

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
AND PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL STAFF REPORT ON
2020 HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS FOR COWCOD AND SHORTBELLY ROCKFISH

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has determined an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be required for this action. The EA will be incorporated into the draft Regulatory Impact Review (RIR)/initial regulatory flexibility analysis (IRFA) ([Agenda Item H.4, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1, November 2019](#)) and tier off of the EA for Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery 2019–20 Harvest Specifications, Yelloweye Rebuilding Plan Revisions, and Management Measures. In addition to the biological and socio-economic impacts included in the draft RIR/IRFA, other important considerations and impacts on the resource components will be drawn from existing documents listed below in Table. 1.

Table 1. References that will be used for considerations and impacts to the affected resources

<p>California Current Ecosystem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RIR/IRFA (Sects. 3.6 & 3.7 of H4_Sup-REVISED-Att1_Cowcod-Shortbelly-RIR-IRFA_NOV2019BB.pdf)• California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) California Current Ecosystem Status Report (E1a_IEA_Rpt1_CCIEA-Report-2019-MAR2019BB.pdf)• <i>Draft</i> 2019 State of the California Current (referenced in H.4.Nov.2019_GMT report)• 2019/20 EA for Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Harvest Specifications, Yelloweye Rebuilding Plan Revisions, and Management Measures
<p>Protected Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2019/20 EA for Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Harvest Specifications, Yelloweye Rebuilding Plan Revisions, and Management Measures• NMFS biological opinion for impacts to ESA-listed salmon species under implementation of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Management Plan (NMFS 2017)
<p>Habitat (EFH):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2019/20 EA for Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Harvest Specifications, Yelloweye Rebuilding Plan Revisions, and Management Measures