

GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON BIENNIAL MANAGEMENT
MEASURES FOR 2025-26: TRIP LIMITS, BAG LIMITS, AND SEASON STRUCTURES;
NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURES; & QUILLBACK ROCKFISH REBUILDING PLAN

This report covers Items #11-20 from the Action Item Checklist ([Agenda Item F.5, REVISED Attachment 1, April 2024](#)). Items #1-3 (GMT Report 3 ([Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3, April 2024](#))) and Items #4-10 (GMT Report 4, Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 5) are in separate reports.

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Summary of Recommendations

- *AIC #11 Shorebased IFQ: The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) recommends adopting the status quo individual fishing quota (IFQ) trip limits for non-IFQ species as the preliminary preferred alternative (PPA).*
- *AIC #12 to #15 Open Access & Limited Entry Fixed Gear Fisheries North & South of 40° 10' N. Lat: The GMT recommends the Council adopt as PPA status quo trip limits for all EXCEPT:*
 - **THOSE SPECIES AND SUB-AREAS DETAILED IN APPENDIX 1 - The GMT recommends that the Council adopt Option 2 as specified in Appendix 1 as PPA, which would align the trip limits to all be bimonthly.**
 - **LINGCOD OPEN ACCESS NORTH OF 42° N. LAT. - The GMT recommends the Council adopt Option 3: 9,000 lbs. per 2 months for all periods for lingcod**
 - **SABLEFISH N. OF 36° N. LAT. OPEN ACCESS AND LIMITED ENTRY - The GMT does not have any management concerns for any of the sablefish trip limit options and recommends the Council weigh the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel's (GAP's) recommendations when deciding what option, if any, they want to move forward with.**
- *AIC #16 Washington Recreational: The GMT recommends the Council move forward with the Washington proposed recreational fishery structure as described in [Agenda Item F.5, REVISED Attachment 2, April 2024](#) and the PPA for canary rockfish for public review as presented in [Agenda Item F.5.a, WDFW Supplemental Report 1](#).*
- *AIC #17 Oregon Recreational: The GMT recommends moving forward with the PPA identified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) specified in Table 2 of [Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental ODFW Report 1, April 2024](#)*
- *AIC #18 California Recreational: The GMT recommends moving forward the PPA's identified by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) specified in [Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1 April 2024](#).*
- *AIC #19 "New" Management Measures:*
 - *AIC #19a Create open access permit/registration: The GMT recommends the Council adopt Option 2 (federal open access registration/permit requirement) as PPA.*
 - *AIC #19b Update electronic monitoring program (EM) discard and retention requirements regulations: The GMT recommends the Council Option 2 (update EM discard and retention requirements in regulation to include sablefish and rex sole, and remove California halibut) as PPA.*
 - *AIC #19c Create coastwide federal sorting requirements for rockfish by processors: The GMT recommends pursuing this action through a process outside of biennial management measures.*
 - *AIC #19d Shortspine thornyhead management changes:*
 - **Decision #1: The GMT recommends Option 2 in [Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2024](#), removal of the management line at 34° 27' N. lat. for shortspine thornyhead as PPA.**

- **Decision 2a: No Recommendation.**
- **Decision 2b: The GMT recommends sub-option 2 to create a non-trawl ACT north of 34° 27' N. lat. that is set at 25 percent of the coastwide non-trawl allocation ([Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2](#)) as PPA.**
- **Decision 2c: The GMT recommends:**
 - **Option 2 for limited entry shortspine thornyhead south of 34° 27' N. lat.**
 - 4,000 lbs./2 months for all periods
 - **Option 1 for open access shortspine thornyhead south of 34° 27' N. lat.**
 - Shortspine thornyhead and longspine thornyhead 100 lbs. per day, no more than 1,000 lbs. per 2 months
 - **Option 2 for limited entry shortspine thornyhead north of 34° 27' N. lat.**
 - 3,000 lbs./ 2 months for all periods
 - **Option 2 for open access shortspine thornyhead north of 34° 27' N. lat.**
 - 100 lbs./2 months for all periods
 - *AIC #19e Require recreational anglers to possess a descending device aboard a vessel when fishing for groundfish in federal waters: The GMT recommends the Council adopt Option 2 (federal requirement for all recreational vessels in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to have one functional descending device on board the vessel while fishing for groundfish) as PPA.*
 - *AIC #19f Modify continuous vessel transit limitations for California recreational vessels in Federal waters: The GMT recommends the Council adopt Option 2 (Modify federal continuous transit provisions for California recreational vessels) as PPA.*
 - *AIC #19g Change to the scientific name of Pacific sand lance and common name of Pacific spiny dogfish in regulation: The GMT recommends the Council adopt this measure to change Federal regulation to the correct scientific name of Pacific sand lance and the correct common name for Pacific spiny dogfish as PPA.*
- *AIC #20 California Quillback Rockfish Rebuilding Plan: No recommendation.*

Action Item #11: Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)

At the time of writing this report, the GMT has not received any requests for changes to the IFQ trip limits for non-IFQ stocks, nor did the team identify any stocks for which IFQ trip limit adjustments need to be analyzed to stay within 2025-26 harvest limits. **The GMT recommends adopting the status quo IFQ trip limits for non-IFQ species as PPA.** Status quo IFQ trip limits for non-IFQ species categories are listed in Table 6 in Chapter 4, Section 1.2.3 of the Council Analytical Document ([Agenda Item F.5, REVISED Attachment 2, April 2024](#)).

Action Item #12-15: Open Access and Limited Entry Fixed Gear Fisheries

The GMT recommends the Council adopt status quo trip limits for all except for those species and sub-areas detailed in Appendix 1, along with lingcod Open Access North of 42°

N. lat., sablefish N. of 36° N. lat. Open access and limited entry, and any trip limit changes that result from potential shortspine thornyhead removal of the management line (AIC #19d) as PPA.

The GMT received a request from the GAP to investigate the possibility of changing commercial trip limit tables to be either monthly or bi-monthly so there is consistency between all trip limit tables. After correspondence with some GAP representatives and an investigation of the trip limit tables, inconsistencies were found throughout both sector tables and all areas. Therefore, the GMT suggests changing trip limits to be bimonthly, which would allow for the greatest flexibility within both the open access and limited entry fishery and would minimize regulatory complexity. The GMT lists all bimonthly changes in Appendix 1. **The GMT recommends that the Council adopt Option 2 as specified in Appendix 1 as PPA, which would align the trip limits to all be bimonthly.**

Lingcod North of 42° N. lat.

In the course of overwinter analysis, when aligning to bimonthly limits for lingcod Open Access (OA) North of 42° N. lat. it was determined that summing the single month limits resulted in a limit where OA limits would equal LE. Therefore, the GMT added a third option for OA that is lower than the LE limit. Decreasing the OA limit from the LE amount acknowledges the investments and costs to be a LE permit owner. Additionally, this option is more precautionary for the OA trip limits because there is potential for unlimited effort. **The GMT recommends the Council adopt Option 3: 9,000 lbs. per 2 months for all periods for lingcod.**

Open Access North of 42° N. lat. as PPA.

OAN: North of 42° N. lat.

- **Option 1 Status Quo:** 5,500 lbs. per month for all periods
- **Option 2:** 11,000 lbs. per 2 months for all periods
- **Option 3: 9,000 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.

The GMT modeled two potential LEFG and OA trip limit increases to the sablefish trip limits north of 36° N. lat. (Table 1 and Table 2) in response to increasing sablefish allocations in 2025-26. The GMT worked with the GAP to develop options that are based on markets and the needs of the fishery. **The GMT does not have any management concerns for any of the sablefish trip limit options and recommends the Council weigh the GAP's recommendations when deciding what option, if any, they want to move forward with.**

Table 1. Default harvest control rule projections for limited entry fixed gear sablefish north of 36° N. lat. (1/3/24 model run)

Option	Trip Limit	Projected Landings (rd. wt. mt.) under Two Price Scenarios		2025			2026		
				Landings Target (mt)	Attainment		Landings Target (mt)	Attainment	
		Low	Avg.		Low	Avg.		Low	Avg.
Option 1 Status Quo a/	4,500 lbs./week, not to exceed 9,000 lbs./2 months	242	286	1,413	17%	20%	1,341	18%	21%
Option 2	5,500 lbs./week not to exceed 11,000 lbs./2 months	290	342		21%	24%		22%	26%
Option 3	9,000 lbs./week not to exceed 18,000 lbs./2 months	457	539		32%	38%		34%	40%

a/ [period 1, 2024 trip limits]

Table 2. Default harvest control rule projections for open access sablefish north of 36° N. lat. (1/3/24 model run) a/ [period 1, 2024 trip limits]

Option	Trip Limit	Projected Landings (rd. wt. mt.) under Two Price Scenarios		2025			2026		
				Landings Target (mt)	Attainment		Landings Target (mt)	Attainment	
		Low	Avg.		Low	Avg.		Low	Avg.
Option 1 Status Quo/	3,000 lbs./week, not to exceed 6,000 lbs./2 months	589	644	2,327	25%	28%	2,209	27%	29%
Option 2	3,250 lbs./week not to exceed 6,500 lbs./2 months	631	690		27%	30%		29%	31%
Option 3	4,000 lbs./week not to exceed 8,000 lbs./2 months	756	826		32%	35%		34%	37%

Action Items #16-18

The Council indicated interest in considering modifications to the recreational sablefish ACL deductions (i.e., off-the-top). The description of proposed modifications is described under Action Item #2, in [Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3, April 2024](#).

A substantial amount of recreational fishery management happens in state processes which are confined by Council management decisions. Each state follows different timelines to accomplish its public engagement and adopt regulations for state waters (3 nm). For example, Washington largely completes its public process by June when the Council is scheduled to take final action, whereas Oregon and California do not complete their public processes until later in the year. Because of these different timelines, the proposed management measures presented by the states will differ.

Action Item #16: Washington Recreational

WDFW has analyzed a variety of management measures as options for the 2025-26 biennium and has developed a preliminary package that considers stakeholder input received at public meetings held in October 2023, and in January and March 2024. **The GMT recommends the Council move forward with the Washington proposed recreational fishery structure as described in [Agenda Item F.5, REVISED Attachment 2, April 2024](#) and the PPA for canary rockfish for public review as presented in [Agenda Item F.5.a, WDFW Supplemental Report 1](#).** Except for canary rockfish, the season structure would be status quo. The PPA for canary rockfish, based on status quo allocation, proposes a four-fish canary rockfish subbag limit (within the seven rockfish bag limit) and consideration of an ACT to serve as a backstop. The GMT notes that WDFW tracks recreational catch with inseason monthly estimates and can implement management measures to reduce harvest quickly (within hours-few days) through emergency regulations. WDFW will conduct additional public outreach between the April and June Council meetings. A final rule package to conform state rules to federal regulations and implement management measures for 2025 will be undertaken beginning December 2024.

Action Item #17: Oregon Recreational

Since 2004 until recent years, yelloweye rockfish was the most constraining species to the Oregon recreational fishery. However, lower ACLs for black rockfish, nearshore rockfish complex north of 40° 10' N. lat., and canary rockfish, as well as increased groundfish effort, have resulted in black, canary, China, copper, and quillback rockfishes becoming the primary drivers of recreational fisheries regulations. While depth restrictions are the main tools used to control yelloweye rockfish impacts, limiting recreational anglers to shallower waters will increase catches of black rockfish and the nearshore complex species, such as quillback rockfish. Bag limit adjustment is the tool used to manipulate impacts to black rockfish, as they constitute 75 to 85 percent of the total number of groundfish landed by the Oregon recreational fishery. Once sector-specific allocations are identified through the Council and state processes (for black rockfish, canary rockfish, nearshore rockfish, and cabezon), combinations of depth restrictions and bag limits will be further analyzed.

In state regulations, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) manages both a nearshore commercial fishery along with the recreational fishery. Harvest specifications for

nearshore species adopted by the Council will need to go through the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) process as well, further dividing the harvest guideline for nearshore species into two state fisheries (recreational and commercial nearshore). Leading up to the OFWC meeting, ODFW staff will continue to reach out to the angling communities and host a string of public meetings in Brookings, Charleston, Newport, and Salem Oregon prior to developing staff recommendations for the recreational fishery on bag limits and season structure. These recommendations will then be presented to the OFWC in December to adapt the pre-season structure into state regulations for the following calendar year. State regulations can be more conservative, but not more liberal, than federal regulations, thus Oregon seeks higher bag limits in federal regulations to allow for flexibility in identifying the needed bag limits and season structure to stay within state-specific allocations.

Due to the recent large year-classes of sablefish (e.g., 2020, 2021, and potentially 2023), there is a building interest from recreational anglers to target (or keep) sablefish offshore. Sablefish are found farther offshore than typical bottomfish anglers will venture; however, they may encounter sablefish during offshore Pacific halibut trips. Sablefish are currently part of the “general marine bag limit” that includes rockfish species, cabezon, greenling, etc., with a current bag limit of five fish in aggregate for 2024. If sablefish are to be pulled out of the general marine bag limit allowing anglers to retain a higher number (ten), this may draw interest as the general marine bag limit may decrease in 2025 (five fish bag limit in 2024) in response to the recent (2023) black rockfish stock assessment. It is unknown at this time if an increased bag limit for sablefish will result in any changed angler effort from the Oregon recreational bottomfish and halibut fisheries. Additionally, sablefish, at present, must count as part of the 12-fish longleader bag limit causing confusion amongst anglers participating in the longleader fishery. Removing sablefish from the marine bag and creating a new sablefish bag limit of ten avoids regulatory complexity, as anglers would then be allowed to retain 10 sablefish in addition to the 12-fish longleader bag limit.

The GMT recommends moving forward with the PPA identified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) specified in Table 2 of [Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental ODFW Report 1, April 2024](#).

Action Item #18: California Recreational

The GMT recommends moving forward the PPA’s identified by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) specified in [Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1, April 2024](#). This includes adopting a season structure for 2025-26 that is the same that was adopted for 2024 through inseason action. Continuing the same season structure into 2025-2026 as that in place for the 2024 season provides the most consistent/stable season structures across years.

The GMT also supports the removal of size limits for cabezon (15 inch), greenling (12 inch), and California scorpionfish (10 inch) and the minimum filet length (5 inch) for California scorpionfish in the recreational fishery as PPA. The recreational and commercial California mortality along with the non-trawl allocation for 2025-26 for these species is presented in Table 3. Currently, each of these species has low attainment relative to the non-trawl HG. Two of these species have been assessed in California, cabezon and California scorpionfish, and were estimated to be above the management target at the time of each assessment (Monk et al., 2015; Cope et al., 2019). The removal of the size limits for each of these species is expected to increase recreational fisheries

impacts but the magnitude of those impacts is uncertain. It is unlikely recreational anglers will target juvenile cabezon, greenling, and California scorpionfish, as smaller fish have less meat and larger fish are considered more desirable. However, additional retention of immature fish that would have been released due to size limits will likely occur, and the magnitude of that potential increase in retention is unknown.

If the Council is concerned about removing the size limit for cabezon, greenling, and California scorpionfish there are other management tools that could also be utilized in conjunction with the size limit removal to lower mortality such as sub-bag limits for cabezon and greenling or lowering the overall bag limit for California scorpionfish. Additionally, if there is a significant spike in retention for any of these species after the size limit is removed the Council could choose to reinstate the size limit or adopt another management measure like a bag limit in season.

Table 3. California recreational and commercial catch estimates showing total mortality in metric tons (mt), of California scorpionfish, cabezon, kelp greenling and all greenlings of the genus Hexagrammos from 2017-2019, 2021-2023, compared to 2025/26 Non-Trawl Allocation. Recreational catch estimates were obtained 2/20/24, data through 2017 - 2023. Data for 2020 was not used due to sampling impacts from COVID-19. The total catch estimates for kelp greenling and all greenlings of the genus Hexagrammos are reported under Greenlings.

Groundfish Species	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023 a/	Average	Non-Trawl Allocation 2025/26
Cabezon Total	55.6	52.1	47.6	50.0	73.8	32.5	51.9	162/155
Recreational	31.4	29.4	23.2	23.9	38.8	9.5	26.0	
Commercial	24.1	22.7	24.4	26.1	35.0	23.0	25.9	
California Scorpionfish Total	83.0	101.2	123.1	126.8	132.7	119.7	114.4	244/238
Recreational	81.1	98.9	121.1	125.8	130.2	117.2	112.4	
Commercial	1.9	2.3	2.0	1.0	2.6	2.5	2.0	
Greenlings (Hexagrammos) Total	16.0	9.4	6.2	6.9	9.1	3.6	8.5	92.5/92.5
Recreational	12.1	5.3	3.2	4.6	5.5	2.1	5.5	
Commercial	3.9	4.1	3.0	2.4	3.6	1.5	3.1	

a/ 2023 commercial values do not include discard mortality.

Regulatory clarification of closed areas around Farallon Islands, California

At the September 2023 meeting in, [G.6.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1](#), CDFW proposed to remove incorrect language in Federal Regulations referencing California State law pertaining to a groundfish closure inside 10 fathoms around the Farallon Islands. No such state law currently exists. Specifically:

a. 50 CFR 660.330(d)(14) Farallon Islands. Under California law, commercial fishing for all groundfish is prohibited between the shoreline and the 10 fm (18 m) depth contour around the Farallon Islands. An exception to this prohibition is that commercial fishing for “other flatfish” is allowed around the Farallon Islands using hook and line gear only. (See Table 2 (South) of this subpart.) For a definition of the Farallon Islands, see § 660.70, subpart C.

b. 50 CFR 660.70(p) Farallon Islands. The Farallon Islands, off San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, include Southeast Farallon Island, Middle Farallon Island, North Farallon Island and Noon Day Rock. Generally, the State of California prohibits fishing for groundfish between the shoreline and the 10–fm (18–m) depth contour around the Farallon Islands.

The GMT agrees with CDFW’s assessments and believes that cleaning up these federal regulations will help to provide clarity to fishing communities.

Action Item #19: “New” Management Measures

19a. Create open access permit/registration

This measure would require vessels that fish in the directed OA groundfish sector (defined at § 660.11 under “Open Access fishery”) to complete a registration process and obtain a federal permit. This measure was recommended to the Council by NMFS under [Agenda Item E.7.a, NMFS Report 1, November 2023](#). The GMT conducted an impact analysis of the options presented below on [pages 323-324 of the Council Analytical Document](#).

Option 1: Status quo (no federal open access registration/permit requirement)

Option 2: Federal open access registration/permit requirement

The GMT recommends the Council adopt Option 2 as PPA. The GMT anticipates that this new management measure will provide useful information on current and future impacts from the directed open access fishery, including more information on the use of non-bottom contact gear types allowed for use inside the Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA).

19b. Update electronic monitoring program discard and retention requirements regulations

This new management measure would update federal regulations pertaining to discard and retention requirements in the EM program. At present, the discard species list at 50 CFR 660.604(p)(4)(i) does not include sablefish and rex sole; whereas, the Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP) does list these stocks. Additionally, as currently written, the regulations are in conflict in regard to California halibut catch handling. The regulations require vessels to discard the non-IFQ species California halibut “except as allowed by state regulations” at 50 CFR 660.604(p)(4)(ii), but under 50 CFR 660.604(p)(4)(i), the vessel must retain this species. The GMT conducted an

impact analysis of the options presented below on [pages 325-326 of the Council Analytical Document](#).

Option 1: Status quo (no update to EM discard and retention requirements)

Option 2: Update EM discard and retention requirements in regulation to include sablefish and rex sole, and remove California halibut.

The GMT recommends the Council adopt Option 2 as PPA. This new measure would provide consistency across the VMP and the federal regulations to ensure participants in the trawl IFQ fishery possess the correct information.

19c. Create coastwide federal sorting requirements for rockfish by processors

GMT overwinter analysis and discussion determined that this issue is complex and evaluation of impacts would benefit from additional time for coordination and review with state sampling programs and commercial buyers. The harvest specifications process does not provide sufficient time for this review to occur. Consistent with proposals from ODFW ([Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental ODFW Report 2](#)) and WDFW ([Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 1](#)), **the GMT recommends pursuing this action through a process outside of biennial management measures.**

19d. Shortspine thornyhead management changes

The GMT conducted analysis of this new management measure that would remove the shortspine thornyhead management line at 34° 27' N. lat. in [Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2024](#). The GMT conducted analysis of this new management measure that would remove the shortspine thornyhead management line at 34° 27' N. lat. in Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2024. If additional information or analysis would be useful in the Council decision making process for this new management measure, the GMT seeks indication from the Council at this time so that we can provide the additional information in June to support FPA. The GMT provides our considerations on the three decision points outlined in Figure 2 of [Supplemental GMT Report 2](#).

Decision #1: To remove or not remove the management line

The GMT recommends Option 2 in [Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2024](#), removal of the management line at 34° 27' N. lat. for shortspine thornyhead as PPA.

Decision #1: To remove or not remove the management line

The GMT recommends Option 2 in Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, April 2024, removal of the management line at 34° 27' N. lat. for shortspine thornyhead as PPA.

Decision 2a: Allocations

The GMT did not reach a consensus on a recommendation for PPA among the shortspine thornyhead allocation options. The GAP modification to reallocate the trawl/non-trawl allocations in 2026 would increase the degree to which fishing mortality could surpass the current estimated northern biomass (70 percent) by increasing the potential northern mortality from 73 percent to 78 percent of coastwide mortality, assuming full utilization of the trawl allocation and the

implementation of a non-trawl ACT in the north and that it is not exceeded. However, the GMT is unclear as to whether northern mortality of 73 percent or 78 percent would pose a conservation risk to the coastwide stock, as well as whether there is a meaningful difference of 5 percent. The trawl/non-trawl allocation option that would set 2026 allocations at 64 percent trawl and 36 percent non-trawl in both years (Sub-Option A) would result in coastwide IFQ allocations that are 5 mt lower than the status quo shortspine thornyhead IFQ allocations north of 34° 27' N. lat. in both years. Since all IFQ mortality has been in the north since 2017, this means a 5 mt decrease in available allocation for those IFQ participants currently catching shortspine thornyhead. The trawl/non-trawl allocation option that would set 2026 allocations at 71 percent trawl and 19 percent non-trawl (Sub-Option B) would result in non-trawl allocations that are reduced by 53 mt relative to Sub-Option A.

Decision 2b: Non-Trawl ACT

The GMT recommends sub-option 2 to create a non-trawl ACT north of 34° 27' N. lat. that is set at 25 percent of the coastwide non-trawl allocation ([Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2](#)) as PPA. An ACT of 25 percent was analyzed because it is expected to ensure the prosecution of the targeted non-trawl sector north of 34° 27' N. lat. since the ACT is greater than the northern non-trawl sector's most recent five-year average mortality of 36 mt, while allowing the southern sector to continue to prosecute the southern portion of shortspine thornyhead.

Further, the GMT proposes that if 25 percent of the non-trawl allocation is projected to be reached or exceeded by the north, and the south has exceeded 50 percent of the non-trawl allocation, the GMT will alert the Council and evaluate the need for trip limit decreases in the north for Council consideration. If these criteria are not met, the GMT will continue to monitor and bring to the Council's attention when there is a risk to the ACL. *The GMT requests feedback on this proposal from the GAP and the Council.*

Decision 2c: Trip limits

The GMT recommends:

- **Option 2 for limited entry shortspine thornyhead south of 34° 27' N. lat.**
 - 4,000 lbs./2 months for all periods
- **Option 1 for open access shortspine thornyhead south of 34° 27' N. lat.**
 - Shortspine thornyhead and longspine thornyhead 100 lbs. per day, no more than 1,000 lbs. per 2 months
- **Option 2 for limited entry shortspine thornyhead north of 34° 27' N. lat.**
 - 3,000 lbs./ 2 months for all periods
- **Option 2 for open access shortspine thornyhead north of 34° 27' N. lat.**
 - 100 lbs./2 months for all periods

19e. Require recreational anglers to possess a descending device aboard a vessel when fishing for groundfish in Federal waters

This new management measure would create a coastwide descending device requirement in the EEZ (i.e., 3-200 nm offshore), thus creating regulatory consistency between state and federal waters across all three states. The purpose of this measure is to reduce mortality of rockfish species in the Pacific Coast groundfish recreational fisheries by returning discarded fish to depth. The

GMT conducted an impact analysis of the options presented below on [pages 329-332 of the Council Analytical Document](#).

Option 1: Status quo (no federal requirement for a descending device)

Option 2: Federal requirement for all recreational vessels in the EEZ to have one functional descending device on board the vessel while fishing for groundfish.

The GMT recommends the Council adopt Option 2 as PPA. The GMT anticipates that this measure would create consistency across federal and state requirements and reduce mortality impacts on discarded rockfish in the recreational fisheries.

19f. Modify continuous vessel transit limitations for California recreational vessels in Federal waters

This management measure would modify federal continuous transit limitations for California recreational vessels. These modifications would allow recreational vessels to anchor overnight and/or stop to fish for non-groundfish species inside the seasonal Recreational RCA, also known as the “offshore fishery.” CDFW took emergency state action to modify relevant rules in state waters, with the new regulations going into effect on October 30, 2023. In federal waters, addressing this request would require a modification to the continuous transit provisions for recreational vessels at [50 CFR 660.360\(c\)\(3\)\(i\)\(a\)](#). This measure would address the two transit modifications requests listed from the GAP’s [September 2023 inseason report](#). The GMT conducted an impact analysis of the options presented below on [pages 333-335 of the Council Analytical Document](#). The GMT notes that although the impact analysis references the 50 fm line as equivalent to the Recreational RCA line, the GMT does not recommend a specific RCA line at this time. The rationale is that different RCA boundary lines could be necessary as depth based recreational RCA boundaries could be changed in the future. The GMT is in agreement with the Enforcement Consultants’ recommendations as presented in Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental EC report 1, April 2024

Option 1: Status quo (federal continuous transit provisions remain unchanged)

Option 2: Modify federal continuous transit provisions for California recreational vessels

The GMT recommends the Council adopt Option 2 as PPA. This measure is likely to prevent the cancellation of thousands of recreational fishing trips in 2025, and beyond, during seasons when the California recreational “offshore fishery” management measure is in place.

19g. Change to the scientific name of Pacific sand lance and common name of Pacific spiny dogfish in regulation

This measure was brought forward at the March 2024 Council meeting by Council Staff. As detailed in Agenda Item F.5, Attachment 2, April 2024. In brief, the scientific name of Pacific sand lance and the common name of Pacific spiny dogfish names are incorrect in Federal regulation but are correct in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). It is necessary to have consistency in regulation and the FMP and this process provides a pathway to make the needed corrections. **The GMT recommends the Council adopt this measure to change Federal**

regulation to the correct scientific name of Pacific sand lance and the correct common name for Pacific spiny dogfish as PPA.

Action Item #20: California Quillback Rockfish Rebuilding Plan

The GMT will use the alternatives adopted by Council decision under Agenda Item F.2 at this meeting to develop a rebuilding plan for California quillback rockfish for the June 2024 Council meeting.

Appendix 1 - Changing Trip Limits to Bi-monthly

GMT recommendations for PPA are bolded.

Lingcod

Open Access Fixed Gear Trip Limit Options:

OAN: 42° 00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat.

- **Option 1 Status Quo:** 1,000 lbs. per month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lbs. per month inside the non-trawl RCA for all periods
- **Option 2: 2,000 lbs. per 2 months seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lbs. per 2 months inside the non-trawl RCA for all periods**

OAS: 40° 10' N. lat. - 36° 00' N. lat.

- **Option 1 Status Quo:** 700 lbs. per month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lbs. per month inside the non-trawl RCA for all periods
- **Option 2: 1,400 lbs. per 2 months seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lbs. per 2 months inside the non-trawl RCA for all periods**

OAS: South of 36° 00' N. lat.

- **Option 1 Status Quo:** 700 lbs. per month for all periods
- **Option 2: 1,400 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

Slope Rockfish Complex & Darkblotched Rockfish

Open Access Trip Limit Options:

OAN

- **Option 1 Status Quo:** 2,000 lbs. per month for all periods
- **Option 2: 4,000 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

Splitnose Rockfish

Open Access Trip Limit Options

OAS

- **Option 1 Status Quo:** 200 lbs. per month for all periods
- **Option 2: 400 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

Pacific Ocean Perch

Open Access Trip Limit Options:

OAN

- **Option 1 Status Quo:** 100 lbs. per month for all periods
- **Option 2: 200 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

Longspine Thornyhead

Open Access Trip Limit Options:

OAN

- **Option 1 Status Quo** 50 lbs. per month for all periods

- **Option 2: 100 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

OAS: 40° 10' N. lat - 34° 27' N. lat

- **Option 1 Status Quo: 50 lbs. per month for all periods**
- **Option 2: 100 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

Dover Sole, Arrowtooth Flounder, Petrale Sole, English Sole, & Starry Flounder

Limited Entry Fixed Gear Trip Limit Options:

LEN

- **Option 1 Status Quo: 10,000 lbs. per month for all periods**
- **Option 2: 20,000 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

LES

- **Option 1 Status Quo 10,000 lbs. per month for all periods**
- **Option 2: 20,000 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

Open Access Trip Limit Options

OAN

- **Option 1 Status Quo 5,000 lbs. per month for all periods**
- **Option 2: 10,000 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

OAS

- **Option 1 Status Quo 5,000 lbs. per month for all periods**
- **Option 2: 10,000 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

Other Flatfish

Limited Entry Fixed Gear Trip Limit Options:

LEN: North of 42° 00' N. lat.

- **Option 1 Status Quo 10,000 lbs. per month for all periods**
- **Option 2: 20,000 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

LEN: 42° 00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat.

- **Option 1 Status Quo 10,000 lbs. per month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lbs. per month inside the non-trawl RCA for all periods**
- **Option 2: 20,000 lbs. per 2 months seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lbs. per 2 months inside the non-trawl RCA for all periods**

LES: 40° 10' N. lat. - 36° 00' N. lat.

- **Option 1 Status Quo 10,000 lbs. per month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lbs. per month inside the non-trawl RCA for all periods**
- **Option 2: 20,000 lbs. per 2 months seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lbs. per 2 months inside the non-trawl RCA for all periods**

LES: South of 36° 00' N. lat.

- **Option 1 Status Quo 10,000 lbs. per month for all periods**
- **Option 2: 20,000 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

Open Access Trip Limit Options

OAN: North of 42° 00' N. lat.

- **Option 1 Status Quo** 5,000 lbs. per month for all periods
- **Option 2: 10,000 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

OAN: 42° 00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat.

- **Option 1 Status Quo:** 5,000 lbs. per month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lbs. per month inside the non-trawl RCA for all periods
- **Option 2: 10,000 lbs. per 2 months seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lbs. per 2 months inside the non-trawl RCA for all periods**

OAS: 40° 10' N. lat. - 36° 00' N. lat.

- **Option 1 Status Quo** 5,000 lbs. per month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lbs. per month inside the non-trawl RCA for all periods
- **Option 2: 10,000 lbs. per 2 months seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lbs. per 2 months inside the non-trawl RCA for all periods**

OAS: South of 36° 00' N. lat.

- **Option 1 Status Quo** 5,000 lbs. per month for all periods
- **Option 2: 10,000 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

Pacific Whiting

Open Access Trip Limit Options

OAN

- **Option 1 Status Quo** 300 lbs. per month for all periods
- **Option 2: 600 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

OAS

- **Option 1 Status Quo** 300 lbs. per month for all periods
- **Option 2: 600 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

Shelf Rockfish Complex

Limited Entry Fixed Gear Trip Limit Options:

LEN

- **Option 1 Status Quo** 800 lbs. per month for all periods
- **Option 2: 1,600 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

Open Access Trip Limit Options

OAN: North of 42° 00' N. lat.

- **Option 1 Status Quo:** 800 lbs. per month for all periods
- **Option 2: 1,600 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

OAN: 42° 00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat.

- **Option 1 Status Quo** 600 lbs. per month for all periods
- **Option 2: 1,200 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

Yellowtail Rockfish

Limited Entry Fixed Gear Trip Limit Options:

LEN

- **Option 1 Status Quo** 1: 3,000 lbs. per month for all periods
- **Option 2: 6,000 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**

Open Access Trip Limit Options

OAN

- **Option 1 Status Quo** 1,500 lbs. per month for all periods
- **Option 2: 3,000 lbs. per 2 months for all periods**