

## AMENDMENT 26: BLACKGILL ROCKFISH MANAGEMENT – FINAL ACTION

Amendment 26 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) concerns removing blackgill rockfish from the Slope Rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat. to enable more direct management control of blackgill rockfish impacts in the limited entry trawl individual fishing quota (IFQ) fishery. Removing blackgill rockfish from the complex and managing the stock with stock-specific harvest specifications compelled a reallocation of blackgill and the remaining species in the southern Slope Rockfish complex to trawl and non-trawl sectors. The Council took final action on Amendment 26 in November 2015. The draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Amendment 26 used to inform the November 2015 Council action is reproduced in Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 1.

In March 2018, the Council considered whether to change any of the accumulation limits, including annual vessel quota pound (QP) limits, in the trawl IFQ fishery as part of the review of the Trawl Catch Shares program. It was decided not to consider revisions to annual QP limits for most species; however, they did want to revisit the blackgill vessel QP limit prior to implementation of Amendment 26. An analysis of the effect of blackgill QP limits was presented to the Council in September 2018 and it was decided these limits would be reconsidered when the Council decides whether or not to reaffirm its Amendment 26 action. The September 2018 analysis of annual blackgill QP limits is reproduced in Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 2.

The Council is scheduled to consider reaffirming its Amendment 26 recommendation at this meeting. The National Marine Fisheries Service updated analyses from the draft EA (Agenda Item G.4.a, NMFS Report 1). The Council should consider any information and the updated analyses in NMFS Report 1, and then either reaffirm their November 2015 final allocation action or determine if another course of action should be pursued. Reaffirming the November 2015 action would allow final annual QP limits for blackgill rockfish to be determined and allow implementation of Amendment 26 by January 1, 2020.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Consider Reaffirming the Council's November 2015 Decision on Amendment 26 Blackgill Rockfish and Southern Slope Rockfish Reallocations.**
- 2. Consider Revising Accumulation Limits for Blackgill Rockfish in the Trawl Individual Fishery Quota Sector.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 1: Draft Environmental Assessment: Allocation of Harvest Opportunity Between Sectors of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery of Blackgill Rockfish and Other Species Managed in the Slope Rockfish Complex South of 40°10' N. Latitude.
2. Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 2: Blackgill Rockfish Accumulation Limits: Alternatives and Draft Impact Analysis.
3. Agenda Item G.4.a, NMFS Report 1: National Marine Fisheries Service Report on Updates to Blackgill-Slope Rockfish Complex Reallocation and Accumulation Limits (Amendment 26).
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- G.4 Amendment 26: Blackgill Rockfish Management – Final Action John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Review Updated Analyses and Consider Reaffirming the Final Preferred Alternative under Amendment 26; Consider Revising IFQ Accumulation Limits for Blackgill Rockfish

PFMC  
03/18/19