

Draft Language for the Proposed Amendment to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan

At this meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduled to adopt their final preferred alternative (FPA) for the proposed Amendment to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to define stocks to be assessed in 2025 and potentially assessed in 2027. This Amendment would define stock units, including geographic delineations, for chilipepper rockfish, English sole, redbanded rockfish, rougheye/blackspotted rockfish (a cryptic pair), widow rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish.

Proposed revisions to the FMP are provided as red-line edits to sections relevant to support this action. The only changes to the FMP occur in these chapters and sections ([reference version posted online: December 2023, through Amendment 32](#)). If the Council approves the changes presented below, they will be incorporated into the full and unabridged FMP document using the Amendment value assigned at transmittal of the FPA (e.g. Amendment 35).

Changes to the FMP since Amendment 4 (July 1993), page iii

Current Chapters	Previous Chapters (July 1993 Version)	Summary of Amendment Changes
Chapter 3 Areas and Stocks Involved	Chapter 3 Areas and Stocks Involved	<p>Amendments and additions, no substantial change in organization. (Amendment 16-1.) Specification of Ecosystem Component (EC) species added under Amendment 24. EC species shared by all four West Coast FMPs added under Amendment 25. Re-designated big skate as an actively managed species under Amendment 27. Designated shortbelly rockfish as an EC species under Amendment 29.</p> <p>Stocks of black, canary, copper, quillback, squarespot, vermilion, vermilion/sunset rockfishes; Dover, petrale, and rex soles; lingcod, Pacific spiny dogfish, sablefish, and shortspine thornyhead were defined under Amendment 31.</p> <p>Stocks of chilipepper, redbanded, rougheye/blackspotted, widow, yellowtail, yelloweye rockfishes, and English sole were defined under Amendment 3X.</p>

Chapter 1, Introduction

1.1 History of the Fishery Management Plan, page 5

Amendment 3X defined and delineated stocks for chilipepper, redbanded, rougheye/blackspotted, widow, yellowtail, yelloweye rockfishes, and English sole.

Chapter 3, Areas and Stocks Involved,
3.2 Stocks Managed under this Fishery Management Plan, page 18

Table 3-1. Groundfish stocks within the fishery management unit (FMU) of the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP and their boundaries, as amended through Amendment 3X1.

Stock	Species Scientific Name	Stock Boundaries
Elasmobranchs		
Pacific Spiny Dogfish	<i>Squalus suckleyi</i>	Pacific West Coast FMU
Roundfish		
Lingcod <i>North</i>	<i>Ophiodon elongatus</i>	North of 40°10' N. lat.
Lingcod <i>South</i>	<i>Ophiodon elongatus</i>	South of 40°10' N. lat.
Sablefish	<i>Anoplopoma fimbria</i>	Pacific West Coast FMU
Rockfish¹		
Black Rockfish - <i>Washington</i>	<i>Sebastes melanops</i>	North of 46°16' N. lat.
Black Rockfish - <i>Oregon</i>	<i>S. melanops</i>	46°16' N. lat. to 42° N. lat.
Black Rockfish - <i>California</i>	<i>S. melanops</i>	South of 42° N. lat.
Canary Rockfish	<i>S. pinniger</i>	Pacific West Coast FMU
Chilipepper Rockfish	<i>S. goodei</i>	Pacific West Coast FMU
Copper Rockfish <i>North</i>	<i>S. caurinus</i>	North of 42° N. lat.
Copper Rockfish <i>South</i>	<i>S. caurinus</i>	South 42° N. lat.
Quillback Rockfish - <i>Washington</i>	<i>S. maliger</i>	North of 46°16' N. lat.
Quillback Rockfish - <i>Oregon</i>	<i>S. maliger</i>	46°16' N. lat. to 42° N. lat.
Quillback Rockfish - <i>California</i>	<i>S. maliger</i>	South of 42° N. lat.
Redbanded Rockfish	<i>S. babcocki</i>	Pacific West Coast FMU
Rougheye/Blackspotted Rockfish	<i>S. aleutianus/S. melanostictus</i>	Pacific West Coast FMU
Squarespot Rockfish	<i>S. hopkinsi</i>	Pacific West Coast FMU
Vermilion Rockfish	<i>S. miniatus</i>	North of 42° N. lat.
Vermilion/Sunset Rockfish	<i>S. miniatus/S. crocotulus</i>	South 42° N. lat.
Widow Rockfish	<i>S. entomelas</i>	Pacific West Coast FMU
Yellowtail Rockfish <i>North</i>	<i>S. flavidus</i>	North of 40°10' N. lat.
Yellowtail Rockfish <i>South</i>	<i>S. flavidus</i>	South of 40°10' N. lat.
Yelloweye Rockfish	<i>S. ruberrimus</i>	Pacific West Coast FMU
Shortspine Thornyhead	<i>Sebastolobus alascanus</i>	Pacific West Coast FMU
Flatfish		
Dover Sole	<i>Microstomus pacificus</i>	Pacific West Coast FMU
English Sole	<i>Parophrys vetulus</i>	Pacific West Coast FMU
Petrale Sole	<i>Eopsetta jordani</i>	Pacific West Coast FMU
Rex Sole	<i>Glyptocephalus zachirus</i>	Pacific West Coast FMU

¹ The category “rockfish” includes all genera (*Sebastes*, *Scorpaena*, *Sebastolobus*, and *Scorpaenodes*) and species of the family Scorpaenidae, even if not listed, that occur in the waters off Washington, Oregon, and California.

PFMC
10/22/24