

STOCK DEFINITIONS FOR SPECIES ASSESSED IN 2025 AND 2027 – FINAL

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 (referred to as priority species). 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.

In June 2024, the 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. In September 2024, the Council selected Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) stock definitions and removed one Alternative from further consideration. The updated analysis for the PPA is provided in Attachment 1 and PPAs noted in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Preliminary Preferred Alternatives (PPA) analyzed for priority groundfish species stock definition (as of September 2024). North=N. South=S.

Priority Species	Alternative	Stock Area(s) Delineation
Chilipepper rockfish	1 (PPA)	Coastwide
English sole	1 (PPA)	Coastwide
Redbanded rockfish	1 (PPA)	Coastwide
Rougheye/Blackspotted rockfish	1 (PPA)	Coastwide
Widow rockfish	1 (PPA)	Coastwide
Yellowtail rockfish	3 (PPA)	N. of 40° 10' N. lat. stock and S. 40° 10' N. lat. stock
Yelloweye rockfish	1 (PPA)	Coastwide

The proposed FMP Amendment is necessary 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 for actively managed stocks.

This action requires revisions to the FMP, which are provided as red-line revised sections relevant to support this action (Attachment 2). The Council will need to formally adopt changes to the FMP under this agenda item.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt Final Preferred Alternative stock definitions for priority groundfish species.**
- 2. Adopt revised FMP language relating to stock definitions for priority groundfish species.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 1: Analysis for Proposed Amendment to the Pacific Groundfish Fishery Management Plan in Support of the Final Preferred Alternative (*Electronic Only*).
2. Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 2: Draft Language for Proposed Amendment to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- I.4 Stock Definitions for Species Assessed in 2025 and 2027 – Final Marlene A. Bellman
 - a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Preferred Alternatives

PFMC
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