

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON BIENNIAL HARVEST  
SPECIFICATIONS FOR 2025-26 FISHERIES – FINAL PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the draft 2025 and 2026 overfishing limits (OFLs) and acceptable biological catches (ABCs) for US West Coast groundfish stocks and stock complexes (Agenda Item F.2, Supplemental Revised Attachment 1). This included harvest specifications under default and alternative harvest control rules (HCRs) as adopted in November 2023.

For quillback rockfish off California, the SSC endorses the values for the 2026 OFLs and ABCs for Alternatives 1, 2, and 4 (listed in Table 3 of Attachment 1) as technically correct and consistent with the adopted rebuilding plan. For 2026 the OFLs for Alternatives 1, 2 and 4 would be 1.77, 1.77, and 1.81 mt, respectively, conditional on the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council's) choice of a final alternative for 2025.

The SSC reviewed the new catch-only projection for Washington cabezon (Agenda Item F.2, Supplemental Revised Attachment 2) and found it to be technically sound. The harvest specifications previously recommended by the SSC and adopted by the Council were mistakenly carried over from a past biennium. The 2019 Washington cabezon assessment did not contain projections for 2025-26 and thus a catch-only projection was needed. The new analysis applies the methods used in 2019, using catches between 2018-2023 that were provided by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. For 2024, an average of the 2022 and 2023 catches was used. For years 2025 and beyond, catches were set equal to the projected ABC based on a category 3 sigma ( $\sigma$ ) and a  $P^*$  value of 0.45. For 2025, this projection results in an OFL of 11.72 mt and an ABC of 9.12 mt (Appendix 1 of Attachment 1). For 2026, the OFL would be 11.59 mt and the ABC would be 9.02 mt, conditional on the Council default  $P^* = 0.45$  for 2025 (Appendix 2 of Attachment 1). The SSC endorses these values as best available science for informing management.

PFMC  
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