

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR DEVELOPING THE 2025-2026 GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Table 1. Proposed Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) schedule for the activities associated with developing the 2025-2026 biennial groundfish harvest specifications and management measures. Bold font dates represent Council meeting dates.

Start Date	End Date	Task(s)
June 5, 2023	June 9, 2023	Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel #1 (Seattle, WA): copper rockfish (California only), shortspine thornyhead, and rex sole. One representative each from the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) to attend. GMT representatives provide projected mortality.
June 22, 2023	June 27, 2023	The Council meets and adopts a final process and schedule for developing groundfish harvest specifications and management measures for 2025-2026. The Council identifies key fishery issues and resolves process questions/concerns.
July 10, 2023	July 14, 2023	STAR Panel #2 (Santa Cruz, CA): black rockfish. One representative from the GMT and GAP to attend. GMT representatives provide projected mortality.
July 24, 2023	July 28, 2023	STAR Panel #3 (Seattle, WA) petrale sole and canary rockfish. One representative each from the GMT and GAP to attend. GMT representatives provide projected mortality.
August 14-15 & 28-29, 2023		<p>Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Groundfish Subcommittee meets (webinar) to reach recommendations or comment on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Four full assessments: copper rockfish (California only), black rockfish, petrale sole, and canary rockfish. 2. Two catch-only update assessments (widow rockfish and yelloweye rockfish). 3. Two length-based data-moderate assessments (shortspine thornyhead and rex sole). 4. One limited update assessment for sablefish. 5. Overfishing limits (OFLs), where possible. 6. Stock categories (i.e., categories 1, 2, & 3). <p>Recommendations should be made at the scale of the stock definitions adopted under Amendment 31.</p>

Start Date	End Date	Task(s)
August 9, 2023		Analytical documents in support of the 2025-2026 stock assessments (STAR Panel reports, assessments, etc.) submitted for the September 2023 Council meeting briefing book.
September 7, 2023	September 14, 2023	<p>The SSC meets to review and reach recommendations or comment on Groundfish Subcommittee recommendations on assessments. Recommendations should be made at the scale of the stock definitions adopted under Amendment 31.</p> <p>The Council meets and adopts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stock assessments, stock categories, and sigmas endorsed by the SSC.¹ 2. Final preferred alternatives (FPAs) for OFLs recommended by the SSC, where possible. 3. Alternatives for stocks where there is a desire to explore a departure from default harvest control rules: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Determine a range of P* values and acceptable biological catches (ABCs), including preliminary preferred alternatives (PPA) for P* values and ABCs. b. A range of ACLs, including PPA Annual Catch Limits (ACL). 4. Preliminary range of new management measures.²
September 25, 2023	September 29, 2023	The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee meet, if necessary, to review rebuilding analyses prepared for stocks estimated to be below MSST, any stock assessments approved for further review, and any new impact projection models recommended by the GMT at a “mop-up” panel (Location TBD). One representative from the GMT and GAP to attend. GMT will provide mortality projections, as appropriate.
October 2023 TBD	October 2023 TBD	GMT meets to review stock assessments and rebuilding analyses (if any). The GMT drafts a range of ACLs and preliminary 2025-2026 management measures for the Council to consider at the November 2023 Council meeting.

¹ Council action could be postponed from September to November for any stock assessments recommended for further review by the SSC (i.e., those assessments the Council authorizes to be sent to the September 25-29, 2023 “mop-up” panel).

² New management measures are those management measures that have not been analyzed or implemented in a previous cycle.

Start Date	End Date	Task(s)
October 1, 2023	November 15, 2023	Coastal treaty tribes provide allocations and/or regulations specific to the tribes for 2025 and 2026 by written request to the Council and NOAA’s Regional Administrator before the November 2023 Council meeting.
November 1, 2023	November 2, 2023	<p>SSC meets at November Council meeting to reach recommendations on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any remaining OFLs, stock categories, and sigmas not adopted at the September Council meeting. 2. Any rebuilding analyses. 3. Any stock assessments approved for further review and new impact projection models from the September 25-29, 2023, SSC Groundfish Subcommittee “mop-up” panel meeting, if applicable.
November 1, 2023	November 8, 2023	<p>The Council meets and adopts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rebuilding analyses prepared for stocks below MSST, stock assessments approved for further review, and new impact projection models recommended by the SSC. 2. Any remaining OFLs, stock categories, and sigmas endorsed by the SSC and not adopted at the September Council meeting. 3. FPA for P* values where there are no alternative HCRs included for analysis. 4. FPA for ABCs where there are no alternative HCRs decided for analysis. 5. A range of ACLs and PPA ACLs if possible. 6. A tentative range of two-year allocation alternatives.³ 7. New management measures range of alternatives (ROA) for detailed analysis necessary to keep catch within or attain a specification or to address a habitat or protected resources concern. 8. Preliminary selection of exempted fishing permits (EFP) for 2025-2026.

³ Allocations to be reviewed for tentative adoption include both the trawl and non-trawl allocations as well as the within non-trawl sector apportionments and accountability measures (e.g., recreational harvest guidelines). Specifically, this includes two-year allocation alternatives for species not allocated under Amendment 21/29 (e.g., bocaccio, canary, cowcod, yelloweye and some non-overfished species).

Start Date	End Date	Task(s)
November 9, 2023	February 7, 2024	<p>Council staff, National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS), GMT, and subject matter experts prepare the requisite analytical documents.</p> <p>NMFS conducts National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping and makes a preliminary determination regarding the type of NEPA analysis necessary for the proposed action.</p> <p>NMFS may make stock status determinations, notifying the Council appropriately.</p> <p>NMFS and Council staff prepare a schedule for regulation deeming and fishery management plan (FMP) transmittal, if necessary.</p>
November 2023 Council Meeting	April 2024 Council meeting	Opportunity for state and tribal agencies to hold constituent meetings to obtain input on final harvest specifications and preliminary management measures in preparation for the April 2024 Council meeting.
January 2024 TBD	January 2024 TBD	GMT meets for a week to review and analyze Council actions related to the 2025 and 2026 harvest specifications and management measures.
March 6, 2024	March 11, 2024	<p>The Council meets and will receive an informational briefing on selected analytical results and may provide guidance or take action on emerging issues, as necessary, at the March 2024 Council meeting.</p> <p>NMFS will update the Council on the results of the NEPA scoping and provide a schedule for regulation deeming and FMP transmittal, as necessary.</p>
Early March 2024 ⁴		Analytical documents submitted in support of the 2025-2026 management measures for the April Council meeting advance briefing book for Council, advisory body, and public review.
April 6, 2024	April 11, 2024	<p>The Council meets and adopts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FPA for ACLs. 2. PPA for management measures from the ROA adopted at the November Council meeting.⁵ 3. PPA for two-year allocations.

⁴ The advanced briefing book deadline for the April 2024 Council meeting is not yet finalized. The Council will be informed when this document is updated with that information.

⁵ Additional management measures that require limited analysis could be added, if necessary; however, the January 1, 2025, fishery start date may be compromised.

Start Date	End Date	Task(s)
April 12, 2024	May 8, 2024	<p>Council staff, NMFS, GMT, and subject matter experts validate and refine analysis, consequent to the April Council meeting actions, as necessary.</p> <p>Council staff will provide the Council with a substantially complete document with supporting analysis that facilitates the Council’s selection of their FPA. The document would cover, at a minimum, FPAs for ACLs, PPAs for management measures, and PPAs for 2 year allocations.</p>
Early May 2024 ⁶		Analytical documents submitted in support of the 2025-2026 management measures for the June Council meeting advance briefing book for Council, advisory body, and public review.
June 8, 2024	June 13, 2024	<p>The Council meets and adopts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Corrections to the FPA for harvest specifications, if needed. 2. Final EFP recommendations for 2025-2026. 3. FPA for allocations. 4. FPA for management measures.
June 14, 2024	July 15, 2024 ⁷	<p>Council staff and NMFS staff meet to finalize analysis of the Council’s FPA, if necessary.</p> <p>Council staff transmits final analytical documents for Secretarial review by NMFS.</p>

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⁶ The advanced briefing book deadline for the June 2024 Council meeting is not yet finalized. The Council will be informed when this document is updated with that information.

⁷ July 15, 2024 is an estimated deadline for the completed NEPA document. NMFS may determine an alternative deadline to better synchronize rulemaking and any MSA process associated with adoption of a potential FMP amendment.