GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON BIENNIAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2025-2026: AREA MANAGEMENT MEASURES AND OFF-THE-TOP DEDUCTIONS

This report covers Item #2 & 3 from the Action Item Checklist (Agenda Item E.7 Attachment 1 November 2023). Items #4-10 (GMT Report #3) and Items #11-19) (GMT Report #4) will be in separate reports.

Action Item #2: Updates to Selected Rockfish Conservation Area Coordinates

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) requested that certain Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) waypoints around the Rittenberg Bank (south of Bodega Bay) be modified to more closely conform with the 50 fathom (fm) depth contour to avoid rockfish species of concern (see Agenda Item G.6.a Supplemental GAP Report 1 September 2023, pg. 3). Specific coordinates were not provided. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) understands that the GAP is rescinding this request because their initial concerns over rockfish species of concern have been addressed. The GMT finds this appropriate, as waypoint changes are intended to more accurately reflect bathymetry and should not be used to address conservation concerns.

In G.6.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1, September 2023, CDFW proposed minor waypoint modifications to the 50 fm RCA boundary line used for both recreational and commercial fisheries. Approximately 3-4 waypoint modifications between Pt. Arena and Bodega Bay have been identified that would result in better alignment of the 50 fm (300 feet [ft]) RCA line with bathymetry data. Upon initial investigation, CDFW does not believe these proposed changes would result in any crossovers or create additional RCA waypoints. The current 50 fm RCA line diverges from the corresponding 300 ft bathymetry line by roughly 2 to 3 miles in this area. **The GMT recommends moving forward with analysis of these minor RCA line changes proposed by CDFW.**

Action Item #3: Off-the-top Deductions

The fishery harvest guideline (HG) is the basis for setting allocations to the directed groundfish fisheries (e.g., trawl and non-trawl) and is the result of reducing the annual catch limit (ACL) to account for mortality in exempted fishing permits, tribal, research, and non-directed groundfish fisheries (e.g., pink shrimp), also known as "off-the-top deductions." Off-the-top deductions ensure that, together, the total mortality from directed and non-directed groundfish fisheries does not exceed the ACL. That each "off-the-top" sector stays within the sector-specific set-aside is less important, because management action is not required if they exceed their set-asides.

To minimize risk of exceeding the ACL, and given the lack of information on inseason mortality from research and IOA, off-the-top deductions are typically set liberally for each sector (i.e., higher than recent mortality trends). Setting more liberal off-the-top deductions does reduce the allocation to directed groundfish fisheries. However, these trade-offs are essential to simultaneously reduce risk of exceeding the ACL and provide allocations for the directed fisheries. For most stocks where

fishery attainments of the ACL are low, particularly those stocks that are targeted in groundfish fisheries, setting less liberal off-the-top deductions may provide benefits to directed groundfish fisheries without risking the ACL being exceeded in the event that mortality in off-the-top sectors exceeds the set-aside.

In past biennial cycles, the Council set research and IOA set-asides at long-term maximum or average historical (beginning in 2003) mortality values for most stocks. Upon review of the mortality data, the GMT proposes using a ten-year rolling maximum to set the default IOA and research set-asides instead, which is more indicative of current mortality trends. The default research and IOA set-asides for several stocks will therefore change from 2023-24 to 2025-26.

Tribal Set-asides

For most stocks, a tribal set-aside is based on the request from the tribes, which will allow them to manage the expected mortality in their upcoming fisheries. The GMT has been notified that the tribes intend on continuing all of their existing groundfish fisheries for 2025 and 2026, and are requesting the set-asides as noted within Agenda Item E.7.a Supplemental Tribal Report 1. These set-asides are consistent with the off-the-top deductions requested by the tribes during the 2023-24 biennial specifications process.

The GMT recommends the Council adopt the Tribal requested set-asides, as shown in Agenda Item E.7.a Supplemental Tribal Report 1.

Research Set-asides

Research activities include the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Groundfish Bottom Trawl, Hook and Line, and International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) longline surveys, as well as other federal and state research projects. In previous harvest specification cycles, the Council established research set-asides equal to the maximum historical scientific research mortality for all species, other than yelloweye rockfish and cowcod for which custom methodologies were designed for setting research set-asides. The GMT reviewed the historical mortality of all groundfish species with research set-asides and identified 5 stocks or management units for which the 2025-26 set-aside value will decrease, compared to 2023-24 values, based on the new rolling 10-year maximum methodology used (Table 1). Research set-asides for black rockfish (Washington), California scorpionfish south, dover sole, longnose skate, longspine thornyhead north, sablefish north, shortspine thornyhead north, and Oregon cabezon/kelp greenling, and Washington cabezon/kelp greenling will increase in 2025-26, unrelated to the new methodology. It is difficult to anticipate the needs of research projects and determine whether a certain year's catch is anomalous, so the GMT requests that we be briefed ahead of a biennial cycle as to what the science centers are planning and anticipating. This would help us better understand the research set-aside needs.

Table 1. GMT recommendations for 2025-26 research set-asides which changed as compared to 2023 set-asides, due maximum research mortality, 2013-2022. Source: GEMM, 2022

Stock or Management Unit	Max Research Mortality 2013-22 (mt)	2023 Set-aside (mt)	GMT Recommendation for 2025-2026 (mt)
Black rockfish (Washington)	0.60	0.10	0.60
California scorpionfish south of 34° 27′ N. lat.	0.80	0.18	0.80
Dover sole	61.91	50.84	61.91
English sole	8.01	17	8.01
Longnose skate	14.68	12.46	14.68
Longspine thornyhead north of 34° 27′ N. lat.	18.40	17.49	18.40
Pacific cod	0.75	5.47	0.75
Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.	59.28	30.68	59.28
Shortspine thornyhead north of 34° 27′ N. lat.	15.80	10.48	15.80
Shortspine thornyhead south of 34° 27′ N. lat.	.49	.71	.49
Nearshore rockfish south	.74	2.68	.74
Other fish	.14	6.29	.14
Oregon cabezon/kelp greenling	.07	.05	.07
Washington cabezon/kelp greenling complex a/	0.36	-	0.36

a/ There was no research set-aside for the Washington cabezon/kelp greenling complex in 2023-24.

The GMT recommends the Council use the rolling 10-year maximum of research mortality to set research set-asides in 2025-26, except for canary, cowcod, California quillback, and yelloweye rockfishes, for which the GMT recommends set-asides that diverge from the rolling 10-year maximum for the reasons described below.

Table 2. GMT recommendations for 2025-26 research set-asides which depart from the new 10-year rolling maximum methodology, compared to 2023 set-asides and maximum research mortality, 2013-2022. Source: GEMM, 2022

Stock or Management Unit	Max Research Mortality 2013-22 (mt)	2023 Set-aside (mt)	GMT Recommendation for 2025-2026 (mt)
Canary rockfish a/	19.06	10.08	10.08
Cowcod	0.63	10.00	10.00
Quillback rockfish (California) b/	-	-	0.10
Yelloweye rockfish	1.49	2.92	2.92

a/ 2022 is likely an anomalous year, as per communications with research permit holders.
b/ Quillback rockfish off of California has not had a research set-aside in the past and this indicates an addition to our set aside table.

Canary Rockfish

Based on informal conversations with research permit holders, the GMT does not expect research catches of canary rockfish to be as high as the maximum mortality values in Table 2. **Therefore, the GMT recommends that the Council continue to adopt the 10.08 mt maximum, excluding 2022, for the 2025-26 research set-aside.**

Cowcod South of 40° 10′ N. lat.

For cowcod south of 40° 10′ N. lat., the Council adopted a research set aside of 10 mt for 2023 and 2024 with the intent that it would meet the needs for current and additional research in the event there were changes to the NWFSC Hook and Line survey, research conducted under California's Scientific Collection Permit program, federal Scientific Research Permits, or Letters of Authorization. Although the GMT is not aware of any additional research needs at this time, the GMT notes there is a great need for additional biological data and fishery dependent data. Therefore, the Council should consider the appropriate amount of cowcod south of 40° 10′ N. lat. to set aside for research, based on anticipated projects. **The GMT recommends that the Council continue to adopt the 10 mt cowcod research set-aside for the 2025-26 harvest specifications.**

Quillback Rockfish

Upon a review of state issued Scientific Collection Permits CDFW is requesting a research set aside of 0.1 mt of quillback rockfish off California as outlined in Agenda Item E.7.a Supplemental CDFW Report 1 November 2023. **The GMT recommends that the Council adopt CDFW's requested research set-aside of 0.1 mt for quillback rockfish off California in the 2025-26 harvest specifications.**

Yelloweye Rockfish

For yelloweye rockfish, the Council adopted 2.92 mt for 2023 and 2024 research, based on anticipated research needs of the IPHC (1.1 mt); Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW; 1 mt); Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW; 0.4 mt); California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW; 0.22 mt); and other projects (0.2 mt). In 2022, the research set-aside was not exceeded (1.5 mt total mortality). **The GMT recommends that the Council adopt the 2.92 mt yelloweye rockfish research set-aside for the 2025-26 harvest specifications.**

Incidental Open Access

IOA set-asides are used to account for incidental groundfish mortality in non-groundfish fisheries. IOA comprises directed Pacific halibut, limited entry and open access California halibut, pink shrimp, and incidental fisheries. The GMT identified 21 stocks for which the 2025-26 IOA set-asides will decrease, compared to 2023, because of the new rolling 10-year maximum methodology used (Table 3). Similar to research, IOA set-asides for lingcod north and south of 40° 10′ N. lat. and Pacific cod will increase in 2025-26, unrelated to the new methodology.

The GMT recommends the Council use the rolling 10-year maximum of research mortality to set IOA set-asides in 2025-26 listed in Table 3; except those species listed in Table 4 where the GMT recommends set-asides that diverge from the rolling 10-year maximum for the reasons described below.

Table 3. GMT recommendations for 2025-26 IOA set-asides which changed as compared to 2023 set-asides due to updated maximum IOA mortality, 2013-2022 (Source GEMM, 2022).

Stock or Management Unit	Max IOA Mortality 2013-22 (mt)	2023 Set-aside (mt) a/	GMT Recommendation for 2025-2026 (mt)
Big skate	38.86	39.31	38.86
California scorpionfish south of 34°27' N. lat.	1.22	3.71	1.22
Chilipepper south of 40° 10' N. lat.	13.21	13.66	13.21
Cowcod	0.10	0.17	0.10
Dover sole	25.23	49.27	25.23
English sole	6.56	42.52	6.56
Lingcod north of 40º10' N. lat.	13.40	11.92	13.40
Lingcod south of 40º10' N. lat.	8.70	8.31	8.70
Longnose skate	15.88	18.84	15.88
Longspine thornyhead south of 34º27' N. lat.	0.24	0.83	0.24
Pacific cod	0.64	0.53	0.64
Pacific spiny dogfish	6.71	33.63	6.71
Shortspine thornyhead north of 34º27' N. lat.	4.38	17.82	4.38
Shortspine thornyhead south of 34º27' N. lat.	1.29	6	1.29
Splitnose rockfish	2.93	5.75	2.93
Starry flounder	14.13	45.71	14.13
Yellowtail rockfish	4.49	7	4.49
Nearshore rockfish south of 40º10' N. lat.	1.82	1.86	1.82
Shelf rockfish north of 40º10' N. lat.	20.50	25.62	20.50
Shelf rockfish south of 40º10' N. lat.	11.46	67.67	11.46
Slope rockfish north of 40º10' N. lat.	11.48	18.88	11.48
Other flatfish	87.70	137.16	87.70
Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	1.50	1.74	1.50
Oregon cabezon/kelp greenling	0.66	0.74	0.66

a/ 2023 set-aside based on historic maximum mortality since 2003 or, in some cases, 2005.

Table 4. GMT recommendations for 2025-26 IOA set-asides which depart from the new 10-year rolling maximum methodology, compared to 2023 set-asides and maximum IOA mortality, 2013-2022. Source: GEMM, 2022

Stock or Management Unit	Max IOA Mortality 2013-22 (mt)	2023 Set-aside (mt)	GMT Recommendation for 2025-2026 (mt) a/
Bocaccio south of 40° 10' N. lat.	5.47	2.52	2.18
Canary rockfish	19.29 b/	2.83	2.83
Darkblotched rockfish	30.99	9.8	10.71
Longspine thornyhead north of 34º27' N. lat.	12.34	6.22	1.26
Petrale sole	12.31	11.1	4.38
Sablefish south of 36º N. lat.	18.26	25	25.00
Widow rockfish	0.67	3.05	1.00
Nearshore rockfish north of 40º 10' N. lat.	4.15	1.3	1.10
Slope rockfish south of 40º 10' N. lat.	8.26	19.73	0.93
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	7.37	2.66	3.86

a/ Reasoning for departures from historic maximum described below.

b/ The GMT found that there were three research fish tickets that were inaccurately attributed to IOA, and estimated that the correct IOA value is 2.83 with the edit of those tickets.

Bocaccio south of 40°10′ N. lat: The GMT recommended IOA set-aside for bocaccio south of 40° 10′ N. lat. in the 2023-24 biennial period was 2.52 mt, which represented the IOA maximum mortality at that time. However, in 2022, the IOA mortality was 5.47 mt, which represents a new high. Upon review of the data available, the GMT concluded that the high in 2022 was likely anomalous. **The GMT recommends the second highest value in the last ten years (2.18 mt in 2017) as the set-aside.**

Canary rockfish: The GMT recommended IOA set-aside for canary rockfish in the 2023-24 biennial period was 2.83 mt, which represented the IOA maximum mortality at that time. In 2022, the IOA mortality was 19.29 mt, which represents a new high. However, GMT investigations indicate that this is likely due to several research fish tickets being incorrectly listed as commercial. Thus, the true 2022 value is estimated to be approximately 2.6 mt, similar to the maximum used for the previous biennium. This will be corrected in future versions of the GEMM. **Given this information, the GMT recommends the status quo value of 2.83 mt for the IOA set aside.**

Darkblotched rockfish: The GMT recommends adopting an IOA set-aside of 10.71 mt for darkblotched rockfish in 2025-26, which represents the IOA 10-year rolling average. The GMT determined that the 2022 value of 30.99 mt was an anomaly, and the darkblotched rockfish ACL is not expected to be at risk of being exceeded in 2025-26.

Longspine thornyhead north of 34º 27' N. lat.: The Council adopted a 6.22 mt set-aside for longspine thornyhead north in the 2023-24 biennial process, which was the historic maximum between 2005 and 2020. In 2017, the IOA sector exceeded this set-aside by 6.12 mt. Upon review of the data, **the GMT recommends using a 10-year rolling average for longspine thornyhead resulting in a set-aside of 1.62 mt.** This is expected to accommodate IOA fisheries mortality, as these fisheries' mortality is less than 1 mt for all years apart from 2017. The GMT concluded that the 10-year maximum mortality of 12.34 mt in 2017 is likely an anomaly given that IOA mortality has been less than 0.5 mt since 2011. The 10-year rolling average, inclusive of 2017, results in a set-aside of 1.26 mt.

Petrale sole: The rolling 10-year maximum IOA petrale mortality is 12.31 mt, but the GMT identified that 9.48 mt of petrale sole was incorrectly coded as incidental in 2022. Accounting for that, the next highest value since 2013 is 10.73 mt, but the GMT considered that value an anomaly compared to all other years since 2013 (1.61-6.33 mt) and therefore determined that a 10-year rolling average would be more appropriate for setting the 2025-26 IOA set aside. Accounting for only 2.83 mt of IOA petrale mortality in 2022, the GMT calculated the 10-year rolling average to be 4.38 mt. **Therefore, the GMT recommends adopting an IOA set-aside for petrale sole of 4.38 mt for the 2025-26 biennial process.**

Sablefish south of 36º N. lat.: The council adopted a set-aside of 25 mt in the 2021-22 biennial process. This was done in anticipation of the strong 2016 and 2018 year classes recruiting into the fishery and increasing IOA mortality as a result. (Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental GMT Presentation 1, November 2019). While the IOA set-aside was not exceeded in 2022, the GMT anticipates that mortality under the IOA set-aside may continue to increase with the strong 2020 and 2021 year classes recruiting into the fishery. However, the risk of the ACL being exceeded without a set-aside increase in 2025-26 is low. **The GMT recommends continuing to set the 2025-26 IOA set-aside at 25 mt.**

Widow rockfish: The GMT recommends adopting an IOA set-aside of 1 mt for widow rockfish in 2025-26. This value is slightly higher than the rolling 10-year maximum of 0.67 mt and is anticipated to minimize the risk of exceeding the ACL for a highly attained stock.

Nearshore rockfish north of 40º 10' N. lat.: The Council adopted a set-aside of 1.3 mt for nearshore rockfish north of 40º 10' N. lat. in the 2023-24 biennial process. After reviewing the data, the GMT noted that the majority of the mortality for this complex comes from directed Pacific halibut. Since the directed Pacific halibut fishery has only been observed since 2017, the GMT concluded that taking the average of the IOA mortality in the observed years (2017-2022) in this fishery is likely to accommodate IOA mortality for this stock. **The GMT recommends adopting an IOA set-aside of 1.10 mt for nearshore rockfish north of 40º 10' N. lat.**

Slope rockfish south of 40º 10' N. lat.: The Council adopted a set-aside of 19.73 mt in the 2023-24 biennial process, which is reflective of a historic high mortality prior to 2013. Utilizing the rolling 10-year maximum methodology would result in a set-aside of 8.26 mt. However, the GMT notes that this maximum is not reflective of recent trends in the fishery. IOA catch has been trending downward over time, with a maximum mortality of 0.93 mt since 2018. With this consideration, **the GMT recommends adopting an IOA set-aside of 0.93 mt for slope rockfish**

south of 40º 10' N. lat., which represents the maximum mortality since 2018. The GMT believes this is more indicative of expected 2025-26 mortality.

Yelloweye rockfish: The GMT recommends adopting the second highest value in the 2013-2022 period of 3.86 mt as the IOA set-aside. IOA yelloweye rockfish mortality primarily comes from the directed Pacific halibut fishery. In 2022, IOA mortality was 3.84 mt in the directed Pacific halibut fishery and 0.2 mt in the incidental fishery category, or 3.86 mt total. Upon review of the data, the highest value of 7.37 from 2019 was deemed anomalous.

Exempted Fishing Permits

The Council considered exempted fishing permits (EFPs) under Agenda Item E.6. Based on Council action, two EFPs were forwarded for public review. Neither EFP application requests off-the-top deductions.

Recreational Sablefish

Sablefish North of 36° N. Lat. Recreational Set-aside

The Council expressed interest in reviewing the sablefish north of 36° N. lat. recreational off-the-top set aside for potential modification. The current set-aside is 6 mt. Table 5 shows the maximum, average, and median recreational mortality of sablefish north of 36° N. lat. from 2005 through 2022 as derived from the 2022 GEMM product (Agenda Item G.1.b, NWFSC Report 2, September 2023).

Table 5. High, average, and median values for recreational mortality in metric tons (mt) of sablefish north of 36° N. lat. from 2005-22. (source GEMM, 2022)

	High (mt)	Average (mt)	Median (mt)
Sablefish north 36° N. lat. 2005-22	3.98	1.72	1.66

The recreational mortality of sablefish north of 36° N. lat. has not exceeded 3.98 mt from 2005-22, which is 2.02 mt lower than the 6 mt set-aside. Oregon had the highest mortality between 2005-22 and Washington has zero (0) mt recreational sablefish north of 36° N. lat. mortality reported in the GEMM. However, sablefish have been landed in the Washington recreational fishery and sampled but state catch estimation procedures include sablefish in a mixed species category and thus have not supported production of a species-specific catch estimate. Revisions to the estimation procedure are planned and should allow catch estimates for sablefish to be produced in future years.

Historical data show recreational sablefish north of 36° N. lat. catch estimates to be lower than the current set-aside of 6 mt. However, 2023 catch estimates through July for California, Oregon, and Washington are roughly 20 mt and are anticipated to reach 25 mt by the end of the year (Table 6). It is unclear how much of the 2023 sablefish harvest is due to bycatch from strong sablefish year classes currently being encountered in multiple fisheries and how much is from recreational anglers trying to take advantage of this fishing opportunity. Anecdotal information from Washington suggests the proportion of sablefish retained versus released increased in 2023 compared to previous years but it isn't clear if the fishery is targeting sablefish.

Based on increased recreational mortality in 2023 the **GMT recommends a sablefish north of 36° N. lat. recreational off-the-top set-aside of 30 mt**, which will accommodate anticipated catch seen in 2023 with a 5 mt buffer for 2025-26.

Table 6. shows the best estimate of recreational harvest in metric tons of sablefish north of 36° N. lat. through July 2023 off Washington, Oregon and California. (Source RecFIN)

	WA	OR	CA
Sablefish rec harvest to date	*	2.2	11.6

*Sablefish have been landed in the Washington recreational fishery in 2023 but state catch estimation procedures include sablefish in a mixed species category and thus do not support production of a species-specific catch estimate.

Sablefish South of 36° N. Lat. Recreational Set-aside

The Council expressed interest in establishing a sablefish south of 36° N. lat. recreational off-the-top set-aside. At present, the sablefish south of 36° N. lat. apportionment allocation has ACL set-asides of 2.4 mt for research and 25 mt for incidental open access only. However, sablefish south of 36° N. lat. was part of the Amendment 21 allocation process which designated an ACL set-aside. This set-aside was never used and was simply removed at some point from consideration. The Council could revive this set-aside.

Until 2022, recreational mortality of sablefish S of 36° N. lat. did not exceed 1.15 mt during the time period analyzed (2005-22), with most years having no recreational sablefish mortality. In 2022, mortality was 1.15 mt and 2023 recreational mortality from January to July is 0.9 mt.

There is indication more recreational anglers are interested in targeting sablefish due to other groundfish restrictions. Additionally, the repeal of the Cowcod Conservation Area (CCA) will open up new areas anglers could target sablefish S of 36° N. lat. Therefore, a set aside could be merited to better account for recreational sablefish south of 36° N. lat. mortality. Based on the anticipated increase of sablefish harvest with the repeal of the CCA **the GMT recommends creating a sablefish south of 36° N. lat. recreational off-the-top set-aside of 10 mt.** The performance of the fishery after the CCA is removed should be investigated in the next biennial cycle and the 10 mt set aside can be reevaluated at that time.

Table 7 shows the mortality sablefish south of 36° N. lat. from 2005 through 2022 by year as derived from the 2023 GEMM product (Agenda Item G.1.b, NWFSC Report 2, September 2023). The highest, average, and median mortality are shown for the time series.

Table 7. High, average, and median values for recreational mortality of sablefish south of 36° N. lat. from 2005-22. (source GEMM, 2022)

	High (mt)	Average (mt)	Median (mt)
Sablefish south 36° N. lat. 2005-22	1.15	0.24	0.02

Pacific Halibut

The Council expressed interest in identifying groundfish set-asides for the directed Pacific halibut fishery. At present, groundfish mortality in the directed Pacific halibut fishery is already accounted for in the IOA set-aside, so **the GMT recommends not moving forward with this specific fishery set-aside and keep current practices to account for this mortality in the IOA sector.**

Summary

Appendices 1 and 2 summarize off-the-top deductions relative to 2025 and 2026 ACLs and include the proposed tribal set-asides, research, and IOA off-the-top deductions as discussed above. These off-the-top deductions provide preliminary fishery HGs for Council consideration. Highlighted numbers represent values that are higher than those adopted for 2023 and 2024.

Recommendations

- *AIC#2 Updates to Selected Rockfish Conservation Area Coordinates*: **The GMT recommends moving forward with analysis of the minor RCA line changes proposed by CDFW in G.6.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1, September 2023.**
- *AIC#3 Off-the-top Deductions:*
    - **Tribal Set-asides**
        - **The GMT recommends the Council adopt the Tribal requested set-asides, as shown in Agenda Item E.7.a Supplemental Tribal Report 1.**
    - **Research Set-asides**
        - **The GMT recommends the Council adopt the research set-asides for 2025-26 in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.**
    - **Incidental Open Access**
        - **The GMT recommends adopting the IOA set-asides for 2025-26 in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.**
    - **Exempted Fishing Permits (see recommendations in Agenda Item E.6.a Supplemental GMT Report 1 November 2023)**
    - **Recreational Sablefish**
        - **The GMT recommends a sablefish north of 36° N. lat. recreational off-the-top set-aside of 30 mt**
        - **The GMT recommends creating a sablefish south of 36° N. lat. recreational off-the-top set-aside of 10 mt.**
    - **Pacific Halibut**
        - **The GMT recommends not moving forward with this specific fishery set-aside and keep current practices to account for this mortality in the IOA sector.**

Appendix 1: GMT recommended off-the-top deductions for Tribal, research, EFPs, and incidental open access sectors for 2025.

Species	Area	ACL	Tribal	EFP	Research	IOA	Set-aside Total	Fishery HG
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	55.8	5.0	0.0	2.9	3.9	11.8	44.0
Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	11,193.0	2,041.0	0.0	13.0	41.0	2,095.0	9,098.0
Big skate	Coastwide	1,224.0	15.0	0.0	5.5	38.9	59.4	1,164.6
Black rockfish	Washington	244.6	18.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	18.6	226.0
Black rockfish	California	223.6		0.0	0.1	1.2	1.3	222.3
Bocaccio	S of 40º10' N. lat.	1,681.0		0.0	5.6	2.2	7.8	1,673.2
Cabezon	S of 42º N. lat.	161.8		0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	161.2
California scorpionfish	S of 34°27' N. lat.	244.0		0.0	0.8	1.2	2.0	242.0
Canary rockfish	Coastwide	571.3	50.0	0.0	10.1	2.8	62.9	508.4
Chilipepper	S of 40º10' N. lat.	2,815.0		0.0	14.1	13.2	27.3	2,787.7
Cowcod	S of 40º10' N. lat.	76.6		0.0	10.0	0.1	10.1	66.5
Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	754.0	5.0	0.0	8.5	10.7	24.2	729.8
Dover sole	Coastwide	47,424.0	1,497.0	0.0	61.9	25.2	1,584.1	45,839.9
English sole	Coastwide	8,884.0	200.0	0.0	8.0	6.6	214.6	8,669.4
Lingcod	N of 40º10' N. lat.	3,631.0	250.0	0.0	17.7	13.4	281.1	3,349.9
Lingcod	S of 40º10' N. lat.	768.0		0.0	3.2	8.7	11.9	756.1
Longnose skate	Coastwide	1,616.0		0.0	14.7	15.9	30.6	1,585.4
Longspine thornyhead	N of 34º27' N. lat.	2,050.4	30.0	0.0	18.4	1.3	49.7	2,000.7
Longspine thornyhead	S of 34º27' N. lat.	647.5		0.0	1.3	0.2	1.6	645.9
Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600.0	500.0	0.0	0.8	0.6	501.4	1,098.6
Pacific ocean perch	N of 40º10' N. lat.	3,328.0	130.0	0.0	5.4	10.1	145.5	3,182.5
Pacific spiny dogfish	Coastwide	1,361.0	275.0	0.0	41.9	6.7	323.6	1,037.4
Pacific whiting	Coastwide	TBD	TBD	0.0	750.0	1,500.0	2,250.0	
Petrale sole	Coastwide	2,354.0	350.0	0.0	24.1	4.4	378.5	1,975.5
Quillback Rockfish	California			0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	
Sablefish	N of 36º N. lat.	28,687.6		0.0	59.3	0.0	59.3	28,628.3
Sablefish	S of 36º N. lat.	7,857.1	-	0.0	2.3	25.0	27.3	7,829.8
Shortspine thornyhead	N of 34º27' N. lat.	464.9	50.0	0.0	15.8	4.4	70.2	394.7
Shortspine thornyhead	S of 34º27' N. lat.	209.0		0.0	0.5	1.3	1.8	207.2
Splitnose rockfish	S of 40º10' N. lat.	1,508.0		0.0	11.2	2.9	14.1	1,493.9
Starry flounder	Coastwide	392.0		0.0	0.6	14.1	14.7	377.3

Species	Area	ACL	Tribal	EFP	Research	IOA	Set-aside Total	Fishery HG
Widow rockfish	Coastwide	11,237.0	200.0	0.0	17.3	1.0	218.3	11,018.7
Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40º10' N. lat.	6,241.2	1,000.0	0.0	20.6	4.5	1,025.0	5,216.2
Complexes								
Nearshore rockfish north	N of 40º10' N. lat.	87.8	1.5	0.0	0.5	1.1	3.1	84.7
Nearshore rockfish south	S of 40º10' N. lat.	931.8		0.0	0.7	1.8	2.6	929.2
Shelf rockfish north	N of 40º10' N. lat.	1,392.0	30.0	0.0	15.3	20.5	65.8	1,326.2
Shelf rockfish south	S of 40º10' N. lat.	1,464.5		0.0	15.1	11.5	26.6	1,437.9
Slope rockfish north	N of 40º10' N. lat.	1,488.0	36.0	0.0	10.5	11.5	58.0	1,430.0
Slope rockfish south	S of 40º10' N. lat.	693.1		0.0	18.2	0.9	19.1	674.0
Other fish	Coastwide	233.0		0.0	0.1	9.7	9.8	223.2
Other flatfish	Coastwide	7,391.0	60.0	0.0	23.6	87.7	171.3	7,219.7
Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	Oregon	423.3		0.0	0.1	1.5	1.6	421.7
Oregon cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	176.9		0.0	0.1	0.7	0.7	176.2
Washington cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	19.8	2.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	2.4	17.4

Appendix 2: GMT recommended off-the-top deductions for Tribal, research, EFPs, and incidental open access sectors for 2026.

Species	Area	ACL	Tribal	EFP	Research	IOA	Set-aside Total	Fishery HG
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	Coastwide	56.6	5.0	0.0	2.9	3.9	11.8	44.8
Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	9,227.0	2,041.0	0.0	13.0	41.0	2,095.0	7,132.0
Big skate	Coastwide	1,188.0	15.0	0.0	5.5	38.9	59.4	1,128.6
Black rockfish	Washington	241.2	18.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	18.6	222.6
Black rockfish	California	235.7		0.0	0.1	1.2	1.3	234.4
Bocaccio	S of 40º10' N. lat.	1,668.0		0.0	5.6	2.2	7.8	1,660.2
Cabezon	S of 42º N. lat.	155.1		0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	154.5
California scorpionfish	S of 34°27' N. lat.	238.0		0.0	0.8	1.2	2.0	236.0
Canary rockfish	Coastwide	572.5	50.0	0.0	10.1	2.8	62.9	509.6
Chilipepper	S of 40º10' N. lat.	2,642.5		0.0	14.1	13.2	27.3	2,615.2
Cowcod	S of 40º10' N. lat.	75.3		0.0	10.0	0.1	10.1	65.2
Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide	732.0	5.0	0.0	8.5	10.7	24.2	707.8
Dover sole	Coastwide	42,457.0	1,497.0	0.0	61.9	25.2	1,584.1	40,872.9
English sole	Coastwide	8,819.0	200.0	0.0	8.0	6.6	214.6	8,604.4
Lingcod	N of 40º10' N. lat.	3,534.0	250.0	0.0	17.7	13.4	281.1	3,252.9
Lingcod	S of 40º10' N. lat.	795.0		0.0	3.2	8.7	11.9	783.1
Longnose skate	Coastwide	1,579.0		0.0	14.7	15.9	30.6	1,548.4
Longspine thornyhead	N of 34º27' N. lat.	1,957.0	30.0	0.0	18.4	1.3	49.7	1,907.3
Longspine thornyhead	S of 34º27' N. lat.	618.0		0.0	1.3	0.2	1.6	616.4
Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600.0	500.0	0.0	0.8	0.6	501.4	1,098.6
Pacific ocean perch	N of 40º10' N. lat.	3,220.0	130.0	0.0	5.4	10.1	145.5	3,074.5
Pacific spiny dogfish	Coastwide	1,318.0	275.0	0.0	41.9	6.7	323.6	994.4
Pacific whiting	Coastwide	TBD	TBD	0.0	750.0	1,500.0	2,250.0	
Petrale sole	Coastwide	2,255.0	350.0	0.0	24.1	4.4	378.5	1,876.5
Quillback Rockfish	California			0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	
Sablefish	N of 36º N. lat.	27,238.4		0.0	59.3		59.3	27,179.1
Sablefish	S of 36º N. lat.	7,460.2	-	0.0	2.3	25.0	27.3	7,432.9
Shortspine thornyhead	N of 34º27' N. lat.	466.3	50.0	0.0	15.8	4.4	70.2	396.1
Shortspine thornyhead	S of 34º27' N. lat.	209.8		0.0	0.5	1.3	1.8	208.0

Splitnose rockfish	S of 40º10' N. lat.	1,469.0		0.0	11.2	2.9	14.1	1,454.9
Starry flounder	Coastwide	392.0		0.0	0.6	14.1	14.7	377.3
Widow rockfish	Coastwide	10,392.0	200.0	0.0	17.3	1.0	218.3	10,173.7
Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40º10' N. lat.	6,022.6	1,000.0	0.0	20.6	4.5	1,025.0	4,997.6
Complexes								
Nearshore rockfish north	N of 40º10' N. lat.	86.1	1.5	0.0	0.5	1.1	3.1	83.0
Nearshore rockfish south	S of 40º10' N. lat.	930.6		0.0	0.7	1.8	2.6	928.0
Shelf rockfish north	N of 40º10' N. lat.	1,378.1	30.0	0.0	15.3	20.5	65.8	1,312.3
Shelf rockfish south	S of 40º10' N. lat.	1,462.3		0.0	15.1	11.5	26.6	1,435.7
Slope rockfish north	N of 40º10' N. lat.	1,460.2	36.0	0.0	10.5	11.5	58.0	1,402.2
Slope rockfish south	S of 40º10' N. lat.	690.1		0.0	18.2	0.9	19.1	671.0
Other fish	Coastwide	222.5		0.0	0.1	9.7	9.8	212.7
Other flatfish	Coastwide	6,734.3	60.0	0.0	23.6	87.7	171.3	6,563.0
Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	Oregon	428.1		0.0	0.1	1.5	1.6	426.5
Oregon cabezon/kelp greenling	Oregon	174.4		0.0	0.1	0.7	0.7	173.7
Washington cabezon/kelp greenling	Washington	17.1	2.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	2.4	14.7