

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON STOCK DEFINITION
 CONSIDERATIONS FOR A RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES AND ASSOCIATED
 MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS FOR STOCKS TO BE ASSESSED IN 2025 AND 2027

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) recommends adoption of the purpose and need proposed in [Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 1](#) for this stock definition amendment, with appropriate revisions. Further the GMT recommends adding redbanded rockfish to the list of species to be considered for stock assessment in 2025 ([Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, June 2024](#)). If the Council agrees that redbanded rockfish should be assessed in 2025, then it would also need to be added to the list of priority species for stock definitions under this agenda item. English sole is currently among the species listed for stock definitions, and although the GMT is not recommending English sole be assessed either in 2025 or 2027, we see no need to remove it from the list of priority species.

With the addition of redbanded rockfish (Alternative 1, coastwide) to the range provided in [Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 1](#), the GMT recommends the range of alternatives (ROA) shown in Table 1 below. This range is well-informed by the scientific literature and other information referenced in the briefing book materials. [Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 1](#) does not include information to inform stock boundaries of redbanded rockfish, but the species is caught coastwide, and it is the GMT’s understanding that a coastwide categorization would be most appropriate for this species. If evidence is brought to the Council that suggests another alternative should be considered, the GMT can re-evaluate our recommended ROA. The list of species in Table 1 is subject to Council action under Agenda Item F.3 of this meeting and any changes to the Final Preferred Alternatives (FPA) of species to assess in 2025.

Table 1. GMT recommended ROA for stock definitions of species to be assessed in 2025.

Species	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	F3 Anticipated Assessment Area
Chilipepper rockfish	Coastwide	State/Region	-	Coastwide
English sole	Coastwide	-	-	Coastwide
Redbanded rockfish	Coastwide	-	-	Coastwide
Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish	Coastwide	-	-	Coastwide
Widow rockfish	Coastwide	-	-	Coastwide
Yellowtail rockfish	-	-	North and South of 40° 10' N. lat.	North and South of 40° 10' N. lat.
Yelloweye rockfish	Coastwide	-	-	Coastwide