



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
LONG BEACH, CA 90802

December 14, 2023

Sent Via Email

Mr. Brad Pettinger, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place
Portland, OR 97220

Dear Mr. Pettinger:

By this letter, I am notifying you that NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, has determined that quillback rockfish off the coast of California is overfished according to applicable minimum stock size threshold in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). This determination was based on the stock defined in Amendment 31 to the FMP and our review of the 2021 assessment of this stock, authored by the Northwest Fisheries Science Center and endorsed as the best scientific information available by the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Scientific and Statistical Committee. A copy of the final stock assessment is available on the Council's website at www.pcouncil.org ([Langseth et. al. 2021](#)).

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), under Section 304(e)(3), requires the Council to prepare and implement a plan amendment or proposed regulations within two years of notification that a stock is overfished. Further, Council actions should be submitted to NMFS within 15 months of this notification to ensure sufficient time for the Secretary to implement the measures, if approved (50 CFR 600.310(j)(2)(ii)). I look forward to working with the Council in developing a plan to rebuild the quillback rockfish stock off the coast of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott R. Quan".

for Jennifer Quan
Regional Administrator

cc:

Pete Hassemer, Merrick Burden, Kelly Ames
Ryan Wulff, Keeley Kent, Gretchen Hanshew, Ruth Howell

