

STOCK DEFINITIONS

In November 2021, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopted the new [stock assessment](#) and [rebuilding analysis](#) of quillback rockfish in California. Based on the results of the stock assessment, the Council also recommended quillback rockfish off California be removed from the northern and southern Nearshore Rockfish complexes and the stock be declared overfished. However, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has not made an overfished declaration since quillback off California had not been previously identified as a stock or management unit in need of conservation and management (Agenda Item E.3.a, NMFS Report 1). The Council should consider whether quillback rockfish off California is a stock in need of conservation and management and if so, should initiate consideration of a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) amendment to define the stock boundaries of quillback rockfish. Additionally, the Council should consider an FMP amendment to define the stock boundaries of any other species that are currently addressed at a scale less than coastwide.

The Council should discuss the potential need for an FMP amendment and the consequences of this recommendation with respect to determining stock status and development of a rebuilding plan for quillback rockfish off California.

Council Action:

Discuss stock and management delineations and a potential Fishery Management Plan amendment.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.3.a, NMFS Report 1: Defining stocks and stock complexes in the Groundfish FMP.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only.

Agenda Order:

E.3 Stock Definitions

John DeVore

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Discuss Stock and Management Delineations and a Potential Fishery Management Plan Amendment, as Necessary