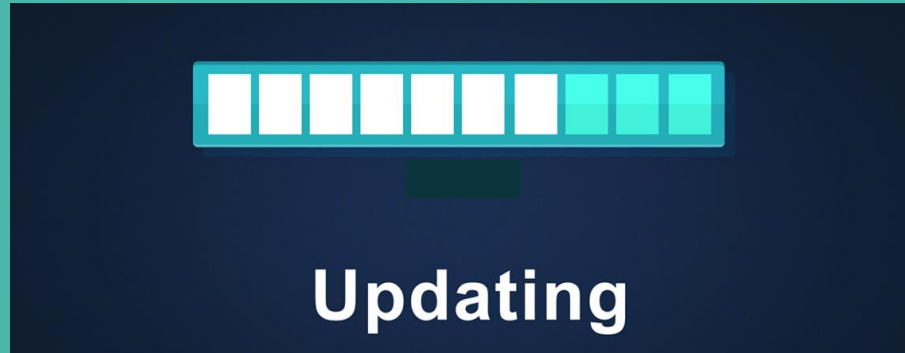


# Update on 2025-26 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures



# Overview of Items that need Council clarification:

1. **Quillback rockfish**
2. **At-sea set-asides** - is the range sufficient?
3. **Petrable sole** - is further analysis/potential action needed?
4. **Canary rockfish** - is the range sufficient?
5. **Widow rockfish** - is the range sufficient?
6. Scoping document **shortspine thornyhead** - is further analysis/potential action needed?
7. **Rockfish species sorting requirements** - is further analysis/potential action needed?
8. **Descending device mortality rates** - yelloweye rockfish, cowcod rockfish and canary rockfish correction in the SAFE
9. **Sablefish recreational discard mortality rate** - should we update
10. **Continuous transit requirements** for the California Recreational Fishery

# Harvest Specifications - Update

- Quillback rockfish

# Quillback Rockfish

The GMT continues to recommend the same range of options identified in November ([Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, Nov. 2023](#))

- The ABC rule:  $T_{\text{target}} 2060$
- $F = 0$ :  $T_{\text{target}} 2045$

The GMT recommends the ABC rule as the preliminary preferred option for the rebuilding strategy. This represents the strategy that is closest to the maximum time to rebuild but does not result in an ACL that exceeds the OFL.

The GMT seeks guidance from the Council if additional rebuilding strategies should be analyzed.

# Routine Management Measures - Update

- **At-sea Set Asides**
- **Petrale Sole Allocations**
- **Canary Rockfish Allocations**
- **Widow Rockfish Allocations**
- **Sablefish recreational set-aside south of 36° N. lat**

# At-Sea Set-Asides

- Added a lower widow rockfish set-aside due to reductions in IFQ allocations in 2025-26
- Added a higher yellowtail rockfish north set-aside due to high variability in annual at-sea catches, increasing IFQ allocations, and high bootstrap simulation projections
- *Is the range sufficient?*

Species Category	Option 1 Status Quo	Option 2	Option 3
Arrowtooth flounder	70	100	-
Canary rockfish	36	30	20
Darkblotched rockfish	76.4	100	150
Dover sole	10	-	-
Lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat.	15	-	-
Longnose skate	5	-	-
Other flatfish	35	100	-
Pacific halibut	10	-	-
Pacific ocean perch	300	-	-
Petrале sole	5	-	-
Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.	100	300	429
Shelf rockfish complex north	35	-	-
Slope rockfish complex north	300	-	-
Shortspine thornyhead north	70	100	50
Widow rockfish	476	300	-
Yellowtail rockfish north	320	360	450

# Petrale Sole

- The non-trawl allocation of petrale sole was fully attained in 2023, at 30.2 mt out of the 30 mt non-trawl allocation.
- Major driver of non-trawl allocation attainment was CA rec which harvested 21.4 mt.
- Unknown whether increased CA rec harvest is anomalous or whether that will be the trend in the future.
- Currently, only the commercial non-trawl sector has management measures that could be used inseason to limit catch, if needed

# Petrale Sole

- Proposed 2024 inseason changes for CA rec will push anglers into nearshore waters <20 fm when they were in offshore waters >50 fathoms in 2023, which could reduce petrale sole harvest in 2024.
- Petrale sole is an important target species in the trawl IFQ fishery, for which allocations are decreasing substantially in 2025-26.



# Petrale Sole: Council Guidance

- At this point, the GMT does not see merit in investigating an allocation change for 2025-26.
- ***The GMT requests guidance regarding whether the GMT should continue analysis of petrale sole trawl/non-trawl allocation adjustments for the 2025-26 biennium.***
- ***Does the Council want the GMT to analyze petrale sole management measures for the California, Oregon, and Washington recreational fisheries that could be used inseason or preseason to limit petrale sole mortality in 2025-26, if needed?***

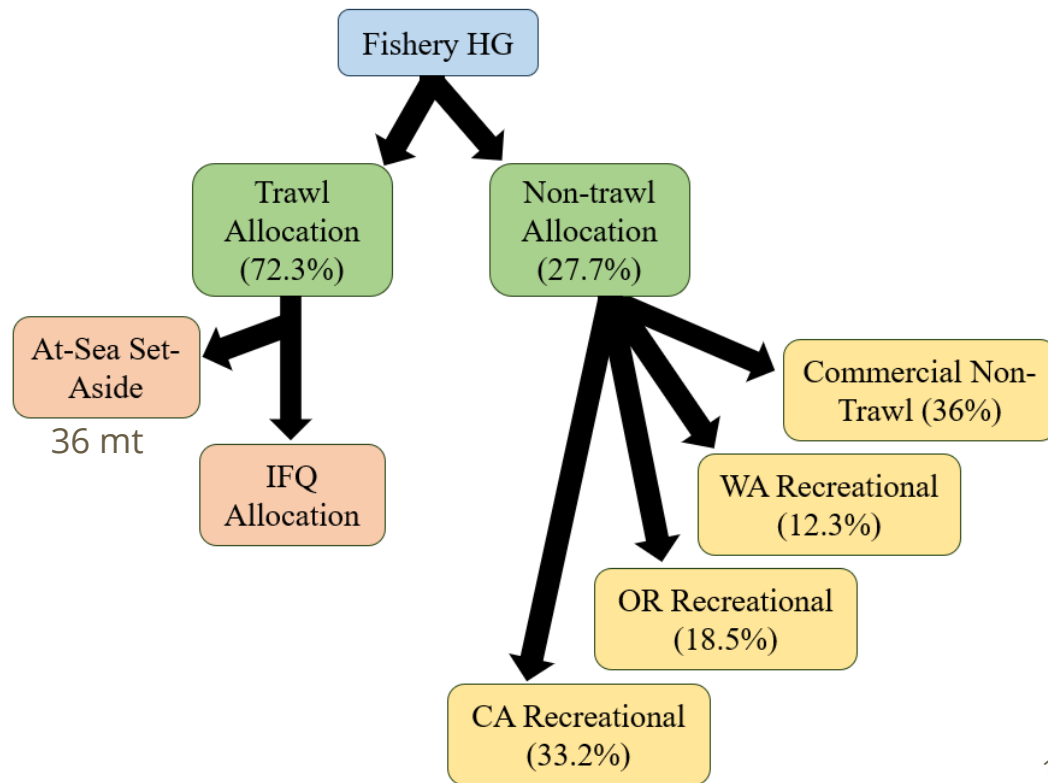
# Questions on what's been covered so far?

- **Quillback rockfish**
- **At-sea set-asides** - is the range sufficient?
- **Petrale sole** - is further analysis/potential action needed?

# Canary Rockfish Allocation Range

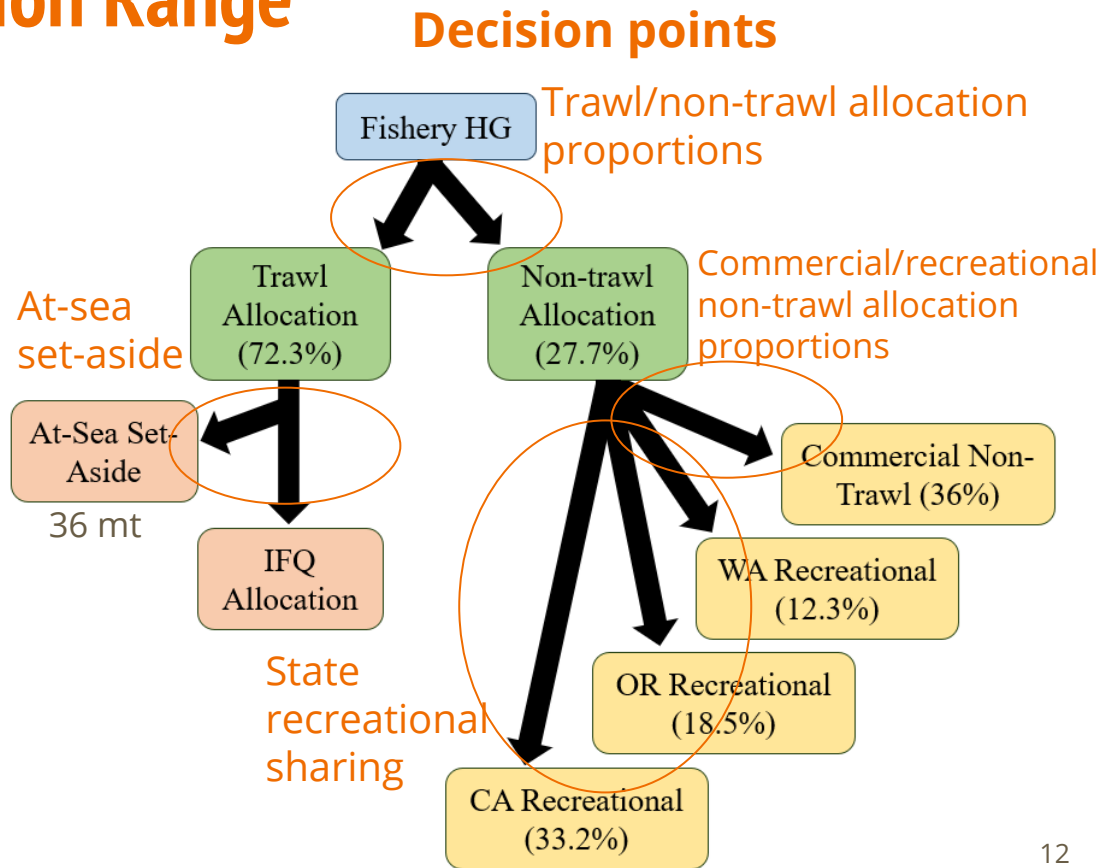
- Following the 2023 stock assessment, there will be large reductions in canary rockfish catch limits across all sectors in the next biennium

Status quo allocation scheme



# Canary Rockfish Allocation Range

- Following the 2023 stock assessment, there will be large reductions in canary rockfish catch limits across all sectors in the next biennium



# Canary Rockfish Allocation Range

The GMT analyzed the following options:

*Trawl/non-trawl allocation proportions:*

- **Option 1 Status Quo:** 72.3% trawl, 27.7% non-trawl
- **Option 2:** 67.3% trawl, 32.7% non-trawl
- **Option 3:** 59.8 % trawl, 40.2% to non-trawl

*At-sea set-aside:*

- **Option 1 Status Quo:** 36 mt
- **Option 2:** 30 mt
- **Option 3:** 20 mt

# Canary Rockfish Non-Trawl/Recreational Range

The GMT analyzed the following options (cont):

*Commercial non-trawl and recreational non-trawl sharing arrangement:*

- **Option 1 Status Quo:**
  - 36% commercial non-trawl; 64% recreational sector
- **Option 2:**
  - 31% commercial non-trawl; 69% recreational sector.

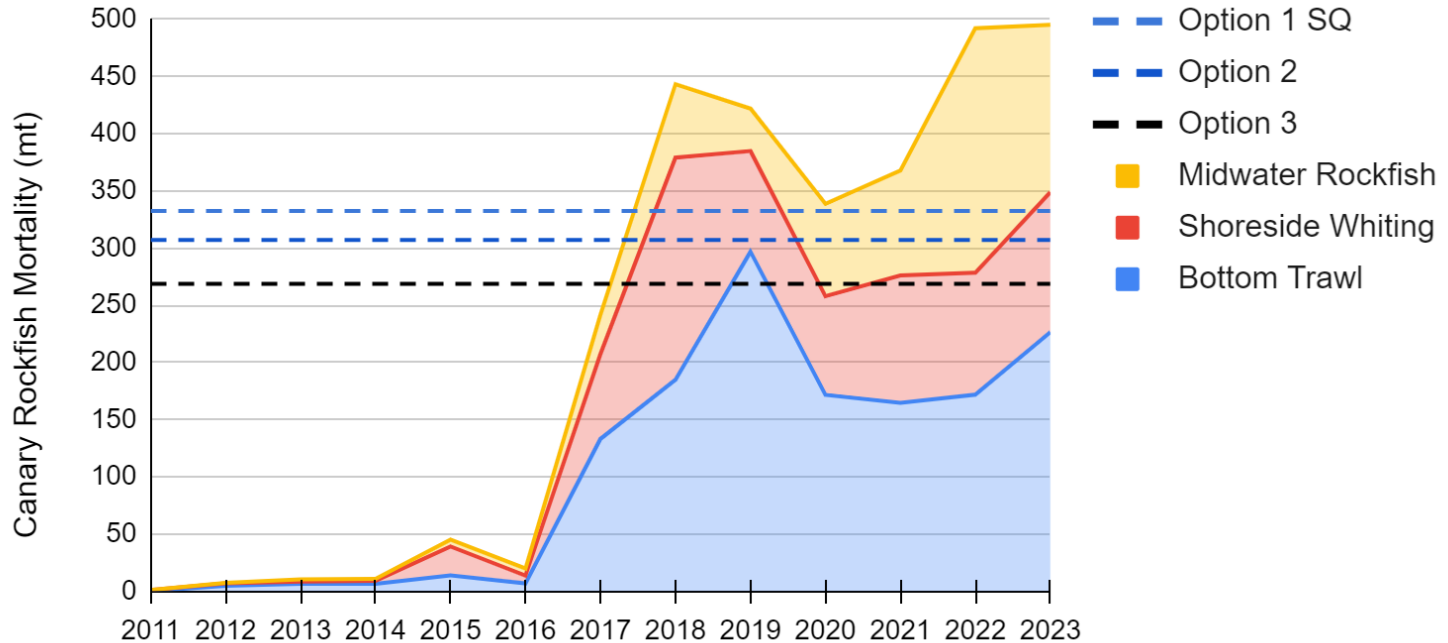
# Canary Rockfish Allocation Range

The GMT has analyzed the following options (cont):

*State-specific recreational shares:*

- **Option 1 Status Quo:** Shares are based on the status quo proportions of the collective recreational share.
  - 19.2% WA recreational, 28.9% OR recreational, 51.9% CA recreational
- **Option 2:** Shares are based on each state's highest three years of catch since 2017.
  - 20.2%, WA recreational, 34.4% OR recreational, 45.2% CA recreational

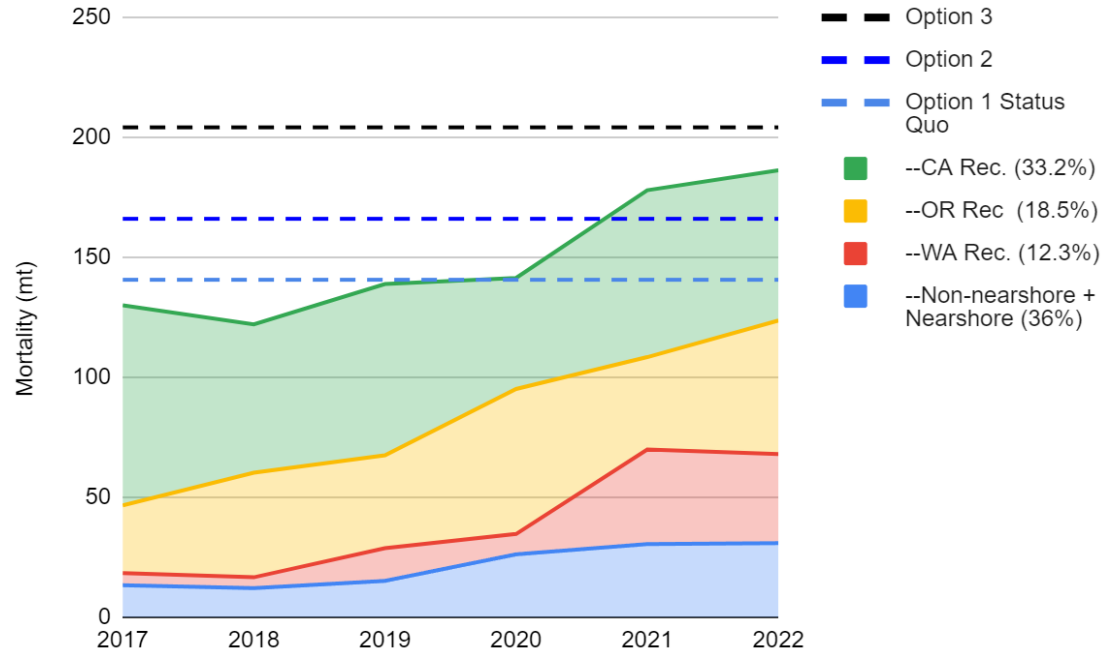
# Canary Rockfish Allocation Range: Trawl Impacts



Canary rockfish mortality in the IFQ fishery by sector, 2011-2023. Dashed lines reflect the 2025 IFQ allocations under each of the trawl/non-trawl allocation options, assuming the status quo at-sea set-aside of 36 mt.



# Canary Rockfish Allocation Range: Non-trawl Impacts



Non-Trawl mortality since 2017 showing expansions in all sectors through 2022. Options represent trawl/non-trawl allocation options.

# Canary Rockfish Allocation Range

- With low limits in the upcoming biennium, both trawl and non-trawl sectors are likely to see serious impacts, and no option can fully relieve these impacts for any of the sectors
- ***Is the range presented sufficient? Does the Council want the GMT to continue analyzing canary rockfish allocation adjustments?***

# Widow Rockfish Allocation Range

- In 2025-26, trawl allocations will be lower than recent mortality in the trawl sector.
- Given the high likelihood of >90 percent attainment of the trawl allocation, the GMT analyzed 3 options to transfer some non-trawl allocation to trawl.
  - There is uncertainty in the 2025-26 non-trawl mortality given recent management changes that concentrate effort and increase fishing area to non-trawl midwater species.

# Widow Rockfish Allocation Range

- The GMT analyzed the following options:
  - **Option 1 (Status Quo):** 400 mt allocated to non-trawl, remainder to trawl
  - **Option 2:** 300 mt allocated to non-trawl, remainder to trawl
  - **Option 3:** 200 mt allocated to non-trawl, remainder to trawl
- *Is the range sufficient?*

# Sablefish recreational set-aside south of 36° N. lat

- Update: The 10 mt sablefish recreational set-aside proposed in November was placed in the non-trawl sector analysis, because it will come out of the non-trawl allocation south of 36°N. Lat.,
- The recreational set-aside poses a very low risk to exceeding the harvest limits as the non-trawl has averaged 30% of their allocation since 2015.
  - The non-trawl commercial allocation would decrease from 4,541 mt to 4,531 mt.

# Questions on what's been covered so far?

- **Canary Rockfish Allocation Range**
- **Widow Rockfish Allocation Range**
- **Sablefish Recreational Set-aside South of 36° N. lat**

# New Management Measures - Update

- **Shortspine Thornyhead**
- **Rockfish Species Sorting Requirements**
- **Discard Mortality Rates**
  - Corrections: Canary, Yelloweye, Cowcod rockfishes
  - Sablefish discard mortality rates for the recreational fisheries
- **Continuous transit requirements for CA recreational fisheries**

# Shortspine Thornyhead

- The results 2023 stock assessment will translate into restrictive ACLs for the forthcoming 2025-26 biennium
- Overwinter, the GMT identified that in order to stay within the non-trawl north allocation, limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) trip limits for 2025 would need to be 350 lbs. per 2 months, reduced from the 2024 trip limit in periods 4-6 of 2,500 lbs. per 2 months and a reduction of OA trip limits to 40 lbs. per 2 months north of 34° 27' N. lat. from the 2024 trip limit of 50 lbs. per 2 months.



# Shortspine Thornyhead

- Trip limits would have to be so low that a targeted fishery likely can't be prosecuted
- The GMT also identified expected constraints to the trawl fishery north of 34° 27' N. lat. resulting from substantial IFQ allocation reductions

# Shortspine Thornyhead

- **Pathway 1**
  - Revise the trawl/non-trawl allocations in the area north of 34° 27' N. lat. (currently 95 percent : 5 percent)
  - Revise the trawl/ non-trawl allocations in the area south of 34° 27' N. lat. (50 mt trawl: remainder non-trawl)
- **Pathway 2**
  - Remove the management line at 34° 27' N. lat. and re-combine respective sector allocations north and south of 34° 27' N. lat.
- **Pathway 3**
  - Consider Issue Outside the Harvest Specifications Process
- ***The GMT seeks guidance on which pathway(s) the GMT should further analyze***

# Shortspine Thornyhead- Pathway 1

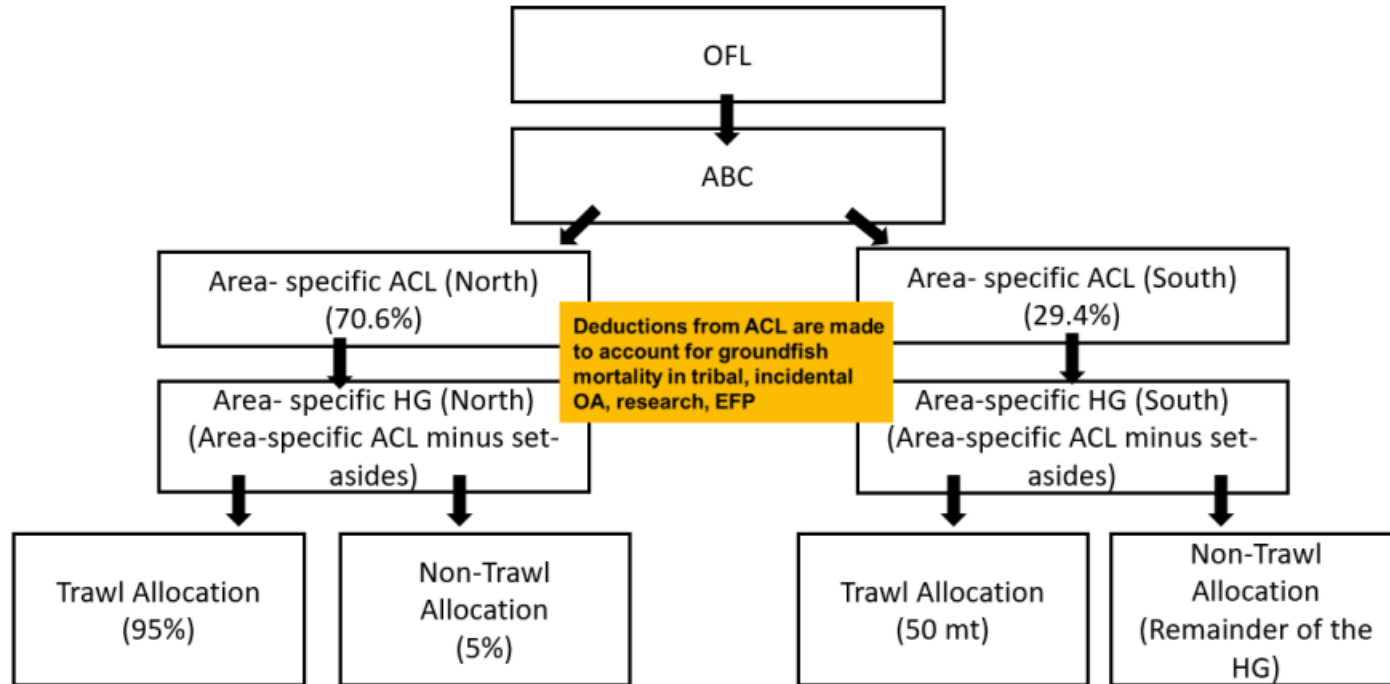


Figure 1. Status Quo Option 1 Allocation Scheme.

# Shortspine Thornyhead- Pathway 2

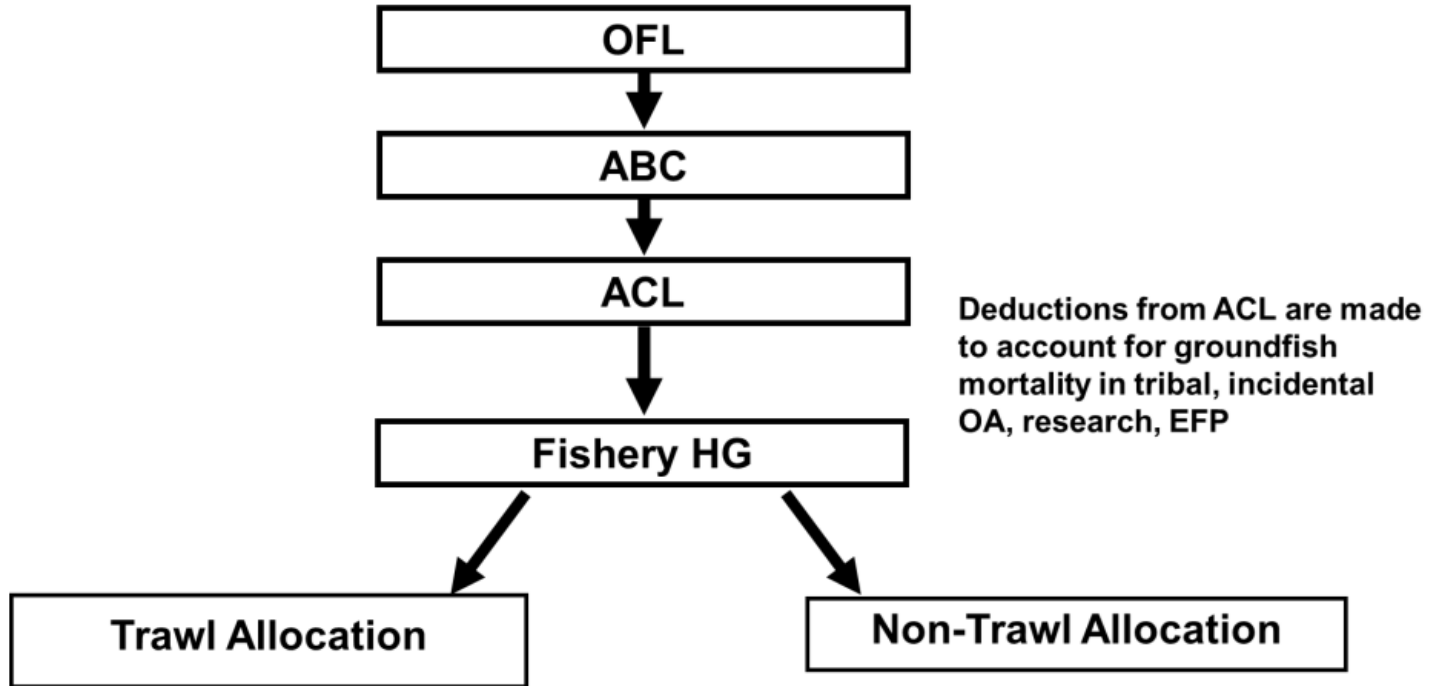


Figure 2. Coastwide ACL. Once this base year calculation was decided, this schematic is now how the trawl/non-trawl allocation will be decided into the future (pending further Council action).

# Shortspine Thornyhead- Pathway 2

- This would result in a 64% trawl: 36% non-trawl using the 2024 base year for trawl re-combination
- Two options for adjusting the management structure
  - Option 1: Set coastwide trip limits
  - Option 2: Set sub-area trip limits
- Both pathways 1 & 2 would require an FMP amendment

# Rockfish Species Sorting Requirements

- Overwinter analysis and GMT discussion determined that this issue is complex and evaluation of impacts would benefit from additional time for state sampling program and commercial buyer review
- The harvest specifications process may not provide sufficient time
- Preliminary findings and potential scoping will be submitted to the April advanced briefing book
- The GMT sees merit in pursuing this action through a process outside of biennial management measures
- ***Does the Council want the GMT to continue analyzing this new management measure for 2025-26, or would the Council prefer to address this through an alternative pathway?***

# Discard Mortality Rates (DMR)

- Technical corrections to the 2018, 2020, & 2022 SAFE for canary rockfish, yelloweye rockfish, and cowcod (when using a descending device) DMRs are needed.
- The correct Council approved rates are found in [Agenda Item D.3.b., Supplemental GMT Report 2, March 2014](#), page 278
- ***The GMT requests the corrections be made by Council staff***

# Sablefish Discard Mortality Rate for the Recreational Fisheries

- New Management Measure to incorporate either the commercial hook-and-line DMR of 20% or the 7% DMR for recreational FMP species that lack a swim bladder for recreational fisheries when releasing sablefish at sea.
- Species in the recreational fishery with a 7% DMR include lingcod, flatfish, cabezon and greenling
- ***Does the Council want the GMT to analyze a discard mortality rate for recreational sablefish?***



# Continuous Transit Requirements for the California Recreational Fishery

- GAP Request from September 2023:
  - For California recreational fisheries, there are two issues at hand that the GAP is requesting clarification and action on. First is during the >50 fathoms season, the GAP is requesting clarity on an explicit exemption to stop/anchor in the nearshore with shelf and slope groundfish aboard, no hook and line deployed/gear stored. Second, within this scenario we are asking to have an explicit exemption for the use of the following gear types.
    - 1. Hand dip net (as defined by CA for use of catching bait squid) Hoop net for lobster fishing (All of California)
    - 2. Crab Trap for rockfish/crab combo (North of Conception)

# Continuous Transit Requirements for the California Recreational Fishery

- California addressed the GAP's request in state waters via emergency measures implemented in October 2023; the issue remains for federal waters
- NMFS will implement emergency measures (expected publication date is April 1, 2024) to allow California recreational vessels to stop (as opposed to being in continuous transit) shoreward of the 50 fathom line when an "offshore" fishery is in place for 2024
- ***The GMT requests this item will remain on the new management measures list to address for 2025 and beyond***

# Questions? - THE END

- Scoping document **shortspine thornyhead** - is further analysis/potential action needed?
- **Rockfish species sorting requirements** - is further analysis/potential action needed?
- **Descending device mortality rates** - yelloweye rockfish, cowcod rockfish and canary rockfish correction in SAFE
- **Sablefish recreational discard mortality rate** - should we update
- **Continuous transit requirements** for the California Recreational Fishery