

**STOCK DEFINITIONS FOR SPECIES ASSESSED IN 2025 AND 2027 –
 PRELIMINARY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

A proposed Amendment to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) concerns the appropriate definition of stocks to be assessed in 2025 and potentially assessed in 2027 (referred to as priority species), in order to 1) continue to attain sustainability objectives, 2) to appropriately administer the assessment and monitoring of the health of those stocks, and 3) for National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to make stock status determinations.

In June 2024, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopted a Purpose and Need statement for the proposed Amendment and a range of alternative (ROA) stock definitions for this action, including identification of priority species based on the list of groundfish species scheduled for assessment in 2025 and potential assessment in 2027 (Table 1). After the June 2024 meeting, a project team was convened, comprised of Council and NMFS West Coast Region staff to complete an analytical document for the ROA (Attachment 1).

At this meeting, the Council will consider the findings of the ROA analysis, refine the ROA, as appropriate, and select Preliminary Preferred Alternative stock definitions. The Council is scheduled to adopt a Final Preferred Alternative at the November 2024 Council meeting.

Table 1. Action alternatives analyzed for priority groundfish species stock definition (June 2024).

Species considered under a single Alternative		
Priority Species	Alternative	Stock Area(s) Delineation
Chilipepper rockfish	1	Coastwide
English sole	1	Coastwide
Redbanded rockfish	1	Coastwide
Rougheye/Blackspotted rockfish	1	Coastwide
Widow rockfish	1	Coastwide
Yellowtail rockfish	3	N. of 40° 10' N. lat. stock and S. 40° 10' N. lat. stock
Species considered under multiple Alternatives		
Priority Species	Alternative	Stock Area(s) Delineation
Yelloweye rockfish	1	Coastwide
	2	Washington & Oregon stock and California stock

Council Action:

- 1. Consider the analytical document findings.**
- 2. Consider refining the ROA, as appropriate.**
- 3. Adopt preliminary preferred alternative stock definitions.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.5, Attachment 1: Range of Alternatives Analysis for Proposed Amendment to the Pacific Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (*Electronic Only*).
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- I.5 Stock Definitions for Species Assessed in 2025 and 2027 – Preliminary Preferred Alternative Marlene A. Bellman
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Refine the Range of Alternatives, as Appropriate, Adopt Preliminary Preferred Stock Definitions for Species Scheduled for Assessment in 2025 and 2027

PFMC
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