

UPDATE ON 2023-2024 HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Under this agenda item, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will receive a progress update from the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) on their development of the 2023-2024 harvest specifications and management measures. As part of their overview, the GMT will provide an update to the Council regarding the new management measures forwarded for development at the November 2021 meeting. This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Council to give additional guidance to the GMT to facilitate completion of their over-winter task, as necessary.

The Council last took 2023-2024 harvest specifications and management measures at their November 2021 meeting. At that meeting, the Council adopted final overfishing limits (OFLs), acceptable biological catches (ABCs), and annual catch limits (ACLs) for most stocks and complexes. The Council also forwarded a range of ACLs for Oregon black rockfish, quillback rockfish, copper rockfish, vermilion rockfish, Pacific spiny dogfish, lingcod north and south of 40°10' N. lat., and sablefish for more detailed analysis. The Council is scheduled to take final action on harvest specifications at the April 2022 Council meeting.

At that same meeting, the Council also provided guidance to facilitate analysis of the alternatives, which combines the ACL alternatives and adjustments to routine management measures. Guidance included two-year allocations, harvest guidelines for selected species, a range of season and area restrictions, and a range of trip limits, daily bag limits, and other management measures for key target and constraining bycatch species. The Council also identified several new management measures for preliminary analysis which included extension of the primary sablefish season, an amendment to the Pacific Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for monitoring shortbelly rockfish catch, and modifications to management of the Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area.

As part of their over-winter work, the GMT noted language discrepancy between the FMP and Federal regulation on definition of Block Area Closures. The Council has the opportunity at this meeting to consider correcting this oversight as part of this process (Agenda Item E.9, Attachment 1, March 2022).

Additionally, under Agenda Item E.3, the Council is scheduled to take up a closely related matter regarding stock definitions in the FMP and harvest specifications for 2023-2024 fisheries.

Council Action:

Review Preliminary Preferred Alternative Harvest Specifications, the Range of Management Measure Alternatives and Draft Analyses; and Provide Guidance.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.9, Attachment 1: Update to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Regarding Block Area Closures. March 2022.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

E.9 Update on 2023-2024 Harvest Specifications and
Management Measures

Todd Phillips/John DeVore

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Review Preliminary Preferred Alternative Harvest Specifications, the Range of Management Measure Alternatives and Draft Analyses; Provide Guidance as Necessary

PFMC
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