

## STOCK DEFINITIONS - SCOPING

In March 2022, the Council received a [report](#) from the National Marine Fisheries Service that no formal status determinations would be made for the stocks assessed in 2021 pending an amendment to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to define stocks (i.e., subpopulations of actively managed groundfish species) for making status determinations and the Council's policies for reporting overfished and overfishing status in the FMP. The Council decided to pursue an FMP amendment (proposed Amendment 31) independent of the 2023-24 harvest specifications process to define stocks in the FMP.

Initial scoping for FMP Amendment 31 occurs at this meeting. Attachment 1 is a scoping document that provides a more detailed explanation for the need for Amendment 31, a brief history of West Coast groundfish stock management, National Standard 1 guidelines for determining whether stocks are in need of conservation and management and considerations for structuring stock complexes, the stocks management units currently in Federal regulations, and scoping considerations and questions for the Council and its advisors to contemplate. These considerations are not inclusive and advisors are encouraged to posit other considerations for the Council.

The Council should consider the recommendations of its advisors and the public before determining priorities and a schedule for Amendment 31.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Scope a potential FMP amendment regarding the definition of stocks and stock complexes in need of conservation and management, and**
- 2. Provide guidance on a schedule and future work.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 1: Scoping an Amendment to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan to Define Stocks.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only.

### **Agenda Order:**

#### F.4 Stock Definitions – Scoping

John DeVore

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Scope a Potential Fishery Management Plan Amendment Regarding the Definition of Stocks and Stock Complexes in Need of Conservation and Management; Provide Guidance on a Schedule and Future Work