

2025-26 FISHERIES ANALYSIS UPDATE AND ADOPT CALIFORNIA  
QUILLBACK ROCKFISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND REBUILDING  
PARAMETERS

Under this Agenda item the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduled to provide guidance regarding the overwinter analyses to the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Council staff, as appropriate. The outcomes will be incorporated into the analytical document that will support Council action in April 2024 to adopt a final preferred alternative for harvest specifications and a preliminary preferred alternative for management measures. Additionally, under Agenda Item F.2 the Council is scheduled to adopt the California quillback rockfish rebuilding analysis. Under F.7, the Council should adopt the associated harvest specifications and rebuilding parameters for analysis.

***Fishery Analysis Update***

The GMT is expected to update the Council on their overwinter allocation analyses and request guidance. Specifically, the GMT noted issues with shortspine thornyhead management which may compel the Council to consider an amendment to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The GMT will present their findings to the Council and seek guidance. Council guidance will facilitate finalization of the GMT's analyses for the April 2024 Council meeting.

Council staff will brief the Council on the organization of the analytical documents for this process and request clarification on motions from November 2023 regarding the copper rockfish annual catch target and canary rockfish alternative harvest control rule (Attachment 1). Further, discrepancies between the FMP and Federal Regulation were noted for the scientific name of Pacific sand lance and the common name of spiny dogfish (Attachment 2). The Council could consider adding this correction to the 2025-26 groundfish biennial process, as it would facilitate a timely resolution of this issue. Staff will also update the Council on two annual catch limit (ACL) technical corrections for lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat. and petrale sole at this meeting (Attachment 3) discovered during the overwinter period.

***California Stock of Quillback Rockfish***

In November 2023, the Council adopted a range of 2025 California quillback harvest specification alternatives for analysis. The low end of the range was based on the ABC control rule from the 2023 rebuilding analysis (OFL/ACL 1.52 mt/1.3 mt) and the high end was based on the  $SPR_{50\%}$  harvest rate MSY proxy from the 2021 data-moderate assessment, with a category 3 buffer (OFL/ACL 8.41 mt/5.06 mt) ([Agenda Item E.2.a Supp CDFW Rpt 2 Nov 2023](#)).

Under Agenda Item F.2, the Council is scheduled to adopt the California quillback rockfish rebuilding analysis. Under Agenda Item F.7, the Council is scheduled to adopt a preliminary preferred rebuilding strategy, associated 2025-2026 harvest specifications (OFL/ABC/ACL), and refine the range of alternatives, as necessary. The rebuilding strategy specifies which alternative  $SPR_{target}$  harvest rate is used to rebuild the stock (e.g.,  $SPR_{50}$ , ABC rule, etc.) and analyzed in the

rebuilding plan. The  $SPR_{target}$  is the rate that will achieve rebuilding of probability of 50 percent by a target year ( $T_{target}$ ).

For reference, at the November 2023 Council meeting, the Groundfish Management Team recommended the alternative  $SPR_{target}$  harvest rates of  $F=0$  and the ABC rule to represent the range of rebuilding alternatives for analysis ([Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2023](#)). These two “bookends” represent the shortest time for rebuilding ( $F=0$  with  $T_{target}=2045$ ) and the highest yield harvest rate strategy within the rebuilding timeline (ABC rule with  $T_{target}=2060$ ).

The Council is scheduled to adopt final 2025-26 harvest specifications at the April 2024 meeting and finalize 2025-26 management measures in June 2024.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Consider and Provide Guidance for the Range of Management Measure Alternatives and Draft Analyses, as Appropriate.**
- 2. Consider a Fishery Management Plan Amendment for Shortspine Thornyhead Management, as appropriate.**
- 3. Clarify Council Intent Regarding the Copper Rockfish Annual Catch Target Development and Intent Regarding the Canary Rockfish Alternative Harvest Control Rule Alternatives.**
- 4. Adopt a Rebuilding Strategy (pair(s) of  $T_{target}$  and  $SPR_{target}$  harvest rate) and Preliminary Preferred 2025-2026 Harvest Specifications (OFL, ABC, ACL) for California Quillback Rockfish.**
- 5. Provide Guidance on Management Measures under the California Quillback Rockfish Rebuilding Strategy, as Appropriate.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item F.7, Attachment 1: Requested Guidance Regarding the Copper Rockfish Annual Catch Target and the Canary Rockfish Alternative Harvest Control Rule.
2. Agenda Item F.7, Attachment 2: Corrections of the Pacific Sand Lance Scientific Name and the Common Name of Pacific Spiny Dogfish in Federal Regulation.
3. Agenda Item F.7, Attachment 3: Technical Corrections to Lingcod South of 40° 10' North Latitude and Petrale Sole 2025-2026 Harvest Specifications.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

### **Agenda Order:**

- F.7 2025-26 Fisheries Analysis Update and Adopt California Quillback Rockfish Harvest Quillback Rockfish Harvest Specifications and Rebuilding Parameters Todd Phillips/Marlene A Bellman
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment

- c. **Council Action:** Review Analysis and Provide Guidance; Adopt a Preliminary Preferred Rebuilding Strategy and Associated Harvest Specifications for California Quillback Rockfish, Refine the Range of Alternatives, As Necessary

PFMC  
02/09/24