

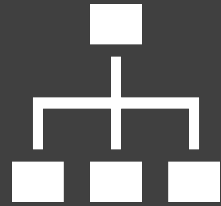
# **Preliminary Preferred Alternatives for the 2025-2026 Biennial Harvest Specifications**

**[GMT Report 2](#)**

Quillback  
Rockfish  
South of 42°  
N. lat

**GMT recommends that quillback rockfish south of 42° N. lat. be removed from the minor nearshore rockfish complexes (both the nearshore complex north of 40° 10' N. lat. and the deeper nearshore complex south of 40° 10' N. lat.)**

# Council Action:



PPA on Harvest Specifications

1. Default Harvest Control Rules

2. Alternative HCRs

# Default Harvest Control Rules

Tables 1-1 (2025) & 1-2  
(2026) in [Attachment 1](#)

## GMT recommendation:

**Adopt default HCRs for all stocks  
without alternative HCRs**

## Stocks with alternative HCRs:

1. Rex Sole
2. Shortspine thornyhead
3. Canary rockfish
4. Sablefish
5. Dover sole

# Alternative Harvest Control Rules

Table 1 in [GMT Report 2](#)

1. Rex sole

2. Shortspine thornyhead

3. Canary rockfish

4. Sablefish

5. Dover sole

# 1. Rex Sole (Coastwide)

GMT Recommendation:  
Alternative 1

No Action: ACL = ABC, P\* 0.40  
ABCs = 3,967 mt (2025) & 3,310 mt (2026)

Alternative 1: ACL = ABC, P\* 0.45  
ABCs = 4,550 mt (2025) & 3,719 mt (2026)

# 1. Rex Sole (Coastwide)

## Rationale

Assessed in 2013 and 2023

- Data moderate; however, 2023 assessment included additional data streams
- Council has adopted default HCR including a  $P^* = 0.40$
- 2023 STAR included alternative projection using  $P^* = 0.45$

Removals are anticipated to remain below ACL under either default or alternative  $P^*$

Stock not expected to fall below 25% management target under either  $P^*$  assuming middle state of nature; with  $P^* = 0.45$  and low state of nature fishery could fall below target if fishery expands which is not likely

# 1. Rex Sole (Coastwide)

## Recent Rex Sole Removals

| Year | Estimated Total Mortality (mt) |
|------|--------------------------------|
| 2020 | 425.0                          |
| 2021 | 393.1                          |
| 2022 | 374.8                          |



## 2. Shortspine thornyhead (Coastwide)

Status Quo: *long-term (2003-2022) average* of biomass observed by NWFSC WCGBT survey

Option 1: *rolling 5-year average* of biomass observed by NWFSC WCGBT survey

**GMT recommendation: Option 1**

### ACL Apportionment Method N & S of 34° 27' N. lat.

| Year | P* 0.45<br>Coastwide<br>ACL | Long-Term<br>Average a/ |              | 5-Year Average b/ |              | Long-Term Minus 5-Year<br>Average |       |
|------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
|      |                             | North<br>ACL            | South<br>ACL | North<br>ACL      | South<br>ACL | North                             | South |
| 2023 | 2,078                       | 1,359                   | 719          | -                 | -            | -                                 | -     |
| 2024 | 2,030                       | 1,328                   | 702          | -                 | -            | -                                 | -     |
| 2025 | 815                         | 558                     | 257          | 575               | 240          | -17                               | 17    |
| 2026 | 825                         | 565                     | 260          | 582               | 243          | -17                               | 17    |

| Year | P* 0.40<br>Coastwide<br>ACL | Long-Term<br>Average a/ |              | 5-Year Average b/ |              | Long-Term Minus 5-Year<br>Average |       |
|------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
|      |                             | North<br>ACL            | South<br>ACL | North<br>ACL      | South<br>ACL | North                             | South |
| 2023 | 2,078                       | 1,359                   | 719          | -                 | -            | -                                 | -     |
| 2024 | 2,030                       | 1,328                   | 702          | -                 | -            | -                                 | -     |
| 2025 | 711                         | 487                     | 224          | 502               | 209          | -15                               | 15    |
| 2026 | 713                         | 488                     | 225          | 503               | 210          | -15                               | 15    |

a/ 68.5 percent north and 31.5 percent south

b/ 70.6 percent north and 29.4 percent south

## 2. Shortspine thornyhead (Coastwide)

**GMT Recommendation:  
Alternative 1**

No Action:  $ACL < ABC$ ,  $P^* 0.40$ , 40-10 HCR

Coastwide ACLs = 711 mt (2025) & 713 mt (2026)  
North ACLs = 487 mt (2025) & 488 mt (2026)  
South ACLs = 224 mt (2025) & 225 mt (2026)

**Alternative 1:  $ACL < ABC$ ,  $P^* 0.45$ ,  
40-10 HCR**

**Coastwide ACLs = 815 mt (2025) & 825 mt (2026)  
North ACLs = 558 mt (2025) & 565 mt (2026)  
South ACLs = 257 mt (2025) & 260 mt (2026)**

## 2. Shortspine thornyhead (Coastwide)

### Rationale

Stock estimated to be below spawning output target, in precautionary zone assuming full coastwide ACL attainment

Reasonable to expect full attainment of ACL north of 34° 27' based on recent mortality trends and anticipated ACL reductions

ACL south of 34° 27' N. lat. likely to not be fully attained based on recent trends

Coastwide ABC not expected to be at risk under either HCR

North may be a constrained stock, even under alternative P\*

## 2. Shortspine thornyhead (Coastwide)

### Recent Shortspine Thornyhead Removals

| Year | Estimated Total Mortality (mt) |       |                 |
|------|--------------------------------|-------|-----------------|
|      | North                          | South | Coastwide Total |
| 2020 | 411                            | 52    | 463             |
| 2021 | 460                            | 42    | 502             |
| 2022 | 657                            | 34    | 691             |

|                           | IFQ Mortality (mt) |       | Non-Trawl Mortality (mt) |       |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|
|                           | North              | South | North                    | South |
| <b>Recent 5-year avg.</b> | 430                | 0     | 39                       | 62    |
| <b>2011-2022 avg.</b>     | 593                | 2     | 46                       | 92    |

### 3. Canary rockfish

**GMT Recommendation:  
No Action**

**No Action:  $ACL < ABC$ ,  $P^* 0.45$ , 40-10  
HCR**

**ACLs = 571 mt (2025) & 573 mt (2026)**

Alternative 1:  $ACL < ABC$ ,  $P^* 0.40$ , 40-10  
HCR

ACLs = 533 mt (2025) & 533 mt (2026)

### 3. Canary rockfish

#### Rationale

Assessed in 2023

- In precautionary zone, 35% of unfished spawning output

Recent year average catch higher than ACLs with either  $P^*$  applied

Management measures likely needed to stay within ACLs

Likely to constrain fisheries

Important component of recreational fisheries

### 3. Canary rockfish

#### Recent Canary Rockfish Removals

| Year             | Estimated Total Mortality (mt) |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2020             | 485                            |
| 2021             | 564                            |
| 2022             | 723                            |
| Avg. (2020-2022) | 591                            |

## 4. Sablefish

GMT Recommendation:  
No action (default)

No Action: ACL = ABC,  $P^* = 0.45$  ACLs

|      |                      |        |
|------|----------------------|--------|
| 2025 | Coastwide            | 36,545 |
|      | North of 36° N. lat. | 28,688 |
|      | South of 36° N. lat. | 7,857  |
| 2026 | Coastwide            | 34,699 |
|      | North of 36° N. lat. | 27,238 |
|      | South of 36° N. lat. | 7,460  |

Alternative 1: ACL = ABC,  $P^* = 0.40$   
ACLs

|      |                      |        |
|------|----------------------|--------|
| 2025 | Coastwide            | 34,121 |
|      | North of 36° N. lat. | 26,785 |
|      | South of 36° N. lat. | 7,336  |
| 2026 | Coastwide            | 32,403 |
|      | North of 36° N. lat. | 25,436 |
|      | South of 36° N. lat. | 6,967  |



## 4. Sablefish

### Rationale

2023 limited update assessment

- Estimated multiple, recent large year-classes
- Limited observations of recent recruitments therefore magnitude of those year classes are uncertain



Total mortality not likely to reach ACLs with either  $P^*$  value; risk of overfishing is low

- Last decade total mortality less than 7,000mt
- 2022 estimated total mortality approx. 18% of 2025 ACL- $P^*=0.45$

## 4. Sablefish

### Recent Sablefish Removals

| Year | Estimated Total Mortality (mt) |                      |                 |
|------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
|      | North of 36° N. lat.           | South of 36° N. lat. | Coastwide Total |
| 2020 | 3,802                          | 327                  | 4,129           |
| 2021 | 4,844                          | 277                  | 5,122           |
| 2022 | 6,253                          | 302                  | 6,555           |

## 5. Dover Sole

GMT Recommendation:  
Alternative 1

No Action: ACL = 50,000 mt  
(ACL exceeds the ABC)

Alternative 1: ACL = ABC,  $P^* = 0.45$   
ACLs = 47,424 mt (2025) & 42,457 (2026)

## 5. Dover Sole

### Rationale

No Action is untenable because the ACL exceeds the ABC

Removals anticipated to remain well below the Alternative ACL



Risk of overfishing low

## 5. Dover Sole

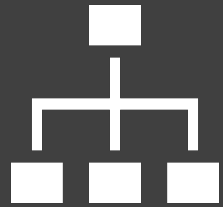
### Recent Dover Sole Removals

| Year | Estimated Total Mortality (mt) |
|------|--------------------------------|
| 2020 | 4,829                          |
| 2021 | 4,103                          |
| 2022 | 4,700                          |

Summary of GMT Recommendations (bolded):

| # | Stock                 | Default HCR                                    | Alternative 1                                   |
|---|-----------------------|--|---|
| 1 | Rex Sole              | ACL = ABC P* 0.40                              | <b>ACL = ABC P* 0.45</b>                        |
| 2 | Shortspine thornyhead | ACL < ABC P* 0.40, 40-10 HCR applied           | <b>ACL &lt; ABC P* 0.45 , 40-10 HRC applied</b> |
| 3 | Canary rockfish       | <b>ACL &lt; ABC P* 0.45, 40-10 HCR applied</b> | ACL < ABC P* 0.40, 40-10 HCR applied            |
| 4 | Sablefish             | <b>ACL = ABC P* 0.45</b>                       | ACL = ABC P* 0.40                               |
| 5 | Dover Sole            | ACL = 50,000 mt                                | <b>ACL = ABC P* 0.45</b>                        |

# Goals for today



Questions?

## FPA on Harvest Specifications



1. Default HCRs



2. Alternative HCRs