilion rockfish restriction	No retention from May - July	Same as No Action	
<u>Marine Area 3 & 4A</u> 20 fm restriction	<u>June 1 - July 31:</u> Cannot retain groundfish seaward of 20 fm except on days open to the halibut fishery can retain the following: lingcod, sablefish, bocaccio, silvergray rockfish, canary rockfish, widow rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and Pacific cod. Can retain yellowtail and widow rockfish seaward of 20 fm in July	Same as No Action	
<u>Marine Area 3 & 4A</u> YRCA	Fishing for, retention, or possession of groundfish and Pacific halibut is prohibited in the C-shaped YRCA	Same as No Action	

Daily Bag Limits, Size Limits			
Groundfish	9-fish per angler, no size limit	Same as No Action	
<i>Rockfish</i>	<i>7-fish sub-bag limit</i>	Same as No Action	
<i>Canary rockfish</i>	<i>5-fish sub-bag limit (within rockfish)</i>	Option 2	<i>3 fish sub-bag limit or, 4 fish sub-bag limit</i>
<i>Lingcod</i>	<i>2-fish sub-bag limit</i>	Same as No Action	
<i>Cabezon</i>	<i>1-fish sub-bag limit</i>	Same as No Action	
<i>Yelloweye rockfish</i>	<i>Prohibited, 0 fish</i>	Option 1	<i>1 fish during groundfish season or, 1 fish during the halibut fishery</i>
Flatfish (not including halibut)	5-fish per day	Same as No Action	

14.3 Alternative 2

The same management measures and Options for yelloweye and canary rockfishes under Alternative 2 are considered under Alternative 1. Under Alternative 2, alternative HCRs are considered for canary and yelloweye rockfishes. Table 14-10 below shows projected mortality against the Alternative 2 HGs.

Table 14-10.. Alternative 2 Projected total mortality for yelloweye rockfish should be considered highly uncertain, and that for canary rockfish uncertain. The projected mortality impacts for options 2 through 5 for canary rockfish are with respect to status quo; the various options presented can be combined to achieve the total mortality for a particular combination of options. Option 2 corresponds to a 4-fish sub-bag limit.

Species/ Stock	Alternative 2 2027 (2028)	Projected Total Mortality (mt)	
Yelloweye Rockfish	17.1 (17.1)	Option 1 (SQ)	2.8
		Option2.1	2.8
		Option2.2	2.8
Canary Rockfish	20 (20.7)	Option 1 (SQ)	22.7
		Option3	- 2.2
		Option2	+ 0.7
		Option4	- 0.5
		Option5	+/- 0
Black Rockfish	221.7 (222.3)	151	
Cabazon/Kelp Greenling	12.5 (12.42)	8.9	
Nearshore Rockfish	16.1 (15.8)	7.3	

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15. Action Item 19: Oregon Recreational Groundfish Fishery

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15.1 No Action

Major sectors within the Oregon recreational fishery include bottomfish (groundfish), salmon, Pacific halibut and albacore fisheries. Primary groundfish target species include black rockfish, lingcod, and yellowtail rockfish. Primary catch controls for the Oregon recreational fishery are season dates, depth closures, bag limits, and GCAs (including YRCAs), all of which are tools used to keep catch within state-specific quotas and Federal HGs/ACLs. The values shown in the analysis for all alternatives are the shares based on 2026 recreational and commercial sharing percentages in Oregon State Regulations ([OAR 635-039-0090](#)).

15.1.1 Groundfish Seasons and Restrictions

Season Structure, Area Closures and Gear Specifications

The Oregon recreational groundfish fishery was open at all depths year-round during the 2025-26 harvest specifications biennium with no depth restrictions in place.

15.1.2 GCAs and YRCAs

Stonewall Bank YRCA (50 CFR 660.360(c)(2) and 50 CFR 660.70(i)) was established off the Central Oregon Coast in 2007 during a period when regulations were being implemented to avoid incidental contact with yelloweye and canary rockfishes. Recreational fishing for groundfish and halibut remains prohibited within the Stonewall Bank YRCA. There are no other active GCAs or YRCAs in the Oregon recreational fishery, though there are a few inactive YRCAs that include: Stonewall Bank Expansion 1 and 2, Tillamook, Newport, Florence, and Heceta Bank, addressed in Section (Chapter 2).

Long-leader Fishery

Fishing with long-leader gear (Holloway Gear) (660.351, 660.360(c)(2)(1)(B), and 660.360(c)(2)(iii)(B)) allows anglers to have higher bag limits outside of the 40-fathom regulatory line to entice anglers away from the nearshore reefs while limiting yelloweye rockfish interactions. This gear configuration is designed to fish off the bottom, in the water column to target midwater rockfish stocks, while avoiding yelloweye rockfish. The gear requires no more than three hooks, at least 30 feet between the sinker on the bottom and the lowest hook, and a non-compressible float above the hooks (NMFS 2018). The term “long-leader” denotes the unusual lengths of line (< 30 feet) between the lowest hook and the weight deployed on rod and reel sportfishing gear.

The use of the gear is legal in areas and times open to sport bottomfish fishing in Oregon. However, for anglers to have access to the higher bag limits, fishing must comply with the gear specifications and take place seaward of the 40-fathom regulatory line. Additionally, long-leader gear trips are not allowed in combination with a “regular” bottomfish trip. The long-leader bag limit has ranged from 10 to 15 since 2018; however, during the 2025-26 harvest specifications process a sub-bag limit for canary rockfish was incorporated to keep from exceeding the canary rockfish HG.

Pacific Halibut

The 2025 the Pacific halibut fishery was open from May 1 through October 31. The additional days for anglers to fish offshore for halibut (combined with bottomfish) is one of the contributing

factors that has led to an increase of petrale sole and sablefish caught by anglers in recent years (Table 15-3)

15.1.3 Groundfish Bag Limits and Size Limits

- General Marine Species: 10-fish daily angler limit
- Lingcod: 3-fish daily angler limit with a minimum size limit of 22 inches
- Sablefish: 10-fish daily angler limit
- Flatfish (other than Pacific halibut): 25-fish daily angler limit
- Long-leader gear fishery: 10-fish daily angler limit with a 1-fish canary rockfish sub-bag limit

15.1.4 Inseason and State Management

The west coast states are responsible for tracking and managing catches of species in the nearshore rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat. A state-specific HG, also called a share, is calculated for each of the component stocks. This HG is not a federal regulation but is under state regulation. The state-specific HG is used by the states to track impacts of the recreational fishery on its estimated contribution to the complex. Within state regulations, determined by the OFWC, the Oregon nearshore rockfish component stock HG, along with the black/blue/deacon rockfish complex, is further divided for the state commercial and recreational fisheries. The Oregon recreational values reported in this document represent the recreational share based on the recreational and commercial sharing percentages adopted by OFWC. For the nearshore rockfish component, if harvest levels in Oregon approach 75 percent of the state-specific informal HG (Table 15-2), the state of Oregon will consult with the other west coast states to determine whether inseason action is needed.

Oregon has a robust port-based monitoring program through the Ocean Recreational Boater Survey (ORBS) which allows for ODFW to closely monitor groundfish mortality inseason. The ORBS program is designed to support timely inseason management. Groundfish estimates are made monthly, with preliminary estimates available within 10 days of the end of the month. Final estimates are generated a month after preliminary data has been made available. For key species, such as black rockfish, canary rockfish and cabezon, preliminary weekly estimates are generated allowing ODFW to make any necessary inseason adjustments in a timely manner.

If inseason action is necessary to keep mortality from exceeding a state-specific harvest guideline, the state of Oregon would take action through state process and regulation which can be done in a timelier manner rather than through the Council process. The state of Oregon would take action through state regulation ([OAR 635-039-0090](#)) via authority through [ORS 506.755 Fisheries Conservation Zones](#). Any inseason action taken by the state would be more restrictive than what is in the federal regulations, to keep mortality within the Oregon recreational limits. Inseason updates will be provided to the Council at the subsequent Council meeting, with inseason action pending Council consideration when necessary.

Inseason management tools, designed to mitigate mortality, include bag limits (including sub-bag limits and non-retention), size limits, and time, area, depth, and gear restrictions. These management options are the primary inseason tools for keeping total impacts within the Oregon recreational sector-specific harvest targets for groundfish. The inseason action is dependent upon

the timing to determine the need. State regulations (including inseason changes) from the 2025 bottomfish fishing season are displayed in Table 15-1 below.

Table 15-1. 2025 Oregon recreational groundfish season structure and bag limits adopted by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) with temporary rules implemented outside of the OFWC process.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bottomfish Season	Open all depths											
Marine Bag Limit ^{a/b/}	Four (4)							Five (5)	Four (4) ^{f/}	Three (3) ^{f/}		
Canary Rockfish	Sub-bag of one (1)											
Cabezon ^{c/}	No Retention						Sub-bag of one (1)					
Long-leader Bag Limit ^{d/}	Ten (10); Seaward of the 40-fathom regulatory line											
Canary Rockfish	Sub-bag of one (1)											
Lingcod Bag Limit	Two (2)											
Flatfish Bag Limit ^{e/}	Twenty-Five (25)											
Sablefish Bag Limit	Ten (10)											

a/ Marine bag limit includes all groundfish species other than lingcod, sablefish, flatfish, and Pacific halibut.

b/ Yelloweye and quillback rockfishes are prohibited at all times.

c/ Cabezon have a minimum size limit of 16 inches and are included within the marine bag limit

d/ Long-leader fishery rockfish allowed for retention include; blue, bocaccio, canary, chilipepper, deacon, redstripe, greenstriped, silvergray, widow, and yellowtail rockfishes.

e/ Flounders, soles, sanddabs, turbot, and halibut except Pacific halibut

f/ Inseason changes made through state regulations

15.1.5 Impacts (Groundfish Mortality)

The estimated total recreational fishery mortality in 2025 is provided at the complex level in Table 15-2, and to the species level in Table 15-3. The nearshore rockfish complex exceeded the recreational state-specific share of 14.7 mt by 0.3 mt, though no inseason changes were necessary as the nearshore commercial fishery was tracking below their state-specific share of 15.4 mt, thus the Oregon HG was not exceeded. For canary rockfish, no inseason action was taken as the overall ACL was not at risk of being exceeded.

Table 15-2. No Action. Oregon recreational Federal harvest guidelines (HG) or state quotas under No Action (mt), estimated total mortality (mt), and percent attainment for 2025. Source: RecFIN

Stock	HG or State Quota	Estimated Total Mortality	Percent Attainment
Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon Rockfish Complex ^{a/}	326.0	313.4	96%
Canary Rockfish ^{b/}	26.0	26.1	100%
Oregon Cabezon/Greenlings Complex ^{a/c/}	51.4	32.5	63%
Nearshore Rockfish Complex north of 40°10' N Lat. ^{a/}	14.7	15.3	104%
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH ^{b/}	6.9	2.8	41%

a/ The state of Oregon adopts commercial and recreational quotas (or shares) for select species. The values are the recreational share based on the 2025 recreational and commercial sharing percentages in Oregon state regulations.

b/ Federal HG are established for canary rockfish and yelloweye rockfish and are included in Federal regulation.

c/ Includes kelp and other greenlings.

Table 15-3. No Action. 2024-2025 mortality, in mt, of the most common landed species from the Oregon recreational fishery. This table represents recent mortality under similar season structure and bag limits to what will be in place under No Action. Source: RecFIN

Species	2024	2025 ^{b/}	Average	2025 HG ^{c/}
Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon Rockfish	313.6	313.4	313.5	326.0
Black Rockfish	279.7	278.9	279.3	261.1
Blue/Deacon Rockfish	33.9	34.5	34.2	64.9
Lingcod north of 40° 10' N lat.	180.0	209.4	194.9	-
Nearshore Rockfish north of 40° 10' N lat.	17.8	15.3	16.5	14.7
Brown Rockfish	0.3	0.3	0.3	-
China Rockfish	4.0	4.2	4.1	-
Copper Rockfish	8.3	7.9	8.1	-
Grass Rockfish	< 0.1	0.1	0.1	-
Quillback Rockfish	5.0	2.7	3.9	-
Oregon Cabezon/Greenling	34.3	32.5	33.4	49.2
Cabezon	12.7	11.4	12.0	17.2
Kelp Greenling	21.6	21.1	21.3	32.0
Canary Rockfish	50.3	26.1	38.2	26.0
Widow Rockfish	4.1	3.6	3.8	-
Yellowtail Rockfish north of 40° 10' N lat.	61.4	41.0	51.2	-
Vermilion Rockfish ^{a/}	3.7	3.8	3.8	-
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	3.6	2.8	3.2	6.9
Petrale Sole	6.9	5.2	6.1	-
Sablefish north of 36° N lat.	5.8	2.9	4.4	-

a/ Part of the Shelf Rockfish complex north of 40° 10' N lat.

b/ 2025 values from RecFIN include preliminary estimates for November and December

c/ 2025 HG provided when there is a state-specific recreational HG.

A key component when estimating projected mortality is incorporating total angler trips into the projection model. Since 2015, the recreational fishery has averaged over 100,000 bottomfish angler trips per year, with an estimated peak of 116,633 in 2022 (Table 15-4). Under No Action, bottomfish angler trips are expected to remain at or above 100,000 angler trips per year.

Table 15-4. Oregon estimated ocean bottomfish angler trips by year and mode (charter vs private) along with estimated long-leader angler trips, 2021-2025. Source: RecFIN

Mode	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Average
Charter Angler Trips	52,013	51,464	46,539	46,796	43,412	48,045
Private Angler Trips ^{a/}	47,497	65,169	55,169	52,707	56,429	55,394
Long-leader Trips ^{b/}	1,703	3,222	4,662	3,131	2,316	3,007
Total	99,510	116,633	101,708	99,503	99,841	103,439

a/ Private angler trips include guide trips (guide boats are difficult to distinguish from private boats)

b/ Long-leader trips are included within the bottomfish trip type for both RecFIN and MORG total estimated angler trips, not an addition to. Additional analysis of angler interviews was used to estimate long-leader angler trips.

15.2 Alternative 1

Alternative 1 describes and analyzes the impacts from default HCR ACLs. Under those defaults, the Oregon recreational HGs or presumed state quotas are those presented in Table 15-5. As described under No Action, the primary catch controls for the Oregon recreational fishery are season dates, depth closures, bag limits, and GCAs (including YRCAs).

The Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish complex ACL and associated presumed state-specified HG for the recreational fishery will see a slight increase from the 2025-26 harvest specifications following the 2025 “catch-only-projection” of Oregon black rockfish ([Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 1, November 2025](#)). This increase (330 mt in 2026 to 344 mt in 2027) will provide some relief for recreational anglers, as black rockfish are the most commonly caught species in the Oregon recreational bottomfish fishery. The nearshore rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. lat., canary rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish also play a role in setting recreational bag limits for the Oregon recreational bottomfish fishery, as yelloweye rockfish have been a prohibited species since 2004, quillback rockfish (part of the nearshore rockfish complex) have been prohibited in state rule since 2022, and a sub-bag limit was implemented for canary rockfish beginning in 2025.

Table 15-5. Alternative 1. Oregon recreational Federal harvest guidelines (HG) in metric tons (mt), or state quotas under Alternative 1 (mt) for 2027-28 compared to the adopted HG for 2025-26.

Stock	2025 HG (mt)	2026 HG (mt)	2027 Alt 1 HG (mt)	2028 Alt 1 HG (mt)
Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon Rockfish Complex ^{a/}	326.0	329.5	344.2	347.5
Canary Rockfish ^{b/}	26.0	28.6	28.2	29.0
Oregon Cabezon/Greenling Complex ^{a/c/}	49.2	48.5	48.3	48.1
Nearshore Rockfish Complex north of 40°10' N. lat. ^{a/}	14.7	14.3	13.9	13.6
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH ^{b/}	8.8	9.0	19.8	19.9

a/ The state of Oregon adopts commercial and recreational quotas (or shares) for select species. The values are the recreational share based on the 2025 recreational and commercial sharing percentages in Oregon state regulations.

b/ Federal HG are established for canary rockfish and yelloweye rockfish and are included in Federal regulation.

c/ Includes kelp and other greenlings.

15.2.1 Groundfish Seasons and Restrictions

Season Structure

Under Alternative 1, the Oregon recreational groundfish fishery (including the long-leader fishery) season and depth restrictions would be the same as described under No Action (see Section 1.1.1). Given the higher yelloweye rockfish HG, the only recreational area closed to bottomfish (and Pacific halibut) fishing is the Stonewall Bank YRCA.

Groundfish Bag Limits and Size Limits

For Alternative 1, sub-bag limit options are presented for both yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish shown in Table 15-6. The [2025 yelloweye rockfish stock assessment](#) estimates that the stock's spawning output is now 40.1 percent of unfished levels and exceeds the management target of 40 percent, signaling recovery after decades of rebuilding (Johnston et al., 2025). Therefore, higher HG and non-trawl ACL allow for some retention of yelloweye rockfish for recreational anglers beginning in 2027. For canary rockfish, a range of options are presented in the table below to account for an increasing ACL.

Table 15-6. Alternative 1 – Oregon recreational groundfish season structure and bag limits under Alternative 1. Bold indicates changes from No Action.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bottomfish Season	Open all depths											
Marine Bag Limit ^{a/}	Ten (10)											
--Yelloweye Rockfish	<i>Option 1 (Status Quo): No Retention</i>											
	<i>Option 2: Sub-bag limit of one (1)</i>											
Long-leader Bag Limit ^{b/}	Ten (10); Seaward of the 40-fathom regulatory line											
--Canary Rockfish	<i>Option 1 (Status Quo): Sub-bag limit of one (1)</i>											
	<i>Option 2: Sub-bag limit of two (2)</i>											
	<i>Option 3: No sub-bag limit</i>											
Lingcod Bag Limit	Three (3)											
Flatfish Bag Limit ^{c/}	Twenty-Five (25)											
Sablefish Bag Limit	Ten (10)											

a/ Marine bag limit includes all groundfish species other than lingcod, sablefish, flatfish, and Pacific halibut. Quillback rockfish are prohibited at all times.

b/ Long-leader fishery rockfish allowed for retention include; blue, bocaccio, canary, chilipepper, deacon, greenstriped, redstripe, silvergray, widow, and yellowtail rockfishes.

c/ Flounders, soles, sanddabs, turbot, and halibuts except Pacific halibut

Inseason Management Response

See Section 1.2 Inseason and State Management Response under No Action. For yelloweye rockfish, the state will track recreational catch estimates and provide the Council with updates as requested.

Impacts (Groundfish Mortality)

The annual projected mortality values presented in Table 15-7 are point estimates generated by the Model of Oregon Recreational Groundfish (MORG), the Oregon recreational model approved by the SSC, using the season structure and bag limits detailed above. The point estimates provided for each species are the median values of the projections generated by the MORG. Therefore, 50 percent of the projected values lie above or below the point estimate. State management and inseason changes, described under No Action, will be utilized to keep impacts below the state-specified HG under Alternative 1.

Table 15-7. Alternative 1 – Oregon Recreational. 2027 Projected Mortality (mt) and associated HG (mt) of Oregon recreational species under Alternative 1. Projections modeled with a five-fish marine bag in state rule, no retention of yelloweye rockfish and three different sub-bag limit options for canary rockfish (CAN).

Stock	Projected Mortality (mt)			2027 HG (mt)
	Option 1 CAN sub-bag 1	Option 2 CAN sub-bag 2	Option 3 CAN no sub-bag	
YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	7.2	7.1	7.1	19.8
Black/Blue/Deacon Rockfish OR ^{a/}	304.3	301.3	298.5	344.2
Cabezon/Greenlings ^{b/}	38.7	38.7	38.7	48.3
Lingcod north of 40° 10' N Lat.	233.5	233.5	233.5	-
Nearshore Rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.	16.0	16.0	16.0	13.9
Canary Rockfish ^{c/}	31.5	35.8	55.9	28.2
Yellowtail Rockfish	51.0		83.8	-
Widow Rockfish	3.8		10.4	-
Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.	4.4	4.4	4.4	-

a/ Black rockfish = 299.5, blue/deacon rockfish = 18.4 mt

b/ Includes kelp and other greenlings

c/ Canary rockfish sub-bag of 2

“-” indicates no specified Oregon recreational HG (part of the non-trawl allocation)

Management Measures

One management measure was analyzed for the Oregon recreational fisheries: incorporating retention of yelloweye rockfish. As yelloweye rockfish have been prohibited since 2004, accounting for a shift in angler behavior is difficult to quantify. Instead, all angler-reported discarded yelloweye rockfish since 2021 were assumed retained (100 percent mortality) to account for an upper range of potential total mortality regarding yelloweye rockfish if some retention was allowed, shown in Table 15-8.

Table 15-8. Estimated total mortality of yelloweye rockfish vs assumed total mortality if retention of yelloweye rockfish was allowed. Source: RecFIN (2021-2025).

Year	Estimated Total Mortality (mt)	Estimated Total Mortality Assuming 100% Retention (mt)	2027 HG (mt)	2028 HG (mt)
2021	3.3	10.6	19.8	19.9
2022	5.2	14.9	19.8	19.9
2023	3.8	15.2	19.8	19.9
2024	3.6	12.6	19.8	19.9
2025	3.2	11.1	19.8	19.9

There are two primary reasons to allow retention of yelloweye rockfish. A one-fish sub-bag limit of yelloweye rockfish may help reduce regulatory discarded dead yelloweye rockfish as this species of rockfish is encountered in deeper waters associated with higher discard mortality rates (Table 15-9) due to an increased risk of barotrauma. Additionally, allowing for some retention of yelloweye rockfish may also encourage anglers to fish offshore, providing some relief to rockfish found in the nearshore reefs. As mentioned in section 1.2, inseason changes can be made if the harvest guideline is projected to be exceeded.

Table 15-9. Discard Mortality Rates (DMR) for yelloweye rockfish by depth bin in fathoms (fm).

Depth Bin	0-10 fm	10-30 fm	30-50 fm	50-100 fm	100+ fm
Yelloweye Rockfish	9%	9%	11%	38%	100%

Impact to Salmon Species

As yelloweye rockfish are not caught in combination with salmon and there are no changes to the season structure, depth restriction or YRCAs, salmon encounter rates from the bottomfish fishery are anticipated to be similar to recent years. Table 15-10 below displays total numbers of Chinook and coho caught over the past five years from charter and private anglers while targeting bottomfish.

Table 15-10.. Total number of landed and released of the twenty most common species, plus Chinook and coho, from only long-leader gear trips in 2022-2025.

Species	2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Landed	Released	Landed	Released	Landed	Released	Landed	Released
Chinook Salmon	31	119	0	87	2	53	9	66
Coho Salmon	37	110	73	233	21	285	79	339

15.3 Alternative 2

The species with alternative ACLs are either rarely caught in the Oregon recreational fishery, not tracking near any state HG or non-trawl ACL or, for canary and yelloweye rockfishes, do not increase enough to account for a higher sub-bag limit option. Therefore, under Alternative 2, the associated Oregon recreational HGs do not change enough to alter the management approach described under Alternative 1. Table 15-11 below shows the estimated total mortality from Oregon recreational fisheries for all species considered under Alternative 2 HCR.

Table 15-11. Annual total estimated mortality (in metric tons) for all species considered under Alternative 2 and associated 2027 Oregon recreational HG under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. Source: RecFIN (2022-2025).

Stock	2022 (mt)	2023 (mt)	2024 (mt)	2025 ^{b/} (mt)	2027 Alt 1 HG (mt)	2027 Alt 2 HG (mt)
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	5.2	3.8	3.6	2.8	19.8	15.6
Canary rockfish ^{a/}	55.7	56.9	50.3	26.1	28.2	30.1
Chilipepper rockfish	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.2	0.1	-	-
Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish	0	0	0.1	< 0.1	-	-
Widow rockfish	4.2	8.2	4.1	3.6	-	-
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N Lat.	51.7	82.9	61.4	41.0	-	-
Petrale sole	3.9	4.5	6.9	5.2	-	-
Shortspine thornyhead	0	0	0	0	-	-

a/ One-fish sub-bag limit implemented for canary rockfish in 2025

b/ 2025 values from RecFIN include preliminary estimates for November and December

“-” indicates no specified Oregon recreational HG (part of the non-trawl allocation)

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16. Action Item 20: California Recreational Groundfish Fishery

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16.1 No Action

No Action (2025), hereinafter referred to as “No Action”, represents the status quo harvest specifications and management measures established for 2025. No Action is largely used as a comparative tool between the previous cycle and the upcoming 2027-28 biennial cycle. The California recreational groundfish fishery is primarily prosecuted with hook and line gear, and primary groundfish target species include lingcod, nearshore rockfish, and shelf rockfish. Primary catch controls for the California recreational fishery are season dates, depth closures, bag limits, and GCAs, all of which are tools used to keep catch within state-specific quotas and Federal HGs/ACLs. Additionally, California manages recreational fisheries within five Groundfish Management Areas (GMAs) (Figure 1). Harvest specifications are generally dispersed to the fishery under the total non-trawl HG (i.e., are shared with the commercial non-trawl sector and/or other state recreational fisheries), or are distributed as a portion of the non-trawl HG that is allotted specifically to the California recreational fishery. The No Action fishery HGs specific to the California recreational sector are shown in Table 16-2.

At the beginning of 2025, season structure and depth restrictions for most of the state were highly restrictive due to the understanding that quillback rockfish off of California was overfished. In 2025, a new stock assessment for quillback rockfish was completed and estimated that the stock’s spawning output was at 43.5 percent of unfished levels, which was above the management target of 40 percent and indicated that the stock was no longer overfished (Langseth et al., 2025)¹. Thus, the highly restrictive regulations initially put in place at the start of the 2025-26 biennium were no longer necessary. In response, the Council took inseason action to modify the season structure and depth restrictions north of Point Conception (34° 27’ N. lat.) to allow fishing in all depths. These regulation changes also allowed increased access to areas and depths where canary rockfish are frequently encountered in the recreational fishery; therefore, a 2-fish canary rockfish sub-bag limit was implemented to keep canary rockfish mortality within the California recreational HG.

In this process, No Action typically reflects a baseline year used to compare management (i.e., 2025); however, inseason actions in 2025 resulted in large-scale regulation changes. This analysis presents the post-inseason regulations as No Action (Table 16-3). Projected fishery impacts under No Action for the five California recreational GMAs incorporate California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS) estimates from 2025 (through November), with adjustments made to account for the expected changes associated with the regulations in place in 2026.

A summary of the management actions that would be implemented under the No Action Alternative are compiled and provided in Table 16-1. Additional details regarding each decision point are provided in the following sections. For a summary of the anticipated impacts to select groundfish stocks that would occur under No Action, see Table 16-5.

¹ Langseth, B.J., M.H. Monk, J.H. Coates, 2025. Status of Quillback rockfish in U.S. waters off California in 2025. Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland, OR.

Table 16-1.. Summary of decision points and the resulting federal management actions that would result under No Action for the California recreational fishery.

Decision Point	No Action
<i>Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenling (RCG) Complex</i>	
No Change	Rockfish, cabezon, and greenling managed as a unit.
<i>Groundfish Seasons and Area Restrictions</i>	
Groundfish Management Areas (GMAs)	5 GMAs: Northern, Mendocino, San Francisco, Central, and Southern
Rockfish Conservation Area Waypoints	No waypoint modifications
Groundfish Exclusion Areas	No modifications
Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas	Remain in regulations in an inactive status
<i>Season Structure</i>	
RCG Complex and Lingcod	<u>Northern, Mendocino, San Francisco, Central GMAs:</u> - Jan 1 – Mar 31: Closed - Apr 1 – Dec 31: Open at all depths <u>Southern GMA:</u> - Jan 1 – Mar 31: Closed - Apr 1 – Jun 30: Open at all depths - Jul 1 – Sep 30: Open <50 fm Oct 1 – Dec 31: Open >50 fm; only shelf and slope rockfish and lingcod can be retained; nearshore rockfish, cabezon, and greenling closed in all waters.
California scorpionfish	Open year-round at all depths
Other groundfish	Open year-round at all depths
<i>Bag Limits, Gear Limits, Size Limits</i>	
RCG Complex	10-fish aggregate daily bag and possession limit; no size limits; no more than 2 hooks with 1 line
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish North of 40° 10' N. lat.</i>	<i>4-fish sub-bag limit</i>
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish South of 40° 10' N. lat.</i>	<i>2-fish sub-bag limit</i>
<i>Canary rockfish</i>	<i>2-fish sub-bag limit</i>
<i>Copper rockfish</i>	<i>1-fish sub-bag limit</i>
Bronzespotted, Cowcod, Quillback, and Yelloweye rockfishes	Prohibited, 0 fish
Lingcod	2 fish; 22 in. size limit; no more than 2 hooks with 1 line
California Scorpionfish	5 fish; no size limit; no more than 2 hooks with 1 line
Pacific sanddab, petrale sole, starry flounder	Unlimited
All other groundfish unless specified (state regulations may also apply)	20 fish, of which no more than 10 may be of any one species

Table 16-2. No Action –California-specific recreational harvest guidelines (HG) and shares in metric tons (mt).

Stock	CA Recreational HGs (mt)
Bocaccio South of 40°10' N lat.	704.8
Canary rockfish	46.7
Cowcod South of 40°10' N. lat.	21.3
Yelloweye rockfish	11.4

16.1.1 Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenling (RCG) Complex

Under No Action, the California stocks of cabezon and greenling would continue to be managed as a unit with rockfish within the RCG complex. Seasons and depth restrictions applying to boat-based fishing are aligned for species within the RCG complex. The 10-fish daily bag limit would apply to rockfish, cabezon, and greenling in aggregate, with sub-limits as specified. Gear limits applicable to the RCG complex (i.e., no more than 2 hooks with 1 line) would continue to apply to the entire complex.

16.1.2 Groundfish Seasons and Area Restrictions

Groundfish Management Areas

The California recreational fishery is managed by five GMAs bounded north and south by lines of latitude. Figure 1 shows the GMA boundaries after the 2025 inseason changes and represents the GMA configurations under No Action.



Figure 16-1. No Action. Recreational Groundfish Management Areas in California.

16.1.3 Area Restrictions

Rockfish Conservation Areas

RCAs are one of the primary management tools used to restrict catch of overfished, sensitive, or limiting/constraining species coastwide. RCA boundary lines are a series of connected waypoints defined in Federal regulations which represent approximate depth contours. In the California recreational fishery, RCA depth boundaries may vary by GMA and generally prohibit fishing for RCG and lingcod species either offshore (seaward) or inshore (shoreward) of the designated line during the boat-based season. However, recreational fishing for Other Flatfish², petrale sole, starry flounder, Other Groundfish³, and California scorpionfish are permitted within the RCAs (at all depths) year-round.

Under No Action, there are no proposed modifications to RCA waypoint locations.

Groundfish Exclusion Areas

As part of Amendment 32 (A32), which took effect in 2024, the Council established eight Groundfish Exclusion Areas (GEA; defined at §660.11) to protect sensitive areas (e.g., coral habitat) off the Pacific Coast.

Under No Action, there are no changes to the GEAs.

Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas

There are four YRCAs relevant to recreational groundfish fisheries in California (2009-2010 FEIS; 50 CFR 660.60(c)(3)) located in the general areas of Point St. George, South Reef, Reading Rock, Point Delgada, and Southern Point Delgada and the waypoints are specified in Federal regulation at §660.70, subpart C. Federal regulations allow inseason implementation of YRCAs as needed. Under No Action, the YRCAs continue in regulations in an inactive status. See Chapter 2 for a detailed discussion of YRCAs.

16.1.4 Season Structure

RCG Complex and Lingcod

Under No Action, the boat-based California season structure and depth constraints for RCG and lingcod in the five GMAs off California (Figure 1) are shown in Table 16-3. The 2025 recreational RCG and lingcod fishery started with the season structure and depth limits specified in final action (PFMC 2025-26 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures, Table ES 7, pg. vii). The season dates and depths were planned in consideration of the fishery constraints regarding quillback rockfish and included use of a management line at 36° N. lat. (near Lopez Point) to set different season and depth restrictions within the Central GMA.

In June 2025, a new stock assessment of the quillback rockfish stock off California was completed, and estimated that the stock's spawning output was at 43.5 percent of unfished levels, which was above the management target of 40 percent, indicating the stock was not overfished (Langseth et

² Other Flatfish includes butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole

³ Other Groundfish includes soupfin shark, Dover sole, English sole, arrowtooth flounder, spiny dogfish, skates, ratfish, grenadiers, finescale codling, pacific cod, pacific whiting, sablefish, and thornyheads

al., 2025)⁴. As a result, the 20-50 fathom closure in place in GMAs north of 36° N. lat. were no longer necessary to limit impacts to quillback rockfish.

Consequently, the Council took inseason action in June 2025 to authorize all-depth fishing for the California recreational fishery north of Point Conception. This action also included removing the management line at 36° N. lat. as it was no longer necessary. Federal regulations implementing these changes were effective September 18, 2025. These changes also resulted in increased angler access to the areas and depths where canary rockfish are frequently encountered (20-50 fm). Therefore, the Council took additional inseason action in September to implement a 2-fish canary rockfish sub-bag limit to keep mortality within the California recreational HG ([Agenda Item G.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, September 2025](#)). There was no sub-bag limit on canary rockfish at the start of the biennium. This action was effective in Federal regulations December 16, 2025.

The RCG and lingcod season and depth regulations in place at the end of 2025 (Table 16-3) represents the No Action season structure and depth restrictions.

Table 16-3. 2025-26 (No Action) California recreational RCG and lingcod season structure after inseason changes. Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) depth restrictions are presented in fathoms (fm); > indicates fishing is permitted seaward of the RCA line, < indicates shoreward of the RCA line.

Management Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern	Closed			All depth								
Mendocino	Closed			All depth								
San Francisco	Closed			All depth								
Central	Closed			All depth								
Southern	Closed			All depth			<50 fm			>50 fm*		

*Only shelf and slope rockfish, and lingcod may be retained

California scorpionfish Seasons

Under No Action, the season for California scorpionfish (a.k.a. sculpin) is open year-round at all depths.

Other groundfish Seasons

Under No Action, the season for other groundfish species (flatfishes, sharks, skates, sablefish, etc.) is open year-round at all depths.

16.1.5 Groundfish Bag Limits, Gear Limits, and Size Limits

RCG Complex Bag Limits, Gear Limits, and Size Limits

Under No Action, a daily 10-fish aggregate bag limit would remain in place for the RCG complex. Retention of bronzespotted rockfish, quillback rockfish, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish are

⁴ Langseth, B.J., M.H. Monk, J.H. Coates, 2025. Status of Quillback rockfish in U.S. waters off California in 2025. Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland, OR.

prohibited. Within the overall 10-fish RCG bag limit, vermilion/sunset rockfish, canary rockfish, and copper rockfish are subject to sub-bag limits, outlined in Table 16-4. No size limits apply to RCG species.

Table 16-4. No Action (status quo) bag and sub-bag limits for RCG complex species.

Species	Area	Limit Type	Limit
Rockfish, Cabezon, Greenling (RCG) Complex	Statewide	Aggregate	10
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish</i>	<i>N. of 40° 10' N. lat.</i>	<i>Sub-bag</i>	<i>4</i>
	<i>S. of 40° 10' N. lat.</i>	<i>Sub-bag</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Canary rockfish</i>	<i>Statewide</i>	<i>Sub-bag</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Copper rockfish</i>	<i>Statewide</i>	<i>Sub-bag</i>	<i>1</i>
Bronzespotted rockfish	Statewide	Prohibition	0
Cowcod	Statewide	Prohibition	0
Quillback rockfish	Statewide	Prohibition	0
Yelloweye rockfish	Statewide	Prohibition	0

Gear restrictions apply to all species within the RCG Complex. No more than 2 hooks with 1 line may be used to take or possess species within the complex.

Lingcod Bag Limits, Gear Limits, and Size Limits

Under No Action, the lingcod bag limit in all management areas is 2 fish. The minimum size limit is 22 inches total length. The same RCG Complex gear restrictions apply for lingcod (i.e., no more than 2 hooks with 1 line).

California Scorpionfish Bag Limits, Gear Limits, and Size Limits

Under No Action the California scorpionfish bag limit is 5 fish. There is no minimum size limit. The same RCG Complex gear restrictions apply for California scorpionfish (i.e., no more than 2 hooks with 1 line).

Other Groundfish Species Bag Limits and Size Limits

Unless otherwise specified, under No Action for other groundfish species (flatfishes, sharks, skates, sablefish, etc.), there is a general bag limit of 20 finfish, of which no more than 10 fish can be of any one species (50 CFR 660.360(c)(3)). Pacific sanddab, petrale sole, and starry flounder are exempt from the general finfish bag limit; retention of these species is unlimited.

16.1.6 Inseason Management Response

CDFW's CRFS program generates mortality estimates on a monthly basis, allowing CDFW staff to track recreational groundfish mortality on a monthly basis compared to allowable limits. Inseason tracking on a weekly basis is possible only if a significant conservation concern arises. Inseason actions based on newly available mortality information mid-biennium could include increases or decreases to season lengths, depth restrictions, bag and sub-bag limits, or size limits.

For actions outside of a Council meeting, the Regional Administrator, NMFS West Coast Region, after consultation with the Chairman of the Council and the Fishery Director of the CDFW, or their designees, is authorized to modify the following designated routine management measures for black rockfish, canary rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish in California: For commercial fisheries

(specific to black rockfish), 1) trip landing and frequency limits; and 2) depth-based management measures. For recreational fisheries, including all species aforementioned 1) bag limits; 2) time/area closures; and 3) depth-based management. Any modifications may be made only after NMFS has determined that a federal harvest limit for black rockfish, canary rockfish, or yelloweye rockfish in California has been attained or is projected to be attained prior to the first day of the next Council meeting. Modifications may only be used to restrict catch of black rockfish, canary rockfish, or yelloweye rockfish in California. However, given the mixed nature of the fishery, there may be impacts to other species.

16.1.7 Impact (Groundfish Mortality)

Table 16-5 provides projected impacts in the California recreational fishery for the No Action Alternative. The base year for the projected impacts under No Action is 2025 adjusted to represent expected impacts under the No Action season structure. Due to large changes in management measures which occurred in 2025, there is increased uncertainty in the projected impacts. To better characterize uncertainty, the projected impacts for species which are particularly affected by modeling uncertainty are provided as a range rather than a point estimate (i.e., a singular value).

Table 16-5. Projected impacts to select key groundfish stocks under No Action in the California recreational fishery relative to the 2025 harvest limits. Projections provided by CDFW from CRFS estimates. Some projections provided as a range to account for modeling uncertainty. Estimates and projections are preliminary and subject to change. (Source CDFW).

Stock	No Action Projected Mortality (mt)	2025 Limit (mt)	Limit Reference Point
CA Quillback rockfish	5.7 – 6.3	1.2	Fishery HG
Bocaccio S of 40°10' N lat.	310	704.8	CA Rec HG
Canary rockfish	68.9 – 79.3	46.7	CA Rec HG
Cowcod S of 40°10' N lat.	8.5 – 9.7	21.2	CA Rec HG
Yelloweye rockfish	16.2 – 18.6	11.4	CA Rec HG
CA Black rockfish	144	222.3	Fishery HG
California scorpionfish	225	242.0	Fishery HG
Lingcod N of 40°10' N lat.	43.7	1,842	Non-trawl HG
Lingcod S of 40°10' N lat.	369	441.8	Non-trawl HG
Widow rockfish	18 – 22	300	Non-trawl HG
Nearshore rockfish N of 40°10' N lat.	17.1 – 18.9 ^{a/}	84.9 ^{b/}	Fishery HG
<i>Copper rockfish 42°-40°10' N. lat.</i>	4.7 – 4.9 ^{a/}	6.8	ACL Contribution to Complex
Nearshore rockfish S of 40°10' N lat.	363 – 444	929.3	Fishery HG ^{d/}
<i>Copper rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.</i>	49.3 – 52.3	125.1	ACL Contribution to Complex
<i>Copper rockfish S. 34° 27' N. lat.</i>	14.2 – 15	15.8	Rec ACT
Shelf rockfish N of 40°10' N lat.	9.9 – 12.1 ^{a/}	503.0	Non-trawl HG ^{d/}
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish N. of 40°10' N. lat.</i>	6.3 – 7.7 ^{a/}	6.2	ACL Contribution to Complex
Shelf rockfish S of 40°10' N lat.	495 – 605	1,256	Non-trawl HG ^{d/}
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat.</i>	198 – 242	274.3 ^{c/}	ACL Contribution to Complex

Stock	No Action Projected Mortality (mt)	2025 Limit (mt)	Limit Reference Point
Petrale sole	22.5 – 27.5	30	Non-trawl HG

a/ Projected impacts include only recreational for the area between 42° N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat.

b/ The informal CA share (44.9%) of the Nearshore rockfish complex between 42° N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat. is 37.9 mt. Not an official non-trawl allocation in regulation, but rather the sum of the WA, OR, CA state HGs that are managed to by the states as to not exceed the ACL when also factoring in minor IOA, tribal, EFP, research, and trawl impacts. The CA fishery HG is shared between the recreational and commercial non trawl sectors

c/ The ACL contribution to the complex is shared between recreational and non-trawl commercial. Non-trawl commercial projected impacts under No Action is 100 mt. Recreational take of vermilion rockfish should not exceed 174.3 mt.

d/ The species-specific contributions to the non-trawl allocation are shared between the recreational and commercial non-trawl sectors.

16.2 Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, 2027-28 harvest specifications are based on results from the most up to date stock assessments under default HCRs. Under Alternative 1, the recreational fishery would be managed with a combination of routine management measures (i.e., bag, sub-bag and size limits, season structure, depth restrictions) to meet but not exceed harvest limits.

In 2025, a benchmark stock assessment was completed for quillback rockfish off California (managed as a single stock by the Council), which indicated that the stock was at 43.5 percent unfished biomass, and estimated that the stock's spawning output was at 43.5 percent of unfished levels, which was above the management target of 40 percent, indicating the stock was no longer overfished (Langseth et al., 2025). Under Alternative 1, the ACL for quillback rockfish off California is 11.6 mt in 2027 and 11.9 mt in 2028, a significant increase from No Action (1.3 mt). The ACL is shared between the commercial and recreational sectors. Considering the rebuilt status of the California stock, limited retention of this species is considered under one of the season structure Options, below. While the increase in the ACL minimizes the severely constraining aspects of quillback rockfish, management measures will still need to consider other limiting species in the upcoming biennium, such as canary rockfish, vermilion/sunset rockfish, and copper rockfish.

The 2025 yelloweye rockfish update stock assessment estimated that the stock's spawning output is now at 40.1 percent of unfished levels, which was above the management target of 40 percent, and therefore no longer overfished (Johnston et al., 2025)¹. The resulting California recreational HG under Alternative 1 is 25.7 mt in 2027 and 25.8 mt in 2028. This HG is more than twice the HG under No Action and may result in yelloweye rockfish no longer being one of the most constraining species off California. Under Alternative 1, the Council may consider several Options, summarized in Table 16-6: (1) different season structure Options that provide full or partial access to depths where yelloweye rockfish may be encountered when targeting other species of rockfish or lingcod, (2) limited retention of yelloweye rockfish, and (3) removal of the recreational ACT. The Council is also considering removing the YRCAs which have never been activated from regulations, which includes all YRCAs off California. A full discussion of the YRCA removals that would occur under Alternative 1 is provided in Chapter 2

Cowcod was declared rebuilt in 2019, and in each biennium since, the Council has taken stepwise changes to management measures to reduce the restrictions on this species. Mortality of cowcod continues to be well within the California recreational HG, even after management changes in Southern California such as providing deeper and all depth fishing opportunities (beginning in 2021) and repeal of the Cowcod Conservation Areas (2024). Under Alternative 1, limited retention of cowcod is analyzed and several Options are provided. The Options provided for cowcod are consistent with the Options provided for yelloweye rockfish (Table 16-6).

¹Johnston, M. A., Rosemond, R. C., Whitman, A., Perl, E., Barros, M., Champagnat, J., Schamp, A., Schiano, S., Prior Caltabellotta, F., Gertseva, V., Taylor, I., Oken, K. and Berger, A. (2025). Status of Yelloweye rockfish off the U.S. West Coast in 2025. Pacific Fishery Management Council. 144 pp.

Under Alternative 1, the Council is considering an increase to the 30 mt recreational set-aside for sablefish north of 36° N. lat., as recommended by the GAP (Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report 2, November 2025) due to increased sablefish targeting within the recreational sector across the coastal states. The analysis for this measure is found in Chapter 9

The Council is also considering a decrease in the coastwide non-trawl allocation for widow rockfish under Alternative 1 due to the results of the recent stock assessment. Historically, widow rockfish have not made up a substantial portion of recreational catch off California; therefore, the proposed decrease in the non-trawl allocation is not expected to be constraining to California recreational fisheries this biennium. This allocation change is discussed in further detail in §7.2

Alternative 1 also includes the option to decouple the RCG complex management unit. Under Alternative 1, rockfishes would be managed as a unit with specified season dates and depth restrictions, bag/sub-bag limits and gear restrictions. Cabezon and greenling would each be managed as individual stocks and regulations would be similar to other groundfish that are open year-round at all depths, with a 10-fish bag limit and status quo gear restrictions. This management measure change is analyzed in the following sections.

Under Alternative 1, several Options for season structure and depth restrictions are examined as a means to attain, but not exceed harvest limits. Seasonal sub-bag limits for cowcod and yelloweye rockfish are considered under Alternative 1. Several management measures under Alternative 1 (e.g., some bag and sub-bag limits, size limits, gear limits) would remain the same as No Action. Decision points and Options under Alternative 1 are compiled and provided in Table 16-6. Additional details regarding each decision point are provided in the following sections. A summary of anticipated impacts to select groundfish stocks that would occur under Alternative 1, with respect to each management measure option, may be found in Section 2.6.

Table 16-6. Summary of decision points and the resulting federal management actions that would result under Alternative 1 for the California recreational fishery.

Decision Point	Alternative 1
<i>Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenling (RCG) Complex</i>	
RCG Complex Decoupling	Decouple the RCG complex management unit. Regulations for rockfish, cabezon and greenling would no longer be aligned with each other. See Season Structure and Bag Limits, Gear Limits, Size Limits sections below for details.
<i>Groundfish Seasons and Area Restrictions</i>	
Groundfish Management Areas (GMAs)	Same as No Action
Rockfish Conservation Area Waypoints	Same as No Action
Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas	Remove YRCAs from regulation that were never activated
<i>Season Structure</i>	
Rockfish and Lingcod Season Structure Options	
Option 1	Closed at all depths, year-round.
Option 2	Open at all depths, year-round.
Option 3	<u>Northern, Mendocino, San Francisco, Central GMAs:</u> - Jan 1 – Mar 31: Closed - Apr 1 – Dec 31: Open at all depths

Decision Point	Alternative 1
	<u>Southern GMA:</u> - Jan 1 – Mar 31: Closed - Apr 1 – Jun 30: Open at all depths - Jul 1 – Sep 30: Open <50 fm Oct 1 – Dec 31: Open >50 fm; only shelf and slope rockfish and lingcod can be retained; nearshore rockfish closed in all waters.
Option 4*	<u>All GMAs:</u> - Jan 1 – Mar 31: Closed - Apr 1 – Dec 31: Open at all depths <i>*Includes additional accountability measures</i>
Option 5	<u>Northern & Mendocino GMAs:</u> - Jan 1 – Mar 31: Closed - Apr 1 – Jun 30: Open >40 fm - Jul 1 – Oct 31: Open <50 fm - Nov 1 – Dec 31: Open at all depths <u>San Francisco & Central GMAs:</u> - Jan 1 – Mar 31: Closed - Apr 1 – Jun 30: Open >40 fm - Jul 1 – Oct 31: Open <40 fm - Nov 1 – Dec 31: Open at all depths <u>Southern GMA:</u> - Jan 1 – Mar 31: Closed - Apr 1 – Jun 30: Open >50 fm - Jul 1 – Oct 31: Open <50 fm Nov 1 – Dec 31: Open at all depths
Cabazon	Open year-round at all depths
Greenling	Open year-round at all depths
California scorpionfish	Same as No Action
Other groundfish	Same as No Action
Bag Limits, Gear Limits, Size Limits	
Rockfish (formerly RCG under No Action)	10-fish limit in aggregate; size and gear limits same as No Action
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish North of 40° 10' N. lat.</i>	<i>Same as No Action</i>
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish South of 40° 10' N. lat.</i>	<i>Same as No Action</i>
<i>Canary rockfish</i>	<i>Same as No Action</i>
<i>Copper rockfish</i>	<i>Same as No Action</i>
<i>Yelloweye rockfish</i>	<i>Prohibited year-round or, 1 fish during Nov OR Dec, or, 1 fish during Nov AND Dec</i>
<i>Cowcod</i>	<i>Prohibited year-round or, 1 fish during Nov OR Dec, or, 1 fish during Nov AND Dec</i>

Decision Point	Alternative 1
<i>Quillback rockfish</i>	<i>1 fish, applies only to Season Structure Option 4. All other Options prohibited (status quo)</i>
Bronzespotted rockfish	Same as No Action
Lingcod	Same as No Action
Cabazon	10 fish; status quo size and gear limits
Greenling	10 fish; status quo size and gear limits
California Scorpionfish	Same as No Action
Pacific sanddab, petrale sole, starry flounder	Same as No Action
All other groundfish unless specified (state regulations may also apply)	Same as No Action

Most groundfish harvest guidelines are shared between the commercial non-trawl sector and the recreational sector. Shares (formal/informal) that are specific to the California recreational fishery are shown in Table 16-7.

Table 16-7. Alternative 1. 2027/2028 California-specific recreational harvest guidelines (HG)/shares in metric tons (mt).

Stock	CA Recreational HGs (mt) (2027/2028)
Bocaccio South of 40°10' N lat.	963.1/919.8
Canary rockfish	50.5/52.1
Cowcod South of 40°10' N. lat.	23.5/23.1
Yelloweye rockfish	25.7/25.8

16.2.1 Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenling (RCG) Complex

Under Alternative 1, the RCG complex management unit would be decoupled and seasons, depth limits, and the aggregate bag limit for the rockfish, cabezon and greenling would be decoupled. Under Alternative 1, the rockfishes would be managed as a unit to define seasons and depths, an aggregate bag limit (with sub-bag limits for some species, as necessary), and size and gear restrictions. Cabezon and greenling would be managed as individual species with seasons, depths, bag, size and gear limits defined as described further in this document.

Cabezon and greenling are species found in nearshore shallow waters and are commonly caught with rockfish using hook-and-line gear. Since 2004, these species have been managed as a unit with rockfish and subject to the same regulatory constraints imposed by overfished shelf species. In more recent years, cabezon and greenling mortality has remained significantly under the limits (Table 16-12 and Table 16-13). Cabezon and greenling comprise a small portion of angler bags as they are not highly targeted compared to rockfish (see 16.2.5 for further detail). Decoupling cabezon and greenling regulations from rockfish regulations is not expected to result in measurable increases in mortality for rockfish, cabezon or greenling. This change is analyzed in further detail with respect to season and bag limit changes in the following sections.

This change would reduce regulatory complexity and provide additional boat-based opportunities for cabezon and greenling. See Section 2.6 for a summary of projected nearshore rockfish impacts under Alternative 1.

16.2.2 Groundfish Seasons and Area Restrictions

Groundfish Management Areas

Under Alternative 1, the GMA configurations are the same as described in No Action.

16.2.3 Area Restrictions

Rockfish Conservation Areas

Under Alternative 1, RCAs are the same as described in No Action.

Groundfish Exclusion Areas

Under Alternative 1, GEAs are the same as described in No Action.

Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas

The YRCAs off California include Point St. George, South Reef, Reading Rock, Point Delgada, and Southern Point Delgada YRCAs. The new stock status for yelloweye rockfish indicates a harvest specification that could allow for some limited retention. Management tools that have been successful in keeping yelloweye rockfish mortality within the harvest limits (season and depth restrictions, inseason monitoring, etc.) will continue to be available. Under Alternative 1, YRCAs that have never been activated are being considered for removal from Federal regulations, which includes all of the YRCAs off California, listed above. See (Chapter 2 for a full analysis and description of this change.

16.2.4 Season Structure

Under Alternative 1, boat-based fishing for groundfish species other than rockfish or lingcod is open year-round at all depths, and the shore-based and spear fishing exemption continues. Several Options

for boat-based fishing season structures and depth restrictions for rockfish and lingcod are provided below. If needed, the Options analyzed below (or a combination of Options by GMA) are intended to be available for use during the 2027-28 biennial cycle or through routine inseason management adjustments if warranted mid-biennium.

Rockfish and Lingcod Season and Depth Options

Option 1

Season structure Option 1 explores complete closure of the boat-based fishery. Fishing would be prohibited year-round in all depths in the five management areas (Table 16-8). The direct projected impact to groundfish stocks for this Option are zero. However, there would be some discard mortality associated with incidental groundfish catch in other state and federal fisheries.

Table 16-8. Alternative 1. Option 1: California recreational rockfish and lingcod season closed year-round for all depths in the five management areas.

Management Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern	Jan 1 – Dec 31; Closed all depths											
Mendocino	Jan 1 – Dec 31; Closed all depths											
San Francisco	Jan 1 – Dec 31; Closed all depths											
Central	Jan 1 – Dec 31; Closed all depths											
Southern	Jan 1 – Dec 31; Closed all depths											

Option 2

Season Structure Option 2 examines a recreational rockfish and lingcod fishery that would be structured to be open year-round in all depths in the five management areas (Table 16-9). The projected impacts for this Option are presented in Table 16-19.

Table 16-9. Alternative 1. Option 2: California recreational rockfish and lingcod season open year-round with no depth restrictions.

Management Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern	Jan 1 – Dec 31; Open all depths											
Mendocino	Jan 1 – Dec 31; Open all depths											
San Francisco	Jan 1 – Dec 31; Open all depths											
Central	Jan 1 – Dec 31; Open all depths											
Southern	Jan 1 – Dec 31; Open all depths											

Option 3

Season Structure Option 3 examines a season structure that is the same as under No Action (Table 16-10, but impacts are compared to Alternative 1 harvest limits. The projected impacts for this Option are presented in Table 16-20.

Table 16-10. Alternative 1. Option 3: California recreational rockfish and lingcod season structure equivalent to No Action/status quo. Fm = fathoms.

Management Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern	Closed			All depth								
Mendocino	Closed			All depth								
San Francisco	Closed			All depth								
Central	Closed			All depth								
Southern	Closed			All depth			<50 fm			>50 fm*		

*During the offshore only fishery, only shelf and slope rockfish and lingcod may be retained. Nearshore rockfish are prohibited.

Option 4

Season structure Option 4 examines a season structure that is open from April – December at all depths, in all GMAs (Table 16-11). This Option also includes a 1-fish sub-bag limit for quillback rockfish. The projected impacts associated with this Option are presented in Table 16-21. Season structure Option 4 responds to Council guidance ([Agenda Item E.8, Motion in Writing, June 2025](#)) and the GAP’s request ([Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, November 2025](#)) to investigate all depth fishing opportunities in favor of management via sub-bag limits.

Option 4 was developed to reflect rebuilt population statuses for stocks off California using early season flexibility to the recreational fishery by allowing all-depth opportunities with the potential for inseason action being needed to keep mortality under the proposed limits. Because all-depth fishing has a higher level of uncertainty associated with projected impacts (see ranges in Table 16-21), the need for inseason action may be greater, but the specific type of change will be evaluated on a species-by-species basis as catch performance data is received. To mitigate the risk of exceeding harvest limits, this Option could be paired with several accountability measures that may be implemented by the Council. Newly proposed recreational ACTs for quillback rockfish off California and vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10’ N. lat. are analyzed in Chapter 6 Under this season structure Option, the proposed ACTs would facilitate inseason action for species that are highly attained. In addition to the routine inseason monitoring and inseason management tools which apply, additional accountability measures are proposed as follows:

- Fishery performance review will be completed at the June, September and November Council meetings by appropriate advisory body staff and/or CDFW, and:
 - If mortality for canary rockfish is anticipated to exceed the California recreational HG, then the Council may recommend and NMFS may implement an inseason reduction to the canary rockfish sub-bag limit, or prohibit retention of canary rockfish. All other routine measures such as RCA depth limit restrictions and season closures would remain possible actions.
 - If mortality for vermilion/sunset rockfish is anticipated to exceed a newly-established recreational ACT for the area south of 40° 10’ N. lat., then the Council may recommend and NMFS may implement inseason: a reduction to the sub-bag limit, or prohibit

- retention of vermillion/sunset rockfish. All other routines measures such as RCA depth limit restrictions and season closures would remain possible actions.
- If mortality of yelloweye rockfish is anticipated to exceed the California recreational HG, then the Council may recommend and NMFS may implement inseason:
 - Cancellation of the seasonal 1-fish sub-bag limit in November/December, and/or,
 - A recreational RCA depth limit restriction to minimize release mortality.
 - If mortality of cowcod is anticipated to exceed the recreational share of the non-trawl HG, then the Council may recommend and NMFS may implement inseason:
 - Cancellation of the seasonal 1-fish sub-bag limit in November/December, and/or,
 - A recreational RCA depth limit restriction to minimize release mortality.
 - If mortality of quillback rockfish is anticipated to exceed a newly-established recreational ACT for the California stock, the Council may recommend and NMFS may implement inseason:
 - Return to prohibited status, and/or,
 - A recreational RCA depth limit restriction to minimize release mortality.
 - If mortality of copper rockfish south of 34° 27' N. lat. is projected to exceed the recreational ACT for the area, then the Council may recommend and NMFS may implement inseason a prohibition of copper rockfish for this area.

Table 16-11 Alternative 1. Option 4: California recreational rockfish and lingcod season structure with fishing permitted at all depths from Apr – Dec, statewide.

Management Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern	Closed			All depth								
Mendocino	Closed			All depth								
San Francisco	Closed			All depth								
Central	Closed			All depth								
Southern	Closed			All depth								

Option 5

Season structure Option 5 examines a season structure that generally follows an offshore – inshore – all depth fishery structure (Table 16-12). Specifically, in the Northern and Mendocino GMAs, fishing is authorized offshore of the 40 fathom RCA line April 1 – June 30, inshore of the 50 fathom RCA July 1 – October 31, and at all depths November 1 – December 31. In the San Francisco and Central GMAs, fishing is authorized offshore of the 40 fathom RCA line April 1 – June 30, inshore of the 40 fathom RCA line July 1 – October 31, and at all depths November 1 – December 31. In the Southern GMA, fishing is authorized offshore of the 50 fathom RCA April 1 – June 30, inshore of the 50 fathom RCA July 1 – October 31, and at all depths November 1 – December 31. During the offshore period within the season, there is no nearshore rockfish closure associated with the offshore fishery; the projected impacts (Table 16-22) take this into account.

The state of California covers a large area with diverse constituent priorities as well as different constraining species by region. Allowing variable depth limits by area could make more efficient reductions in canary rockfish mortality, as well as vermillion/sunset rockfish. Allowing all depth fishing during months where retention of yelloweye rockfish and cowcod are being considered would allow anglers to access the depth range where these species are found.

This Option was developed to balance opportunity with stability by keeping the likelihood of inseason actions low. Since groundfish mortality is more likely to stay within harvest limits, no additional accountability measures beyond routine inseason monitoring and management may be required.

Table 16-12. Alternative 1. Option 5: California recreational rockfish and lingcod season structure with fishing permitted offshore of the specified RCA line from Apr – Jun, inshore off the specified RCA line Jul – Oct, and at all depths from Oct – Dec. Specific RCA depth limits vary by GMA. Fm = fathoms.

Management Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern	Closed			>40 fm			<50 fm			All depth		
Mendocino	Closed			>40 fm			<50 fm			All depth		
San Francisco	Closed			>40 fm			<40 fm			All depth		
Central	Closed			>40 fm			<40 fm			All depth		
Southern	Closed			>50 fm			<50 fm			All depth		

Cabazon Seasons and Depths

Cabazon off California is defined as a single California-only stock. The Alternative 1 Fishery HG for cabazon in 2027 is 149.6 mt and 145.4 mt in 2028, which is shared between the commercial and recreational sectors. Under Alternative 1, boat-based fishing for cabazon is open year-round at all depths.

Mortality of cabazon has been well within the fishery HG in recent years. The recent removal of the cabazon size limit (effective January 1, 2025) does not appear to have measurably increased mortality. Table 16-13 shows the most recent 5 years' estimated recreational and commercial mortality compared to the 2027 harvest limit. The average total annual mortality for cabazon results in 29.7% attainment of the Fishery HG. Under a year-round, all-depth boat-based season for cabazon, the ACL is not at risk of being exceeded and there is currently no conservation need for precautionary management.

Table 16-13. Estimated mortality of cabazon from California fisheries, by sector, from 2021-2025; average annual mortality over the time series; and Alt 1 2027 Fishery HG for cabazon. Avg % attain. compares average annual mortality to the 2027 limit. Estimated mortality for 2025 are through October and are preliminary and incomplete. Commercial landings do not include estimated discard mortality. All units in metric tons.

Stock	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025		Avg.	2027 Limit	Avg % attain.
	Rec	Com	Rec	Com	Rec	Com	Rec	Com	Rec	Com			
CA Cabazon	23.9	25.4	38.8	33.7	9.5	23.0	19.8	25.0	14.8	18.2	44.4	149.6	29.7%

Greenling Seasons and Depths

Kelp greenling off California is defined as a California-only stock within the “other fish” complex (with leopard shark). The Alternative 1 ACL contribution to the complex for kelp greenling is 92.5 mt in 2027 and 2028. The ACL contribution is shared between the recreational and commercial sectors. Under Alternative 1, boat-based fishing for greenling is open year-round at all depths.

Many of the considerations for greenling are the same as for cabezon. Greenling has remained well within harvest limits in recent years, with the removal of the size limit having no apparent impact on mortality. Table 16-14 shows the most recent 5 years’ estimated recreational and commercial mortality for kelp greenling compared to the 2027 limit. The average total annual mortality for greenling results in only 5.5% attainment of the harvest limit. Under a year-round, all-depth boat-based season for kelp greenling, the ACL is not at risk of being exceeded and there is currently no conservation need for precautionary management.

Table 16-14. Estimated mortality of kelp greenling from California fisheries, by sector, from 2021-2025; average annual mortality over the time series; and the Alt 1 2027 ACL contribution to the “other fish” complex. Avg % attain. compares average annual mortality to the 2027 limit. Estimated mortality for 2025 are through October and are preliminary and incomplete. Commercial landings do not include estimated discard mortality. All units in metric tons.

Stock	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025		Avg.	2027 Limit	Avg % attain.
	Rec	Com	Rec	Com	Rec	Com	Rec	Com	Rec	Com			
CA Kelp Greenling	4.6	2.4	5.5	3.3	2.1	1.5	1.8	1.7	2.5	1.7	5.0	92.5	5.5%

California Scorpionfish Seasons and Depths

Under Alternative 1, season structure and depth restrictions for California scorpionfish are the same as described in No Action.

Other Groundfish Species Seasons and Depths

Under Alternative 1, season structure and depth restrictions for other groundfish species (flatfishes, sharks, skates, sablefish, etc.) are the same as described under No Action.

16.2.5 Groundfish Bag Limits, Gear Limits and Size Limits

Options for bag limit modifications are provided below. Bag limits and sub-bag limits are available for use during the 2027-28 biennial cycle or through inseason actions to meet but not exceed Federal harvest limits. Sub-bag limits for any rockfish species can be modified via inseason adjustments within the range of the 10-fish aggregate bag limit for rockfish, including a 0-fish limit (no retention). A new bag or sub-bag limit may be added for any groundfish species for use during the 2027-28 biennial cycle or through inseason actions to meet but not exceed Federal harvest limits, whether a species is individually managed or within a stock complex.

Rockfish Bag Limits, Gear Limits, and Size Limits

Under Alternative 1, gear limits and size limits for rockfish are the same as described in No Action. Decoupling the RCG complex management unit (described in Section 2.1, above) would result in an aggregate 10-fish bag limit for rockfish species (genus *Sebastes*), with sub-bag limits as described below (Table 16-15). Specifically, anglers would be able to retain up to 10 rockfish together in any combination per day, except for species subject to sub-bag limits and prohibited species. Cabezon and

greenling would not count against the aggregate 10 rockfish bag limit and are subject to their own respective bag limits, as described in Sections 2.3.3 and 2.3.4, below. The default 20 finfish bag limit would also apply, as described in No Action (Section 1.3.4).

Limited opportunity for cowcod and yelloweye rockfish retention were analyzed and are presented below. Retention of quillback rockfish may be feasible within the ACL and could be analyzed, but would likely be coupled with accountability measures, seasonal retention, or other changes to season dates or depth restrictions. At the time of this document drafting, stakeholder discussions on quillback rockfish are ongoing, and this document will be updated to reflect discussion outcomes at a later date. Season structure Option 4 presents a one fish sub-bag limit for quillback rockfish in order to facilitate discussion. All other Options assume no retention of quillback rockfish. Retention of bronzedspotted rockfish would remain prohibited year-round at all depths (as in No Action). No modifications to vermilion/sunset, canary, or copper rockfish sub-bag limits are proposed (i.e., same as No Action). Sub-bag limits for any rockfish species can be modified via inseason adjustments within the range of the 10-fish aggregate bag limit for rockfish, including a 0-fish limit (no retention). A new bag or sub-bag limit may be added for any groundfish species for use during the 2027-28 biennial cycle or through inseason actions to meet but not exceed Federal harvest limits, whether a species is individually managed or within a stock complex.

Table 16-15. Alternative 1 bag and sub-bag limits for rockfish species.

Species	Area	Limit Type	Limit
Rockfish Species	Statewide	Aggregate	10
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish</i>	<i>N. of 40° 10' N. lat.</i>	<i>Sub-bag</i>	<i>4</i>
	<i>S. of 40° 10' N. lat.</i>	<i>Sub-bag</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Canary rockfish</i>	<i>Statewide</i>	<i>Sub-bag</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Copper rockfish</i>	<i>Statewide</i>	<i>Sub-bag</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Cowcod</i>	<i>Statewide</i>	<i>Seasonal Sub-bag</i>	<i>Prohibited, year round (status quo) or, 1 fish in Nov OR Dec, or, 1 fish in Nov AND Dec</i>
<i>Yelloweye rockfish</i>	<i>Statewide</i>	<i>Seasonal Sub-bag</i>	<i>Prohibited, year round (status quo) or, 1 fish in Nov OR Dec, or, 1 fish in Nov AND Dec</i>
<i>Quillback rockfish</i>	<i>Statewide</i>	<i>Sub-bag</i>	<i>1 fish, applies only to Season Structure Option 4. All other Options prohibited (status quo).</i>
Bronzedspotted rockfish	Statewide	Prohibition	0

Cowcod

Cowcod is managed as a stock south of 40° 10' N. lat. The California recreational share of the Fishery HG is 23.5 mt and 23.1 mt in 2027 and 2028, respectively (Table 16-7). Cowcod was declared overfished in 2000, and as a result, retention was prohibited in the recreational fishery beginning in 2001. Prior to becoming prohibited, cowcod was actively targeted by anglers due to their large size and unique appearance.

Cowcod was declared rebuilt in 2019, and since then, the Council has taken a precautionary, stepwise approach in expanding access to this species. Thus far, Council actions included multiple expansions of depth access (RCA boundaries) in all areas where cowcod are encountered, removal of a precautionary ACT, and repeal of the Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCA) in the Southern California bight (replaced with GEAs). Cowcod mortality continues to be well under the harvest limits. The next step in expanding access to this rebuilt species would be to allow retention. However, due to uncertainty in angler desire to target cowcod and fleet capacity, the Council is considering a precautionary approach to allowing retention in the 2027-28 biennium.

Options analyzed include a seasonal 1-fish sub-bag limit within the 10-fish rockfish bag limit. Specifically, the Options include allowing retention of 1 cowcod per day in November or December (one month only), or in November and December (two months combined). Retention of cowcod would remain prohibited during all other months in the year. Allowing retention during lower-effort months near the end of the year is expected to curb the amount of expected mortality, compared to if retention was allowed during peak-effort summer months.

While there is uncertainty in how much active targeting will occur, a “race to fish” is not expected under the Options provided since the short seasonal format provides more stability compared to an alternative method, such as quota accumulation followed by a closure when the quota is reached. Additionally, only allowing retention in lower effort winter months would provide a bulwark against a “race to fish.” Cowcod mortality would be monitored inseason and the Council could take action if harvest limits are projected to be exceeded, or if adjustments are needed in 2028 following evaluation of the 2027 season.

These Options offer a controlled method to expand recreational opportunity for a species that has been rebuilt for many years, as well as collect biological information, fleet effort, and fleet capacity information. These data will help inform future stock assessments and management. Since cowcod has been prohibited for over 25 years, the current amount and quality of information is sparse.

The Options are presented in Table 16-16. The RecFIN bag limit tool cannot accommodate when bag limits are being analyzed for a prohibited species moving to retention status. Analysis of these Options relied on the RecFISH model with post-model adjustments to account for increased uncertainty in projected impacts. It should be noted that while the stock is defined as south of 40° 10' N. lat. (and therefore, the California recreational HG), the seasonal sub-bag limit would apply statewide for regulatory simplicity. Cowcod are not encountered north of 40° 10' N. lat. with any considerable frequency; therefore, mortality coming from the area north would likely only contribute a *de minimis* amount of mortality.

Table 16-16. Alternative 1. Cowcod projected impacts for different seasonal sub-bag limit Options with respect to each Season Structure Option, compared to the 2027/2028 California recreational Harvest Guidelines. Projections are from CDFW, and are preliminary and subject to change. Projections provided as a range to account for modeling uncertainty. All units are in metric tons.

Sub-Bag Options	Season Str. Option 1 Projected Mortality	Season Str. Option 2 Projected Mortality (mt)	Season Str. Option 3 Projected Mortality (mt)	Season Str. Option 4 Projected Mortality (mt)	Season Str. Option 5 Projected Mortality (mt)	Alt 1 2027/28 CA Rec HG (mt)
Prohibited (status quo)	Full fishery closure	14.9 – 17.1	8.5 – 9.7	10.6 – 12.2	6.5 – 7.5	23.5/23.1
1-fish (Nov OR Dec)		22.3 – 25.7	15.9 – 18.3	18 – 20.8	14 – 16.1	
1-fish (Nov AND Dec)		29.8 – 34.2	23.3 – 26.9	25.5 – 29.3	21.4 – 24.6	

Yelloweye Rockfish

Yelloweye rockfish is managed as a coastwide stock. Yelloweye rockfish was declared overfished in 2002 and retention was made prohibited in the recreational fishery beginning in 2004. The 2025 yelloweye rockfish stock assessment update estimated that the stock’s spawning output is now 40.1 percent of unfished levels and exceeds the management target of 40 percent, signaling recovery (Johnston et al., 2025).

Under Alternative 1 harvest specifications, the California recreational share of the fishery HG is 25.7 mt and 25.8 mt in 2027 and 2028, respectively (Table 16-7). This is a significant increase compared to No Action, which is due to the change in default Harvest Control Rules following the adoption of a new stock assessment, as well as the Council’s consideration of removing the yelloweye rockfish ACTs for the non-trawl sector allocations. Due to uncertainty in angler desire to target yelloweye rockfish and fleet capacity, the Council is considering a precautionary approach to allowing retention in the 2027-28 biennium.

Options analyzed include a seasonal 1-fish sub-bag limit within the 10-fish rockfish bag limit. Specifically, the Options include allowing retention of 1 yelloweye rockfish per day in November or December (one month only), or in November and December (two months combined). Retention of yelloweye rockfish would remain prohibited during all other months of the year. Authorizing retention during lower-effort months near the end of the year is expected to curb the amount of expected mortality, compared to if retention was allowed during peak-effort summer months. Mortality would be monitored inseason and the Council could take action if harvest limits are projected to be exceeded, or if adjustments are needed in 2028 following evaluation of the 2027 season.

These Options offer a controlled method to expand recreational opportunity for yelloweye rockfish, as well as collect biological information, fleet effort, and fleet capacity information. These data will help inform future stock assessments and management. Since yelloweye rockfish has been prohibited for over 20 years, the current amount and quality of information is sparse.

Options are presented in Table 16-17. The RecFIN bag limit tool cannot accommodate when bag limits are being analyzed for a prohibited species moving to retention status. Analysis of these Options relied on the RecFISH model with post-model adjustments to account for increased uncertainty in projected impacts.

Table 16-17. Alternative 1. Yelloweye rockfish projected impacts for different seasonal sub-bag limit Options with respect to each Season Structure Option, compared to the 2027/2028 California recreational Harvest Guidelines. Projections are from CDFW, and are preliminary and subject to change. Projections provided as a range to account for modeling uncertainty. All units in metric tons.

Sub-Bag Options	Season Str. Option 1 Projected Mortality	Season Str. Option 2 Projected Mortality (mt)	Season Str. Option 3 Projected Mortality (mt)	Season Str. Option 4 Projected Mortality (mt)	Season Str. Option 5 Projected Mortality (mt)	Alt 1 2027/28 CA Rec HG (mt)
Prohibited (status quo)	Full fishery closure	19.2 – 22	16.2 – 18.6	16.3 – 18.7	11.7 – 13.4	25.7/25.8
1-fish (Nov OR Dec)		23.8 – 27.4	20.8 – 24	20.9 – 24.1	16.3 – 18.7	
1-fish (Nov AND Dec)		28.5 – 32.7	25.5 – 29.3	25.6 – 29.4	20.9 – 24.1	

Quillback Rockfish

Quillback rockfish off California is managed as a California-only stock. Under Alternative 1, the harvest limits in 2027-28 are 11.6 mt and 11.9 mt, respectively, which are a significant increase from the limit under No Action. The limit is the ACL, since there are no off-the-top deductions or formal allocations between sectors. Since California quillback rockfish is rebuilt following the 2025 stock assessment (Langseth et al., 2025), and the Alternative 1 limits may be able to accommodate retention of quillback rockfish in the recreational fishery, limited retention could be explored.

If retention is allowed, it is likely quillback rockfish retention may need to be paired with an ACT, accountability measures, seasonal sub-bag limits, and/or depth restrictions to keep fishing mortality within the limits. Since there is no formal allocation scheme under the ACL, an ACT specific to the recreational sector would facilitate management planning and inseason monitoring. The ACT is further analyzed and discussed in Chapter 6.3

At the time of this document drafting, stakeholder discussions are ongoing to determine whether retention of quillback rockfish is desirable and would benefit the fishery. Therefore, only season structure Option 4 analyzes a one fish sub-bag limit in order to facilitate discussion (Table 16-18). Retention would be allowed throughout the season. All other season structure Options assume no retention. The next version of this document will be updated following stakeholder and Council discussion.

The RecFIN bag limit tool cannot accommodate when bag limits are being analyzed for a prohibited species moving to retention status. Analysis of these Options relied on the RecFISH model with post-model adjustments to account for increased uncertainty in projected impacts.

Table 16-18. Alternative 1. Quillback rockfish projected impacts under full prohibition (status quo) for all season structure Options, and a 1-fish sub-bag limit for season structure Option 4. The 2027/2028 ACL is shared between sectors. Projections are from CDFW, and are preliminary and subject to change. Projections provided as a range to account for modeling uncertainty. All units in metric tons.

Sub-Bag Options	Season Str. Option 1 Projected Mortality	Season Str. Option 2 Projected Mortality (mt)	Season Str. Option 3 Projected Mortality (mt)	Season Str. Option 4 Projected Mortality (mt)	Season Str. Option 5 Projected Mortality (mt)	Alt 1 2027/28 CA Rec HG (mt)
Prohibited (status quo)	Full fishery closure	7.6 – 8.4	5.7 – 6.3	5.7 – 6.3	3.0 – 3.3	11.6/11.9
1-fish sub-bag		NA	NA	11.7 – 12.9	NA	

Lingcod Bag Limits, Gear Limits, and Size Limits

Under Alternative 1, the season, bag limits, size limits, and gear limits for lingcod are the same as under No Action.

Cabezon Bag Limits, Gear Limits, and Size Limits

Individual species management of cabezon after decoupling regulations from the RCG complex would provide a 10-fish daily bag and possession limit. This is the same maximum number of cabezon that may be retained under No Action; the difference is the 10-fish would be a stand-alone limit and not part of an aggregate RCG limit. The RecFIN bag limit tool cannot accommodate analyzing aggregate bag limit changes; however, the bag limit tool was used to analyze how many cabezon anglers retain in their bags when cabezon is part of their catch. Of the anglers who kept any number of cabezon in 2024, 87 percent retained only one cabezon, and the maximum number of cabezon retained was four fish (out of 9,064 total sampled angler bags), significantly less than the 10-fish maximum allowed under the No Action bag limit. It is unlikely the single species bag limit for cabezon would result in significant increases to mortality, and projected impacts are expected to remain within the limit.

Gear restrictions and size limits for cabezon would be the same as described in No Action.

Greenling Bag Limits, Gear Limits, and Size Limits

Individual species management of greenling after decoupling regulations from the RCG complex would provide a 10-fish daily bag and possession limit. This is the same maximum number of greenling that may be retained under No Action; the difference is the 10-fish would be a stand-alone limit and not part of an aggregate RCG limit. The RecFIN bag limit tool cannot accommodate analyzing aggregate bag limit changes; however, the bag limit tool was used to analyze how many kelp greenling anglers retain in their bags when kelp greenling is part of their catch. Of the anglers who kept any number of kelp greenling in 2024, 85 percent retained only one kelp greenling, and the maximum number of kelp greenling retained was four fish (out of 2,490 total sampled angler bags), significantly less than the 10-fish maximum allowed under the No Action bag limit. It is unlikely the single species bag limit for greenling would result in significant increases to mortality, and projected impacts are expected to remain within the limit.

Gear restrictions and size limits for greenling would be the same as described in No Action.

California Scorpionfish Bag Limits, Gear Limits, and Size Limits

Under Alternative 1, the bag limits, size limits, and gear limits for California scorpionfish (sculpin) are the same as under No Action.

Other Groundfish Species Bag Limits, Gear Limits, and Size Limits

Under Alternative 1, the bag limits, and size limits for other groundfish species are the same as under No Action.

16.2.6 Inseason Management Response

Under Alternative 1, the same inseason response as described under No Action applies.

16.2.7 Impact (Groundfish Mortality)

The California recreational groundfish projected mortality under Alternative 1 season structure Options were based on CDFW's RecFISH model (SAFE, 2025). Model projections were calculated for the five recreational groundfish management areas using CRFS estimates from 2024 through November 2025 (the most recent data available at the time of document drafting), with post-model adjustments consistent with procedures used in prior biennium. The model assumes that fishing behavior during the historic period will be representative of the current fishery. However, many changes have occurred in the fishery which has likely affected behavior and distribution of fishing effort. It is also assumed fishing behavior during the historic period and current fishery will be representative of fishing behavior under proposed management measures. If large changes to management measures are made to the fishery, substantial changes to angler behavior may occur, which the model cannot accurately predict.

Several factors and procedural limitations have resulted in increased modeling uncertainty this biennium compared to prior years. These include the use of a management line at 36° N. lat., which resulted in differing depth regulations within the Central GMA for all of 2024 and a portion of 2025 (which the model cannot accommodate); inseason changes in 2025 resulting in all-depth fisheries for part of the year north of Point Conception, a new canary rockfish sub-bag limit, and repeal of the management line at 36° N. lat.; limited catch composition data due to nearshore rockfish prohibitions during "offshore only" fisheries in the base years; and limitations in the RecFIN bag limit tool. Additionally, the proposed management measures under the 2027-28 season structure Options are very different from the management measures in place during the base years, compared to prior years when incremental changes were more common. As a result, the projected impacts for species which are particularly affected by modeling uncertainty are provided as a range rather than a point estimate (i.e., a singular value) to account for this increased uncertainty.

Uncertainty in model projections are offset by proposed changes to management measures and inseason catch tracking/monitoring efforts designed to keep mortality within harvest specifications. Descriptions of expected impacts and changes to the fishery under each Season Structure Option are discussed below. Each Option could be chosen as a standalone season structure or combined with other Options and/or any bag/sub-bag limit for each GMA and month. If Options are combined when choosing preferred season structures, expected impacts should be combined to generate an expectation of total mortality. Under all Season Structure Options considered, limited mortality for select species (e.g., black rockfish, gopher rockfish, kelp rockfish, cabezon, kelp greenling, and lingcod) currently targeted by shore-based and spearfishing anglers will occur. However, this mortality is expected to be low.

Option 1

Season Structure Option 1 results in closure of the boat-based groundfish fishery and projected total mortality for the directed recreational groundfish boat-based fishery would be zero. Option 1 can be used in the biennial season setting process for 2027-28 or for inseason action as needed for any species of groundfish to modify any routine management measure (i.e., bag/sub-bag and size limits, season structure, RCAs). Option 1 serves as notice to the public that any groundfish bag and/or sub-bag limit may be adjusted down to 0-fish (no retention) and may be used in the biennial season setting process for 2027-28 or for inseason action, whether a species is individually managed or within a stock complex.

The potential for increased effort in the shore-based and spear fisheries could result in increased mortality of groundfish in these modes. However, the increase in groundfish mortality from shore-based and spear fishing is expected to be minor due to low CPUE and low discard mortality associated with these fisheries.

Option 2

Season structure Option 2 (open year-round at all depths for rockfish and lingcod) results in the highest projected impacts of the Options presented. Although there is a significant amount of uncertainty associated with the projected impacts to groundfish stocks (as discussed above in this section), it is reasonable to expect that harvest limits for several species may be exceeded under this Option, including; canary rockfish, lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat., copper rockfish south of 34° 27' N. lat., and vermilion/sunset rockfish both north and south of 40° 10' N. lat. Cowcod and yelloweye rockfish are also projected to exceed limits under some of the seasonal sub-bag Options provided (Table 16-19). The projected impacts reflect status quo prohibited status for quillback rockfish, and status quo sub-bag limits for canary, copper, and vermilion/sunset rockfishes.

Noting that several of these species are already subject to restrictive sub-bag limits, this Option is not feasible, but may be considered as a "maximum" projected mortality in 2027-28 for comparison with other Options. While some stocks are not projected to exceed limits, there is greater uncertainty with model results and catch could be higher. If Option 2 is applied for less than the full year, impacts would be lower.

Table 16-19. Projected impacts to select key groundfish stocks under Alternative 1, Option 2 in the California recreational fishery relative to the 2027/2028 harvest limits. Assumes status quo prohibited status for quillback rockfish; status quo sub-bag limits for canary, copper, and vermilion/sunset rockfishes. Rows with only one value for 2027/2028 limits are the same value for both years. Projections provided by CDFW from CRFS estimates. Some projections are provided as a range to account for modeling uncertainty. Estimates and projections are preliminary and subject to change. (Source CDFW).

Stock	Projected Mortality (mt)	Alt 1 2027/2028 Limit (mt)	Limit Reference Point
CA Quillback rockfish	7.6 – 8.4	11.6/11.9	Fishery HG
Bocaccio S of 40°10’ N lat.	510	963.1/919.8	CA Rec HG
Canary rockfish	84.6 – 97.4	50.5/52.1	CA Rec HG
Cowcod S of 40°10’ N lat.	14.9 – 17.1 22.3 – 25.7 29.8 – 34.2	23.5/23.1	CA Rec HG
<i>Prohibited, year-round (status quo)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov OR Dec)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov & Dec)</i>			
Yelloweye rockfish	19.2 – 22 23.8 – 27.4 28.5 – 32.7	25.7/25.8	CA Rec HG
<i>Prohibited, year-round (status quo)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov OR Dec)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov & Dec)</i>			
CA Black rockfish	164	248.8/260.7	Fishery HG
California scorpionfish	225	232.5/228.6	Fishery HG
Lingcod N of 40°10’ N lat.	47.8	1767.1/1743.6	Non-trawl HG

Stock	Projected Mortality (mt)	Alt 1 2027/2028 Limit (mt)	Limit Reference Point
Lingcod S of 40°10' N lat.	474	472.1/476.3	Non-trawl HG
Widow rockfish	19.8 – 21.8	300	Non-trawl HG
Nearshore rockfish N of 40°10' N lat.	20.5 – 22.7 ^{a/}	82.3/81 ^{b/}	Fishery HG
<i>Copper rockfish 42°-40°10' N. lat.</i>	5.2 – 5.6 ^{a/}	6.7	ACL Contribution to Complex
Nearshore rockfish S of 40°10' N lat.	444 – 542	925.6/921.7	Fishery HG ^{d/}
<i>Copper rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.</i>	77.3 – 82.1	127.8/129.1	ACL Contribution to Complex
<i>Copper rockfish S. 34° 27' N. lat.</i>	38.4 – 40.7	20.1/22.0	Rec ACT
Shelf rockfish N of 40°10' N lat.	10.8 – 13.2 ^{a/}	514.7/511.1	Non-trawl HG ^{d/}
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish 42°-40°10' N. lat.</i>	9 – 11 ^{a/}	6.1/6.0	ACL Contribution to Complex
Shelf rockfish S of 40°10' N lat.	576 – 704	1270.2/1267.3	Non-trawl HG ^{d/}
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat.</i>	234 – 286	268.0/264.4 ^{c/}	ACL Contribution to Complex
Petrable sole	22.5 – 27.5	30	Non-trawl HG

a/ Projected impacts include only recreational for the area between 42° N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat.

b/ The informal CA share of the Nearshore rockfish complex between 42° N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat. is 37.2 mt and 36.8 mt for 2027/2028, respectively. Not an official non-trawl allocation in regulation, but rather the sum of the WA, OR, CA state HGs that are managed to by the states as to not exceed the ACL when also factoring in minor IOA, tribal, EFP, research, and trawl impacts. The CA fishery HG is shared between the recreational and commercial non trawl sectors

c/ The ACL contribution to the complex is shared between recreational and non-trawl commercial. Non-trawl commercial projected impacts under Alternative 1 is 100 mt. Recreational take of vermilion rockfish should not exceed 164.4 mt.

d/ The species-specific contributions to the non-trawl allocation are shared between the recreational and commercial non-trawl sectors.

Option 3

Option 3 represents the status quo season structure (i.e., same as No Action, but compared to 2027-28 harvest specifications under Alternative 1). The projected impacts reflect status quo prohibited status for quillback rockfish, and status quo sub-bag limits for canary, copper, and vermilion/sunset rockfishes. There is a significant amount of uncertainty associated with the projected impacts to groundfish stocks due to various factors (described above in this section). Due to this limitation, the impacts associated with this Option are difficult to anticipate. However, it is possible that mortality for several stocks could exceed harvest specifications, including canary rockfish, vermilion/sunset rockfish north and south of 40° 10' N. lat., and yelloweye rockfish and cowcod under the two month seasonal sub-bag limit Option (Table 16-20).

Since canary rockfish and the southern stock of vermilion/sunset rockfish may be exceeded with restrictive sub-bag limits already in place, this illustrates that sub-bag limits are likely not effective enough to keep impacts within limits. Copper rockfish south of 34° 27' N. lat. is anticipated to stay within the recreational ACT due to the depth restrictions in the Southern GMA under this Option. Additionally, the copper rockfish recreational southern ACT is increasing in comparison to the ACT under No Action (20.1 and 22.0 in 2027-28, compared to 15.8 under No Action). This suggests there

may be additional opportunity for inshore fishing, which could also reduce impacts to vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.

Table 16-20. Projected impacts to select key groundfish stocks under Alternative 1, Option 3 in the California recreational fishery relative to the 2027/2028 harvest limits. Assumes status quo prohibited status for quillback rockfish; status quo sub-bag limits for canary, copper, and vermilion/sunset rockfishes. Rows with only one value for 2027/2028 limits are the same value for both years. Projections provided by CDFW from CRFS estimates. Some projections provided as a range to account for modeling uncertainty. Estimates and projections are preliminary and subject to change. (Source CDFW).

Stock	Projected Mortality (mt)	Alt 1 2027/2028 Limit (mt)	Limit Reference Point
CA Quillback rockfish	5.7 – 6.3	11.6/11.9	Fishery HG
Bocaccio S of 40°10' N lat.	310	963.1/919.8	CA Rec HG
Canary rockfish	68.9 – 79.3	50.5/52.1	CA Rec HG
Cowcod S of 40°10' N lat.	8.5 – 9.7 15.9 – 18.3 23.3 – 26.9	23.5/23.1	CA Rec HG
<i>Prohibited, year-round (status quo)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov OR Dec)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov & Dec)</i>			
Yelloweye rockfish	16.2 – 18.6 20.8 – 24 25.5 – 29.3	25.7/25.8	CA Rec HG
<i>Prohibited, year-round (status quo)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov OR Dec)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov & Dec)</i>			
CA Black rockfish	144	248.8/260.7	Fishery HG
California scorpionfish	225	232.5/228.6	Fishery HG
Lingcod N of 40°10' N lat.	43.7	1767.1/1743.6	Non-trawl HG
Lingcod S of 40°10' N lat.	369	472.1/476.3	Non-trawl HG
Widow rockfish	18 – 22	300	Non-trawl HG
Nearshore rockfish N of 40°10' N lat.	17.1 – 18.9 ^{a/}	82.3/81.0 ^{b/}	Fishery HG
<i>Copper rockfish 42°-40°10' N. lat.</i>	4.7 – 4.9 ^{a/}	6.7	ACL Contribution to Complex
Nearshore rockfish S of 40°10' N lat.	363 – 444	925.6/921.7	Fishery HG ^{d/}
<i>Copper rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.</i>	49.3 – 52.3	127.8/129.1	ACL Contribution to Complex
<i>Copper rockfish S. 34° 27' N. lat.</i>	14.2 – 15	20.1/22.0	Rec ACT
Shelf rockfish N of 40°10' N lat.	9.9 – 12.1 ^{a/}	514.7/511.1	Non-trawl HG ^{d/}
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish 42°-40°10' N. lat.</i>	6.3 – 7.7 ^{a/}	6.1/6.0	ACL Contribution to Complex
Shelf rockfish S of 40°10' N lat.	495 – 605	1270.2/1267.3	Non-trawl HG ^{d/}
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat.</i>	198 – 242	268.0/264.4 ^{c/}	ACL Contribution to Complex
Petrale sole	22.5 – 27.5	30.0	Non-trawl HG

a/ Projected impacts include only recreational for the area between 42° N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat.

b/ The informal CA share of the Nearshore rockfish complex between 42° N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat. is 37.2 mt and 36.8 mt for 2027/2028, respectively. Not an official non-trawl allocation in regulation, but rather the sum of the WA, OR, CA state

HGs that are managed to by the states as to not exceed the ACL when also factoring in minor IOA, tribal, EFP, research, and trawl impacts. The CA fishery HG is shared between the recreational and commercial non trawl sectors

c/ The ACL contribution to the complex is shared between recreational and non-trawl commercial. Non-trawl commercial projected impacts under Alternative 1 is 100 mt. Recreational take of vermilion rockfish should not exceed 164.4 mt.

d/ The species-specific contributions to the non-trawl allocation are shared between the recreational and commercial non-trawl sectors.

Option 4

Option 4 represents a season structure where fishing is authorized at all depths from April 1 – December 31, statewide. The projected impacts reflect status quo sub-bag limits for canary, copper, and vermilion/sunset rockfishes. Sub-bag limit Options for yelloweye rockfish and cowcod are provided under this season structure Option. Additionally, this Option has a one fish sub-bag limit Option for quillback rockfish.

There is a significant amount of uncertainty associated with the projected impacts to groundfish stocks due to various factors (described in this section, above). Due to this limitation, the impacts associated with this Option are difficult to anticipate. However, it is possible that mortality for several stocks could exceed harvest specifications, including canary, quillback, and yelloweye rockfishes, cowcod, vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat., and copper rockfish south of 34° 27' N. lat.

Option 4 was developed to reflect healthy population status for stocks off California using early season flexibility to the recreational fishery by allowing all-depth opportunities, with the potential for inseason action as needed to keep mortality under the proposed limits. Because all-depth fishing has a higher level of uncertainty associated with projected impacts (see ranges in Table 16-21), the need for inseason action may be greater, but the specific type of change will be evaluated on a species-by-species basis as catch performance data is received. To mitigate the risk of exceeding harvest limits, this Option could be paired with several accountability measures that may be implemented by the Council. Newly proposed recreational ACTs for quillback rockfish off California and vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. are analyzed in Chapter 6.3. Under this season structure Option, the proposed ACTs would facilitate inseason action for species that are highly attained. In addition to the routine inseason monitoring and inseason management tools which apply, additional accountability measures are proposed as follows:

- Fishery performance review will be completed at the June, September and November Council meetings by appropriate advisory body staff and/or CDFW, and:
 - If mortality for canary rockfish is anticipated to exceed the California recreational HG, then the Council may recommend and NMFS may implement an inseason reduction to the canary rockfish sub-bag limit, or prohibit retention of canary rockfish. All other routine measures such as RCA depth limit restrictions and season closures would remain possible inseason actions.
 - If mortality for vermilion/sunset rockfish is anticipated to exceed a newly-established recreational ACT for the area south of 40° 10' N. lat., then the Council may recommend and NMFS may implement inseason: a reduction to the sub-bag limit, or prohibit retention of vermilion/sunset rockfish. All other routines measures such as RCA depth limit restrictions and season closures would remain possible inseason actions.
 - If mortality of yelloweye rockfish is anticipated to exceed the California recreational HG, then the Council may recommend and NMFS may implement inseason:

- Cancellation of the seasonal 1-fish sub-bag limit in November/December, and/or,
 - A recreational RCA depth limit restriction to minimize release mortality.
- If mortality of cowcod is anticipated to exceed the recreational share of the non-trawl HG, then the Council may recommend and NMFS may implement inseason:
 - Cancellation of the seasonal 1-fish sub-bag limit in November/December, and/or,
 - A recreational RCA depth limit restriction to minimize release mortality.
- If mortality of quillback rockfish is anticipated to exceed a newly-established recreational ACT for the California stock, the Council may recommend and NMFS may implement inseason:
 - Return to prohibited status, and/or,
 - A recreational RCA depth limit restriction to minimize release mortality.
- If mortality of copper rockfish south of 34° 27' N. lat. is projected to exceed the recreational ACT for the area, then the Council may recommend and NMFS may implement an inseason prohibition of copper rockfish for this area.

Table 16-21 shows the projected impacts under season structure Option 4; however, these impacts assume the season proceeds without inseason adjustment because it is difficult to anticipate exactly when/if and what specific inseason action would occur. If the season dates, depth limits, or sub-bag limits were modified inseason, the impacts would be lower.

Table 16-21. Projected impacts for key groundfish stocks under Alternative 1, Option 4 in the California recreational fishery relative to the 2027/2028 harvest limits. Assumes status quo sub-bag limits for canary, copper, and vermilion/sunset rockfishes. Rows with only one value for 2027/2028 limits are the same value for both years. Projections provided by CDFW from CRFS estimates. Some projections are provided as a range to account for modeling uncertainty. Projections and estimates are preliminary and subject to change. (Source CDFW).

Stock	Projected Mortality (mt)	Alt 1 2027/2028 Limit (mt)	Limit Reference Point
CA Quillback rockfish			
<i>Prohibited, year-round (status quo)</i>	5.7 – 6.3	11.6/11.9	Fishery HG
<i>1-fish sub-bag, year-round</i>	11.7 – 12.9		
Bocaccio S of 40°10' N lat.	487	963.1/919.8	CA Rec HG
Canary rockfish	69.8 – 80.4	50.5/52.1	CA Rec HG
Cowcod S of 40°10' N lat.			
<i>Prohibited, year-round (status quo)</i>	10.6 – 12.2	23.5/23.1	CA Rec HG
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov OR Dec)</i>	18 – 20.8		
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov & Dec)</i>	25.2 – 29.3		
Yelloweye rockfish			
<i>Prohibited, year-round (status quo)</i>	16.3 – 18.7	25.7/25.8	CA Rec HG
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov OR Dec)</i>	20.9 – 24.1		
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov & Dec)</i>	25.6 – 29.4		
CA Black rockfish	144	248.8/260.7	Fishery HG
California scorpionfish	225	232.5/228.6	Fishery HG

Stock	Projected Mortality (mt)	Alt 1 2027/2028 Limit (mt)	Limit Reference Point
Lingcod N of 40°10' N lat.	43.7	1767.1/1743.6	Non-trawl HG
Lingcod S of 40°10' N lat.	412	472.1/476.3	Non-trawl HG
Widow rockfish	18 – 20	300	Non-trawl HG
Nearshore rockfish N of 40°10' N lat.	16.2 – 19.8 ^{a/}	82.3/81.0 ^{b/}	Fishery HG
<i>Copper rockfish 42°-40°10' N. lat.</i>	4.7 – 4.9 ^{a/}	6.7	ACL Contribution to Complex
Nearshore rockfish S of 40°10' N lat.	379 – 463	925.6/921.7	Fishery HG ^{d/}
<i>Copper rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.</i>	57 – 60.5	127.8/129.1	ACL Contribution to Complex
<i>Copper rockfish S. 34° 27' N. lat.</i>	22.3 – 23.7	20.1/22.0	Rec ACT
Shelf rockfish N of 40°10' N lat.	9.9 – 12.1 ^{a/}	514.7/511.1	Non-trawl HG ^{d/}
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish 42°-40°10' N. lat.</i>	6.3 – 7.7 ^{a/}	6.1/6.0	ACL Contribution to Complex
Shelf rockfish S of 40°10' N lat.	549 – 671	1270.2/1267.3	Non-trawl HG ^{d/}
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat.</i>	225 – 275	268.0/264.4 ^{c/}	ACL Contribution to Complex
Petrable sole	22.5 – 27.5	30.0	Non-trawl HG

a/ Projected impacts include only recreational for the area between 42° N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat.

b/ The informal CA share of the Nearshore rockfish complex between 42° N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat. is 37.2 mt and 36.8 mt for 2017/2028, respectively. Not an official non-trawl allocation in regulation, but rather the sum of the WA, OR, CA state HGs that are managed to by the states as to not exceed the ACL when also factoring in minor IOA, tribal, EFP, research, and trawl impacts. The CA fishery HG is shared between the recreational and commercial non trawl sectors

c/ The ACL contribution to the complex is shared between recreational and non-trawl commercial. Non-trawl commercial projected impacts under Alternative 1 is 100 mt. Recreational take of vermilion rockfish should not exceed 164.4 mt.

d/ The species-specific contributions to the non-trawl allocation are shared between the recreational and commercial non-trawl sectors.

Option 5

Season structure Option 5 examines a season structure that generally follows an offshore – inshore – all depth structure (Table 16-12). Specifically, in the Northern and Mendocino GMAs, fishing is authorized offshore of the 40 fathom RCA line April 1 – June 30, inshore of the 50 fathom RCA July 1 – October 31, and at all depths November 1 – December 31. In the San Francisco and Central GMAs, fishing is authorized offshore of the 40 fathom RCA line April 1 – June 30, inshore of the 40 fathom RCA line July 1 – October 31, and at all depths November 1 – December 31. In the Southern GMA, fishing is authorized offshore of the 50 fathom RCA April 1 – June 30, inshore of the 50 fathom RCA July 1 – October 31, and at all depths November 1 – December 31. During the offshore period, there is no nearshore rockfish closure associated with the offshore fishery; the projected impacts (Table 16-22) take this into account.

The impacts projected under Option 5, while still uncertain, are likely to stay within harvest limits. This Option was developed to balance opportunity with stability by keeping the likelihood of inseason actions low. Since groundfish mortality is more likely to stay within harvest limits, no additional accountability measures beyond routine inseason monitoring and management are proposed. New

ACTs for California quillback rockfish and vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. may not be necessary for inseason management under this Option.

Table 16-22. Projected impacts for key groundfish stocks under Alternative 1, Option 5 in the California recreational fishery relative to the 2027/2028 harvest limits. Assumes status quo prohibited status for quillback rockfish; status quo sub-bag limits for canary, copper, and vermilion/sunset rockfishes. Rows with only one value for 2027/2028 limits are the same value for both years. Projections provided by CDFW from CRFS estimates. Some projections are provided as a range to account for modeling uncertainty. Projections and estimates are preliminary and subject to change. (Source CDFW).

Stock	Projected Mortality (mt)	Alt 1 2027/2028 Limit (mt)	Limit Reference Point
CA Quillback rockfish	3 – 3.3	11.6/11.9	Fishery HG
Bocaccio S of 40°10' N lat.	280	963.1/919.8	CA Rec HG
Canary rockfish	46.8 – 53.8	50.5/52.1	CA Rec HG
Cowcod S of 40°10' N lat.	6.5 – 7.5	23.5/23.1	CA Rec HG
<i>Prohibited, year-round (status quo)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov OR Dec)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov & Dec)</i>			
Yelloweye rockfish	11.7 – 13.4	25.7/25.8	CA Rec HG
<i>Prohibited, year-round (status quo)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov OR Dec)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov & Dec)</i>			
CA Black rockfish	112	248.8/260.7	Fishery HG
California scorpionfish	225	232.5/228.6	Fishery HG
Lingcod N of 40°10' N lat.	25	1767.1/1743.6	Non-trawl HG
Lingcod S of 40°10' N lat.	286	472.1/476.3	Non-trawl HG
Widow rockfish	10.8 – 13.2	300	Non-trawl HG
Nearshore rockfish N of 40°10' N lat.	10.1 – 11.2 ^{a/}	82.3/81.0 ^{b/}	Fishery HG
<i>Copper rockfish 42°-40°10' N. lat.</i>	3.1 – 3.3 ^{a/}	6.7	ACL Contribution to Complex
Nearshore rockfish S of 40°10' N lat.	279 – 341	925.6/921.7	Fishery HG ^{d/}
<i>Copper rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.</i>	36.6 – 38.9	127.8/129.1	ACL Contribution to Complex
<i>Copper rockfish S. 34° 27' N. lat.</i>	14.6 – 15.5	20.1/22.0	Rec ACT
Shelf rockfish N of 40°10' N lat.	7.2 – 8.8 ^{a/}	514.7/511.1	Non-trawl HG ^{d/}
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish 42°-40°10' N. lat.</i>	5 – 6.1 ^{a/}	6.1/6.0	ACL Contribution to Complex
Shelf rockfish S of 40°10' N lat.	446 – 545	1270.2/1267.3	Non-trawl HG ^{d/}
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish S. of 40°10' N. lat.</i>	140 – 172	268.0/264.4 ^{c/}	ACL Contribution to Complex
Petrale sole	22.5 – 27.5	30.0	Non-trawl HG

a/ Projected impacts include only recreational for the area between 42° N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat.

- b/ The informal CA share of the Nearshore rockfish complex between 42° N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat. is 37.2 mt and 36.8 mt for 2017/2028, respectively. Not an official non-trawl allocation in regulation, but rather the sum of the WA, OR, CA state HGs that are managed to by the states as to not exceed the ACL when also factoring in minor IOA, tribal, EFP, research, and trawl impacts. The CA fishery HG is shared between the recreational and commercial non trawl sectors
- c/ The ACL contribution to the complex is shared between recreational and non-trawl commercial. Non-trawl commercial projected impacts under Alternative 1 is 100 mt. Recreational take of vermillion rockfish should not exceed 164.4 mt.
- d/ The species-specific contributions to the non-trawl allocation are shared between the recreational and commercial non-trawl sectors.

16.3 Alternative 2

Under Alternative 2, default harvest control rules apply to all stocks except canary rockfish, chilipepper rockfish north and south of 40° 10' N. lat., petrale sole, shortspine thornyhead, rougheye/blackspotted rockfish north and south of 40° 10' N. lat., yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat., widow rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish. Since chilipepper rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. and rougheye/blackspotted rockfish (both area stocks) are managed within the shelf and slope rockfish complexes, respectively, the harvest specifications for each respective complex are also affected. These stocks are analyzed under alternative HCRs (see [Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025](#)).

For some stocks, alternative HCRs have no impact on the ACL distribution to the non-trawl sector (such as petrale sole, which is allocated to the non-trawl sector as a flat metric tonnage). Additionally, the California recreational sector has little impact on many of these stocks. Key stocks to the California recreational fishery that are presented under Alternative 2 are canary rockfish and yelloweye rockfish. The alternative HCR for canary rockfish is $ABC = ACL$ with no 40-10 adjustment, where default (Alternative 1) would be $ABC > ACL$ (with 40-10 rule). The result is a small increase in ACL distribution to the California recreational fishery HG. For yelloweye rockfish, the alternative HCR considered is a constant ACL of 85 mt for the biennium. The result is a decrease in the ACL distribution to the California recreational fishery. Table 16-23 below compares the California recreational HG under Alternatives 1 and 2.

Table 16-23. Comparison of Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 for the California-specific recreational Harvest Guidelines (HGs) in 2027/2028 for canary and yelloweye rockfish. Units are in metric tons (mt).

Stock	Alternative 1 CA Rec HGs		Alternative 2 CA Rec HGs		Difference (Alt 2 – Alt 1)	
	2027	2028	2027	2028	2027	2028
Canary rockfish	50.5	52.1	53.9	55.9	+3.4	+3.8
Yelloweye rockfish	25.7	25.8	20.2	20.2	-5.5	-5.6

Several management changes under Alternative 2 would remain the same as described in No Action and Alternative 1. Decision points and Options under Alternative 2 are compiled and provided in Table 16-24.

Table 16-24. Summary of decision points and the resulting Federal management actions that would result under Alternative 2 for the California recreational fishery.

Decision Point	Alternative 1
<i>Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenling (RCG) Complex</i>	
RCG Complex Decoupling	Same as Alternative 1
<i>Groundfish Seasons and Area Restrictions</i>	
Groundfish Management Areas (GMAs)	Same as No Action
Rockfish Conservation Area Waypoints	Same as No Action
Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas	Same as Alternative 1
<i>Season Structure</i>	

Decision Point	Alternative 1
Rockfish and Lingcod Season Structure Options	
Option 1	Same as Alternative 1
Option 2	Same as Alternative 1
Option 3	Same as Alternative 1
Option 4	Same as Alternative 1
Option 5	Same as Alternative 1
Cabazon	Same as Alternative 1
Greenling	Same as Alternative 1
California scorpionfish	Same as No Action
Other groundfish	Same as No Action
Bag Limits, Gear Limits, Size Limits	
Rockfish	Same as Alternative 1
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish North of 40° 10' N. lat.</i>	<i>Same as No Action</i>
<i>Vermilion/sunset rockfish South of 40° 10' N. lat.</i>	<i>Same as No Action</i>
<i>Canary rockfish</i>	<i>Same as No Action</i>
<i>Copper rockfish</i>	<i>Same as No Action</i>
<i>Yelloweye Rockfish</i>	<i>Same options as Alternative 1</i>
<i>Cowcod</i>	<i>Same options as Alternative 1</i>
<i>Quillback rockfish</i>	<i>Same as Alternative 1</i>
Bronzespotted Rockfish	Same as No Action
Lingcod	Same as No Action
Cabazon	Same as Alternative 1
Greenling	Same as Alternative 1
California Scorpionfish	Same as No Action
Pacific sanddab, petrale sole, starry flounder	Same as No Action
All other groundfish unless specified (state regulations may also apply)	Same as No Action

Rockfish, Cabazon, and Greenling (RCG) Complex

Under Alternative 2, the RCG complex management unit would be decoupled as described in Alternative 1.

16.3.1 Groundfish Seasons and Area Restrictions

16.3.2 Groundfish Management Areas

Under Alternative 2, the GMA configurations are the same as described in No Action.

16.3.3 Area Restrictions

Rockfish Conservation Areas

Under Alternative 2, the RCAs are the same as described in No Action.

Groundfish Exclusion Areas

Under Alternative 2, the Groundfish Exclusion Areas are the same as described in No Action.

Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas

Under Alternative 2, the YRCAs are the same as described in Alternative 1.

16.3.4 Season Structure

Rockfish and Lingcod Season and Depth Options

Under Alternative 2, the rockfish and lingcod season structure and depth options are the same as presented in Alternative 1. Tables 25, 26, 27, and 28 below show the season structure Option impacts for canary rockfish and yelloweye rockfish compared to Alternative 2 harvest specifications.

Cabazon Seasons and Depths

Under Alternative 2, cabazon seasons and depth restrictions are the same as in Alternative 1

Greenling Seasons and Depths

Under Alternative 2, kelp greenling seasons and depth restrictions are the same as in Alternative 1.

California Scorpionfish

Under Alternative 2, the season structure for California scorpionfish is the same as under No Action.

Other Groundfish Species Seasons and Depths

Under Alternative 2, season and depth restrictions for other groundfish (flatfishes, sharks, skates, sablefish, etc.) are the same as in No Action.

16.3.5 Groundfish Bag Limits, Gear Limits, and Size Limits

Rockfish Bag Limits, Gear Limits and Size limits

Under Alternative 2, the same gear limits, size limits, bag limits, and sub-bag limit Options described under Alternative 1 apply.

Cowcod

Under Alternative 2, the same Options described under Alternative 1 apply.

Yelloweye Rockfish

The Options for yelloweye rockfish seasonal sub-bag limits are provided below in Table 16-25 through Table 16-28 in order to compare the projected impacts to Alternative 2 harvest specifications. The Options are the same as described under Alternative 1.

Quillback Rockfish

Under Alternative 2, the same Options described under Alternative 1 apply.

Lingcod Bag Limits, Gear Limits, and size Limits

Under Alternative 2, lingcod bag limits, gear limits, and size limits are the same as described in No Action.

Cabazon Bag Limits, Gear Limits, and Size Limits

Under Alternative 2, cabazon bag limits, gear limits, and size limits are the same as described in Alternative 1.

Greenling Bag Limits, Gear Limits, and Size Limits

Under Alternative 2, greenling bag limits, gear limits, and size limits are the same as described in Alternative 1.

California Scorpionfish Bag Limits, Gear Limits, and Size Limits

Under Alternative 2, California scorpionfish (sculpin) bag limits, gear limits, and size limits are the same as described in No Action.

Other Groundfish Species Bag Limits, Gear Limits, and Size Limits

Under Alternative 2, bag limits, gear limits, and size limits for other groundfish species are the same as described in No Action.

16.3.6 Inseason Management Response

Under Alternative 2, inseason management response is the same as described in No Action.

16.3.7 Impact (Groundfish Mortality)

Since the season structure and bag limit Options are the same as provided under Alternative 1, projected mortality under Alternative 2 is the same as described under Alternative 1. Impacts for each Option are provided below for canary and yelloweye rockfishes, in order to compare projected mortality to the Alternative 2 harvest specifications for these species which are key stocks to the California recreational fishery. Due to increased modeling uncertainty (as described under Alternative 1), impact projections are provided as a range rather than a point estimate (i.e., a singular value).

Option 1

Option 1 represents a full closure of the fishery, year-round, in all areas. The impacts are the same as described under Alternative 1 (zero).

Option 2

Option 2 represents a fishery that is open year-round with no depth restrictions, in all areas (i.e., same as described under Alternative 1, Option 2). The impacts are the same as described under Alternative 1 and assume a status quo sub-bag limit for canary rockfish. Table 16-25 shows projected impacts for canary and yelloweye rockfishes with respect to the Alternative 2 California recreational HGs.

Table 16-25. Projected impacts to canary and yelloweye rockfish under Alternative 2, Option 2 in the California recreational fishery relative to the 2027/2028 harvest limits. Assumes status quo sub-bag limit for canary rockfish. Rows with only one value for 2027/2028 limits are the same value for both years. Projections provided by CDFW from CRFS estimates. Impact projections provided as a range to account for modeling uncertainty. Projections and estimates are preliminary and subject to change. (Source CDFW).

Stock	Projected Mortality (mt)	Alt 2 2027/2028 Limit (mt)	Limit Reference Point
Canary rockfish	84.6 – 97.4	53.9/55.9	CA Rec HG
Yelloweye rockfish	19.2 – 22	20.2	CA Rec HG
<i>Prohibited, year-round (status quo)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov OR Dec)</i>	23.8 – 27.4		
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov AND Dec)</i>	28.5 – 32.7		

Option 3

Alternative 2, Option 3 is the same as described under Alternative 1, Option 3 (i.e., status quo season structure). The impacts are the same as described under Alternative 1 and assume a status quo sub-bag limit for canary rockfish. Table 16-26 shows projected impacts for canary and yelloweye rockfishes with respect to the Alternative 2 California recreational HGs.

Table 16-26. Projected impacts to canary and yelloweye rockfish under Alternative 2, Option 3 in the California recreational fishery relative to the 2027/2028 harvest limits. Assumes a status quo sub-bag limit for canary rockfish. Rows with only one value for 2027/2028 limits are the same value for both years. Projections provided by CDFW from CRFS estimates. Impact projections provided as a range to account for modeling uncertainty. Projections and estimates are preliminary and subject to change. (Source CDFW).

Stock	Projected Mortality (mt)	Alt 2 2027/2028 Limit (mt)	Limit Reference Point
Canary rockfish	68.9 – 73.9	53.9/55.9	CA Rec HG
Yelloweye rockfish	16.2 – 18.6 20.8 – 24 25.5 – 29.3	20.2	CA Rec HG
<i>Prohibited, year-round (status quo)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov OR Dec)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov & Dec)</i>			

Option 4

Alternative 2, Option 4 is the same as described under Alternative 1, Option 4. The impacts are the same as described under Alternative 1 and assumes a status quo sub-bag limit for canary rockfish. Table 16-27 shows projected impacts for canary and yelloweye rockfishes with respect to the Alternative 2 California recreational HGs.

Table 16-27. Projected impacts to canary and yelloweye rockfish under Alternative 2, Option 4 in the California recreational fishery relative to the 2027/2028 harvest limits. Assumes a status quo sub-bag limit for canary rockfish. Rows with only one value for 2027/2028 limits are the same value for both years. Projections provided by CDFW from CRFS estimates. Impact projections provided as a range to account for modeling uncertainty. Projections and estimates are preliminary and subject to change. (Source CDFW).

Stock	Projected Mortality (mt)	Alt 2 2027/2028 Limit (mt)	Limit Reference Point
Canary rockfish	69.8 – 80.4	53.9/55.9	CA Rec HG
Yelloweye rockfish	16.3 – 18.7 20.9 – 24.1 25.6 – 29.4	20.2	CA Rec HG
<i>Prohibited, year-round (status quo)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov OR Dec)</i>			
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov & Dec)</i>			

Option 5

Alternative 2, Option 5 is the same season structure as described under Alternative 1, Option 5. The impacts are the same as described under Alternative 1 and assumes a status quo sub-bag limit for canary rockfish. Table 16-28 shows projected impacts for canary and yelloweye rockfishes with respect to the Alternative 2 California recreational HGs.

Table 16-28. Projected impacts to canary and yelloweye rockfish under Alternative 2, Option 4 in the California recreational fishery relative to the 2027/2028 harvest limits. Assumes a status quo sub-bag limit for canary rockfish. Rows with only one value for 2027/2028 limits are the same value for both years. Projections provided by CDFW from CRFS estimates. Impact projections provided as a range to account for modeling uncertainty. Projections and estimates are preliminary and subject to change. (Source CDFW).

Stock	Projected Mortality (mt)	Alt 2 2027/2028 Limit (mt)	Limit Reference Point
Canary rockfish	46.8 – 53.8	53.9/55.9	CA Rec HG
Yelloweye rockfish			
<i>Prohibited, year-round (status quo)</i>	11.7 – 13.4	20.2	CA Rec HG
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov OR Dec)</i>	16.3 – 18.7		
<i>1-fish sub-bag (Nov & Dec)</i>	20.9 – 24.1		