

PRELIMINARY PREFERRED MANAGEMENT MEASURE ALTERNATIVES FOR 2025-26 FISHERIES

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduled to select their preliminary preferred management measures alternatives for 2025-26 groundfish fisheries. Under Agenda Item F.2, the Council will adopt final preferred harvest specifications; however, should any harvest specifications remain outstanding, they can be adopted under this agenda item or postponed until June 2024. Final action to adopt any remaining harvest specifications and management measures for 2025-26 groundfish fisheries is scheduled for the June 2024 Council meeting. Anticipated Council actions under this agenda item are summarized in the Action Item Checklist (Agenda Item F.5, Attachment 1).

In November 2023, the Council forwarded a range of management measures for preliminary analysis. Council gave direction to the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to prioritize analysis of harvest specifications and routine measures as part of their over-winter work. After the analysis of these items was completed, the GMT began analysis of new management measures, which included a groundfish open access fishery registration requirement and a descending device requirement for recreational vessels in Federal waters. These detailed analyses are provided in the Draft 2025-26 Groundfish Fishery Management Measures Analytical document (Agenda Item F.5, Attachment 2).

At the March 2024 meeting, the Council was updated on the status of the overwinter analysis and provided guidance to the GMT. The Council clarified that the copper rockfish south of 34° 27' N. lat. annual catch target should only apply to the California recreational sector. The Council also gave guidance to the GMT that the range of allocation options for canary rockfish, widow rockfish, and petrale sole was sufficient to inform their decision making. The Council was also informed by the GMT of a new finding relating to the constraints of the Amendment 21 shortspine thornyhead allocation to non-trawl fishery ([Agenda Item F.7, GMT Report 3, March 2024](#)). The Council gave direction to the team to further explore this issue and bring analysis back for review at this meeting. A stand-alone analysis on the shortspine thornyhead allocation issue will be provided in a Supplemental GMT report.

Council adopted the rebuilding analysis and range of harvest specifications for analysis for the California stock of quillback rockfish at the March 2024 meeting, which is a first step in developing a rebuilding plan for this stock. A rebuilding plan necessitates an amendment to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Amendment (FMP). Should the Council move forward with revisions to the shortspine thornyhead allocation structure, the FMP will also need to be amended to note this change. Draft FMP language is provided as Attachment 3 for Council consideration. The Council is scheduled to adopt the final FMP language at their June 2024 meeting.

The GMT and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) are expected to provide further recommendations regarding 2025-26 groundfish management. The Council is scheduled to

consider advisory body and public input on Tuesday, April 9 before adopting preliminary preferred alternatives for management measures on Wednesday, April 10.

Council Action:

1. **Adopt any remaining final harvest specifications.**
2. **Adopt preliminary preferred adjustments to routine management measures.**
3. **Refine the range of two-year allocations for further analysis, if needed, and identify preliminary preferred options.**
4. **Refine the range of new management measures for further analysis, if needed, identify preliminary preferred.**
5. **Provide guidance on the California stock of quillback rockfish rebuilding plan, as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.5, Attachment 1: Action Item Checklist.
2. Agenda Item F.5, Attachment 2: Draft 2025-26 Management Measure Council Analytical Document (***Electronic Only***).
3. Agenda Item F.5, Attachment 3: Draft Language for Amendment 33 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (***Electronic Only***).
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- F.5 Preliminary Preferred Management Measure Alternatives for
2025-26 Fisheries Todd Phillips, Marlene Bellman
(*Part 1, continues Wednesday, April 10*)
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** (*Scheduled for Part 2 on Wednesday, April 10*)
- F.5 Preliminary Preferred Management Measure Alternatives for
2025-26 Fisheries Todd Phillips, Marlene Bellman
(*Part 2, continued from Tuesday, April 9*)
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt Any Remaining Harvest Specifications and Preliminary Preferred Alternatives for Management Measures in 2025-26 Fisheries

PFMC
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