

# G.5 Stock Definitions Update

## Council Action:

1. Adopt a Purpose and Need for Amendment 31.
2. Consider adopting a preferred alternative for defining stocks to be assessed in 2023.
3. Provide guidance on a schedule and next steps for completing Amendment 31.
4. Consider establishing a stock definitions work group.

DRAFT-NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

I move the Council

- 1) Adopt the following proposed Purpose and Need for Amendment 31 (underline shows additions to Purpose and Need in Attachment 1 and strikethrough shows deletion):

“With Amendment 31 to the Pacific Fishery Management Council’s (Council) Groundfish FMP, the Council intends to enhance the ability to attain sustainability objectives, especially those outlined in National Standard 1 of the Magnuson Stevens Act as guided by National Standard 3 and informed by National Standard 2. Appropriate specification of stocks in need of conservation and management at a geographic and stock complex level for assessing overfished status and determining if overfishing is occurring is a foundational aspect of sustainability, and instrumental in the Council’s ability to attain Optimum Yield objectives. With this Amendment, the Council intends to identify a subset of species within the Groundfish FMP to define stock boundaries for status determination based on key biological, ecological, social, and economic information currently available. ~~define a set of stocks that bring together information concerning the biological basis of groundfish populations of the West Coast, and the level at which conservation and management measures are needed, such as at a geographic 2 or stock complex level.~~ It is the Council’s intent that, when this Amendment is completed, NMFS will ~~be able to make~~ the necessary status determinations concerning the identified groundfish stocks managed under the Groundfish FMP.”

- 2) Prioritize for Amendment 31 species that
  - a. were assessed in 2021,
  - b. are scheduled to be assessed in 2023.
- 3) Task Council staff to develop a white paper for the November 2022 Council meeting in consultation with the SSC, NMFS Science Center staff, NMFS West Coast Region staff, and state agencies to synthesize the state of the knowledge for priority stocks and the management implications of the different stock definitions for the stocks in Table 1 (from G.5 attachment 2) that were assessed in 2021 and are scheduled to be assessed in 2023 to aide in the selection of PPA.

Moved by Jessica Watson

Second by Virgil Moore

Motion passed unanimously.