SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON 2025-26 FISHERIES ANALYSIS UPDATE AND ADOPT CALIFORNIA QUILLBACK ROCKFISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND REBUILDING PARAMETERS

Under Agenda Item F.2, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) continues to recommend use of the 2021 stock assessment and the adoption of the 2023 rebuilding analysis for California quillback rockfish. Under this agenda item, the SSC recommends 1.52 mt for the 2025 overfishing limit (OFL). The 2026 OFL will depend on the rebuilding strategy adopted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council).

The SSC notes that in <u>Agenda Item E.7.a</u>, <u>GMT Report 1 (November 2023)</u>, the OFL for 2026 under the acceptable biological catch (ABC) Rule should be 1.77 mt rather than 1.81 mt.

The SSC suggests that the Council request a catch-only projection for Washington Cabezon to be reviewed at the April Council meeting. This is needed due to the non-equilibrium data-poor assessment used for this stock in 2019 and the need to account for actual removals to better define appropriate management for this stock in 2025 and beyond.

PFMC 03/10/24