

**GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND
 MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2025-2026 – PART I**

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) supports the default Harvest Control Rule (HCR) for most species, and the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) recommendations for the preliminary preferred alternatives (PPA) for the following species (bolded below):

Stock	Default HCR	Alternative 1
Rex Sole	ACL = ABC P* 0.40	ACL = ABC P* 0.45
Shortspine thornyhead	ACL < ABC P* 0.40, 40 10 HCR applied	ACL < ABC P* 0.45 , 40 10 HRC applied
Canary rockfish	ACL < ABC P* 0.45, 40 10 HCR applied	ACL < ABC P* 0.40, 40 10 HCR applied
Sablefish	ACL = ABC P* 0.45	ACL = ABC P*0 .40
Dover Sole	ACL = 50,000 mt	ACL = ABC P*0.45

Rex Sole

The GAP recommends the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopt Alternative 1 (P* of 0.45) as the PPA for rex sole. Alternative 1 will provide the most flexibility to the trawl sector, and under the new stock assessment, the stock is expected to stay under the management target of 25 percent even if the full annual catch limit (ACLs) are removed under P* of 0.45.

Sablefish

The GAP recommends the Council adopt the default HCR (P* of 0.45) as the PPA for sablefish and remove Alternative 1 (P* of 0.40) from the analysis to reduce GMT workload and decision points for the Council. As previously described, the economic importance of sablefish to the open access, fixed gear, and trawl fleets and our coastal communities is immense, and with the high biomass there is no risk of overfishing.

Canary Rockfish

Canary rockfish is important to all groundfish sectors, and with the 2023 assessment estimating the stock to be in the precautionary zone, difficult decisions are ahead of us all - especially given that anecdotal information on abundance from the grounds is not matching the results of the stock assessment. The GAP recommends the Council adopt the default HCR (P* of 0.45) as the PPA for canary. Under either P* value, the fisheries will be constrained - but the difference between ACLs under the default HCR and Alternative 1 is 38 mt in 2025 and 40 mt in 2026, and those 78 mt over the two-year period will make a substantial difference to the coastwide fisheries we represent.

Shortspine Thornyhead

The GAP recommends the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopt Alternative 1 (P* of 0.45) as the PPA for shortspine thornyhead. The large decline in ACL under the new assessment will be limiting to some vessels, and to a greater degree under the default HCR (P* of 0.40) - particularly for trawlers that need it for bycatch. Alternative 1 could also provide more flexibility in the at-sea whiting fishery, where there's been increased shortspine interactions in recent years. Shortspine was previously one of the highest grossing limited entry fisheries south of 34° 27' N. Lat., and with markets starting to rebuild, the assumption is that landings will increase. The higher P* under Alternative 1 could provide some additional opportunity to fishermen in that area.

Additionally, the GAP recommends the Council adopt the GMT Option 1, apportionment method (based on five-year rolling average) as outlined in [Supplemental GMT Report 1](#). This would align the method with sablefish and would represent the distribution of the stock more accurately.

Quillback

The GAP will provide comments regarding harvest specifications for quillback under Agenda Item E.7, harvest specifications and management measures part 2.

PFMC
11/04/23