

## INITIAL BLACKGILL ROCKFISH REALLOCATION CONSIDERATION

The Council scheduled consideration of a process to restructure the Slope Rockfish complex south of 40°10' N latitude by removing blackgill rockfish from the complex and reallocating the harvestable surplus of both blackgill rockfish and the remaining stocks in the southern Slope Rockfish complex. This initial discussion is to consider background material towards a goal of identifying what would be necessary to continue consideration through to a final regulatory process. Final prioritizing of a blackgill rockfish reallocation process with other competing workload would occur under Agenda Item C.9, future meeting planning, as appropriate.

The most recent assessment of blackgill rockfish in 2011 indicated the stock was in the precautionary zone with a 30 percent depletion rate at the start of 2011. The Council and NMFS responded by specifying very low cumulative landing limits for the non-trawl sectors to reduce any incentive to target blackgill rockfish. Blackgill rockfish landings in the non-trawl sectors have been at a reduced level since 2013, when the regulation was implemented, indicate targeting behavior in those sectors was effectively reduced; however, targeting of blackgill rockfish in the trawl individual fishing quota fishery continues. This is because trawl quotas are managed at the complex level (i.e., the southern Slope Rockfish complex) and not the individual stock level. Blackgill rockfish would have to be removed from the complex and managed separately as a quota species to effectively reduce trawl targeting. If this action is to be considered, the Council should also consider a different trawl:non-trawl allocation of blackgill rockfish and the remaining stocks in the southern Slope Rockfish complex. The original Amendment 21 allocation of the southern Slope Rockfish (63 percent trawl, 37 percent non-trawl) was influenced by the management of blackgill rockfish in the complex. Blackgill rockfish are readily caught by both trawl and non-trawl gears while the other stocks in the complex are more trawl-dominant. An allocation of blackgill rockfish alone based on catch history would likely result in a higher non-trawl allocation than the 37 percent allocation currently specified for the southern Slope Rockfish complex. Likewise, an allocation of the southern Slope Rockfish complex with blackgill rockfish removed would likely result in a higher trawl allocation than 63 percent if based on catch history. Attachment 1 details the catch history by sector of blackgill rockfish and the other stocks currently managed in the southern Slope Rockfish complex.

The Council should consider the advice of its advisors and the public, as well as the priority of this management action relative to the other workload items being considered. The Council should consider what would be necessary to complete a regulatory process and indicate when they would next like to see further analysis on this issue under future workload planning if it is agreed this is a management priority.

**Council Action:**

**Identify, prioritize, and schedule issues for changes in the blackgill rockfish allocation from restructuring the south of 40°10' Slope Rockfish complex.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item J.3.a, Attachment 1: Reallocation of Blackgill Rockfish South of 40°10' N Latitude.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview John DeVore
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Identify, Prioritize, and Schedule Issues for Changes in the Blackgill Rockfish Allocation from Restructuring the South of 40°10' Slope Rockfish Complex

PFMC  
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