## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON UPCOMING MEETING TO CONSIDER REMOTELY OPERATED VEHICLE DATA DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING ESTIMATE AND INDICES OF QUILLBACK ROCKFISH ABUNDANCE OFF CALIFORNIA

In early November, the Pacific Fishery Management Council announced that the Groundfish Subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee would convene a meeting to update the Accepted Practices Guidelines for the Groundfish Stock Assessments document. The <u>meeting</u> will be held December 2-3 both in-person and remotely and will include discussion topics about large closed areas in stock assessments and an update on Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) data applications.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) greatly appreciates Council support and hosting this event. CDFW will be presenting preliminary draft ROV indices of abundance and a design-based estimate of absolute abundance in numbers and weight of quillback rockfish inside and outside of Marine Protected Areas. The information will be discussed by the Groundfish Subcommittee to inform the Accepted Practices document, and for its potential use and application in the full benchmark quillback rockfish assessment planned for 2025. Preliminary results indicate recent recruitment and abundance trending upwards. CDFW encourages public engagement as the content relates to the upcoming 2025 stock assessment. CDFW will submit materials in advance of the meeting, which will post on the Council's <u>website</u>.