

2025 AND 2027 STOCK ASSESSMENT PLAN AND SCHEDULE

This agenda item concerns planning for groundfish stock assessments which are anticipated to be completed in 2025 and 2027 to inform the harvest specifications and management measures decisions for groundfish fisheries in 2027 and beyond.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopted a preliminary list of groundfish species to be assessed in 2025 and potentially assessed in 2027 in March 2024, and a final list was adopted in June 2024.

In coordinating ageing capacity and developing the 2025 stock assessment preliminary schedule, concerns were raised in regard to the capacity to conduct adequate ageing to support the complete list of species scheduled for assessment in 2025 (NMFS NWFSC/SWFSC Report 1). Redbanded rockfish was a relatively late consideration for assessment in the 2025 cycle. Upon consideration of available capacity and data, conducting a redbanded rockfish stock assessment would pose challenges as it has not previously been assessed using methods beyond those used for data-poor species. While many years of data have been collected for this species, sufficient age reading has not currently been done. Completing adequate ageing in time for a 2025 assessment poses challenges, as outlined in the attached report.

The Council should consider the National Marine Fisheries Service report and the proposed revision to remove redbanded rockfish from the list of species to be assessed in 2025 due to capacity and data limitations.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider removing redbanded rockfish from the 2025 stock assessment list.**
- 2. Revise the list of species to be assessed in 2027, as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.4.a, NMFS NWFSC/SWFSC Report 1: Proposed Revisions to 2025 Stock Assessment Plan and Schedule.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

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| I.4 2025 and 2027 Stock Assessment Plan and Schedule | Marlene A. Bellman |
| a. National Marine Fisheries Service Report (NMFS) | |
| b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| b. Public Comment | |
| c. Council Action: Consider NMFS Report and Adopt Revisions to the 2025 and 2027 Stock Assessment Plans, as Appropriate | |