

ODFW REPORT ON INITIAL STOCK ASSESSMENT PLAN

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) recommends that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) consider scheduling a full stock assessment for Oregon black rockfish in 2023, when new information from a visual-hydroacoustic nearshore rockfish survey in Oregon waters is expected to be available.

In June 2018, the Council adopted a preliminary list of assessments for 2021 which included a benchmark assessment for black rockfish ([June 2018 Decision Summary Document](#)). The Council's Groundfish Management Team (GMT) noted that, "While black rockfish was on the Council's initial list for a full assessment, the GMT is not aware of any new information that would warrant a structural change in the models for each state. Updates for black rockfish would therefore be recommended until new data becomes available such as the Oregon hydroacoustic survey, which is expected to be ready in 2023." ([E.3.a Supplemental GMT Report 1 June 2018](#)). A full black rockfish assessment remained on the preliminary 2021 list in case the survey could be completed and reviewed in time for a 2021 assessment, and a methodology review was scheduled for fall 2020 ([H.10 Attachment 1 September 2019](#)).

Although ODFW planned to conduct the survey fieldwork in fall 2019, it is now scheduled for summer/fall of 2020 due to a delay in vessel contracting. Data processing and analysis are expected to require additional time following the at sea data collection, and results will not be ready in time for a fall 2020 methodology review and a 2021 assessment. Because this survey will be a significant new data source with considerable potential value for understanding the biomass and dynamics of the black rockfish stock off Oregon, ODFW recommends planning for a full assessment in 2023 rather than 2021, and cancelling the fall 2020 hydroacoustic survey methodology review. ODFW will resubmit a methodology review request in September 2021.