

2025-26 HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS, MANAGEMENT MEASURES, AND  
EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS –  
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) AMENDMENT FINAL ACTION

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduled to adopt their final preferred alternatives (FPA) for the 2025-26 harvest specifications and management measures. The Council will need to consider one harvest specification and suite of management measures under this agenda item, as described below. Attachment 1, the action item checklist, provides a summarized list of management measures that were adopted as preliminary preferred alternatives (PPA) for Council reference and consideration. The principal analytical documents in support of this action are 2025-26 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures analytical document (Attachment 2, *Electronic Only*) and Appendix B: Draft California Quillback Rockfish Rebuilding Plan (Attachment 3 *Electronic Only*). The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) are expected to provide reports to the Council.

This agenda item is scheduled to be completed in two parts over two days. On Tuesday, June 11, the objective is for advisory body and management entity to provide reports to the Council and for the Council to hear public comment. On Wednesday, June 12, the Council is scheduled to return to this agenda item for Council discussion and final action.

*2025-26 Harvest Specifications*

The Council adopted FPA for the 2025-26 harvest specifications for all stocks and stock complexes at their April 2024 meeting, except for California stock of quillback rockfish. At that meeting, the Council adopted Alternative 2, (the ABC Rule) rebuilding strategy parameters, as its PPA for the California stock of quillback rockfish to calculate 2025 and beyond harvest specifications for the rebuilding plan (Attachment 3). Under this agenda item, the Council will need to adopt the California quillback rockfish rebuilding strategy FPA.

*Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP)*

At its November 2023 meeting, the Council approved two EFPs proposed for the 2025-26 management period for public review, both of which would be renewals of 2023-24 EFPs. No changes have been made to the applications since November 2023. The first EFP is a [West Coast Seafood Processors and Oregon Trawl Commission proposal](#) to collect information on bycatch of salmon and other species of concern while conducting a trawl fishery targeting midwater rockfish without existing gear/time/area restrictions (Attachment 4). It also provides exemptions to requirements for the use of selective flatfish trawl gear and the prohibition on the use of small footrope trawl gear other than selective flatfish trawl gear in certain areas between 42° N. lat. and 40° 10' N. lat. The second is a [CDFW proposal](#) for collecting fishery-dependent biological data for cowcod caught in the recreational fishery (Attachment 5). For the 2025-26 biennium, this EFP would add collection of quillback and yelloweye rockfishes. The Council is scheduled to adopt its final EFP recommendations to the National Marine Fisheries Service under this agenda item.

*2025-26 Groundfish Management Measures*

The Council adopted PPA for the 2025-26 management measures at their April 2024 meeting. Under this Agenda Item, the Council is expected to adopt the FPA management measures for the

2025-26 groundfish fishery in ensure implementation on January 1, 2025. The measures under consideration includes routine management measures (e.g., trip limits, recreational season structure, etc.) and a suite of new management measures, including a modification allocation structure and management line for shortspine thornyhead, a descending device requirement for recreational fishery in federal waters, an open access registration requirement, and the California quillback rockfish rebuilding plan. The description of the PPA and detailed analysis for all proposed management measures are contained in Attachment 2.

At the April 2024 meeting, the Council directed the GMT to draft a rebuilding plan for r California quillback rockfish using the Alternative 2 (ABC Rule) and Alternative 4 (F=0) rebuilding strategies as the basis of the analysis. The analysis to support Council decision making regarding the California quillback rockfish rebuilding plan is provided as Attachment 3 *Electronic Only*.

### *Amendment 33*

The rebuilding plan for the California stock of quillback rockfish and modifications to the shortspine thornyhead allocation structure necessitate Amendment 33 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). This FMP Amendment would revise the structure of the FMP to include a new section in Chapter 4 specific to rebuilding stocks, specifically California quillback rockfish and yelloweye rockfish rebuilding parameters, as well as remove Appendix F to the 2024 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) document. Appendix F is largely historical information that is best suited for the SAFE. Additionally, if adopted, the shortspine thornyhead management modification will also necessitate a revision of the FMP to signify the allocation structure modification to this stock, these changes would also be part of Amendment 33. The Amendment would remove shortspine thornyhead from Table 6-1 in Chapter 6 as new management measure 9A would remove the formal allocation structure for shortspine thornyhead. Attachment 6 provides the draft FMP language for both issues in redline and strikeout for Council review.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Adopt 2025 and beyond harvest specifications for California quillback rockfish and any outstanding groundfish stocks and/or stock complexes, as appropriate.**
- 2. Adopt final recommendations for 2025-26 EFPs, as appropriate.**
- 3. Adopt final 2025-26 groundfish management measures, including new management measures, as appropriate.**
- 4. Adopt the California quillback rockfish rebuilding plan.**
- 5. Adopt Amendment 33 language for rebuilding stocks and shortspine thornyhead, as appropriate.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 1: Action Item Checklist.
2. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 2: Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery 2025-26 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Analytical Document. (*Electronic Only*).
3. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 3: Appendix B: Draft California Quillback Rockfish Rebuilding Plan (*Electronic Only*).
4. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 4, Year-Round Trawl Gear (Midwater Rockfish); West Coast Seafood Processors Association; Oregon Trawl Commission.
5. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 5, California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2025-2026 Exempted Fishing Permit Application and 2023 Interim Report.

6. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 6, DRAFT Language to Support Amendment 33 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (***Electronic Only***).
7. Agenda Item F.6.a, NMFS Report 1: National Marine Fisheries Service Report on Directed Open Access Fishery Permit.
8. Agenda Item F.6.a, WDFW Report 1: Washington Department of Fish And Wildlife Report on 2025 and 2026 Groundfish Management Measures.
9. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- F.6 2025-26 Harvest Specifications, Management Measures, and Exempted Fishing Permits – Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment  
Final Action Todd Phillips/Marlene Bellman
  - a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Preferred Harvest Specifications, Management Measures, including a California Quillback Rebuilding Plan, and Exempted Fishing Permits for 2025-26 Fisheries

PFMC  
05/13/24