

## GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON PHASE 2 STOCK DEFINITIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) was briefed on the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Stock Definitions Phase 2 process by Mr. Todd Phillips. We thank him for his many hours of information gathering, summarizing, table building, drafting, and presenting. We offer the following recommendations as to the range of further analyses as well as our preferred selections at this time. In addition we thank Ms. Marlene Bellman for her work compiling the groundfish literature review, [H.6 Attachment 3](#).

In general, the GAP concurs with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) regarding recommendations for analyses and definition options. **However, the GAP differed with the GMT for some Group A species. The table below identifies these species and provides some rationale for the differences and also for choosing a preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) for some of these species.**

The table below shows the GMT recommendation alongside those of the GAP. In some cases the range of recommended analyses are different. With others, the GAP provides a different proposed geographic stock definition, if a species is ultimately selected for management.

With the possible exceptions of squarespot, quillback, and rougheye/blackspotted rockfish, the GAP prefers to retain the existing stock definitions as listed within [I.4 - Attachment 2](#) from the November 2024 Council meeting briefing book.

With regard to the Group B species, the GAP concurs with, and supports, the GMT's recommendation under this agenda item.

Additionally, the GAP supports the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) ongoing efforts to determine the primary location of groundfish species off the Washington coast relative to the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) nearshore boundary. We understand that WDFW is using a variety of data to make the determination, including groundfish habitat, catch data, and the location of recreational fishing activity. Interviews with stakeholders including charter boat captains who have local knowledge of these factors to inform the species list and determination of whether the species is primarily within the EEZ or state waters. We look forward to reviewing the results of the analysis when it becomes available.

In general, the GAP prefers the Council to actively manage only those species that are important to the fishery. These fished species are the species the GAP sees as in need of conservation and management for their sustainability and yield.

PFMC  
03/08/25

Table 1: GAP Recommendations compared to GMT recommendations for Phase 2 Stock Definitions

**BOLD** <= Selected for Alternative 1, Stock Definition PPA Identified

*ITALIC* <= Selected for Alternative 1, Stock Already Defined Under Amedment 31

	GMT Alternatives for analysis			GMT Recommendation	GAP Alternatives for analysis			GAP Preliminary Recommendation For Stock Definition	GAP Preliminary Recommendation For Designation
	1	2	3		1	2	3		
<b>"Group A" Species</b>				<b>Stock Definition</b>					
Bronzespotted Rockfish	*	*	*	No recommendation, pending further analysis	*	*	*	<b>Undefined</b> , Current non retention. An uncomm	Alt 3: EC
Butter Sole	*	*	*	No recommendation, pending further analysis	*	*	*	<b>Undefined</b> , Appears landings <5mt (0.007mt-trace)	Alt 2: Remo
Curlfin Sole	*	*	*	No recommendation, pending further analysis	*	*	*	<b>Undefined</b> , <5mt (CA 0.47, OR 0.091) abundant but not caught/targeted	Alt 3: EC
<b>Darkblotched Rockfish</b>	*			<b>ROA - Option 1, 2, 3</b>	*			<b>1 coastwide stock</b>	Alt 1: FMP, no further analysis
Flag Rockfish	*	*	*	No recommendation, pending further analysis	*	*	*	<b>1 or 2 stocks</b> , CA-OR, Range is CA-OR	Alt 1: FMP
Freckled Rockfish	*	*	*	No recommendation, pending further analysis	*	*	*	<b>Undefined</b> , Undesirable, Landings <5mt (0mt)	Alt 2: Remo
<b>Greenspotted Rockfish</b>	*			<b>ROA - Option 1, 2</b>	*	*	*	<b>1 coastwide stock</b> , little life-history science	need more info; analyze for potential EC or removal
Halfbanded Rockfish	*	*	*	No recommendation, pending further analysis	*	*	*	<b>Undefined</b> , Undesirable pygmy spp. No reference points/OFL,ABC,ACL, CA rec	Alt 3: EC
Honeycomb Rockfish	*	*	*	No recommendation, pending further analysis	*	*	*	<b>Undefined</b> , Undesirable pigmy sp. 2026 ACL 7.86mt, rec OR+WA=2.26mt, com ~ 0	Alt 3: EC
<b>Harlequin Rockfish</b>	*			<b>Option 1</b>	*	*	*	<b>Undefined</b> , <5mt, Com catch 0.009mt, No Reference Points/OFL,ABC,TAC, OR+CA	Alt 3: EC
Mexican Rockfish	*	*	*	No recommendation, pending further analysis	*	*	*	<b>1 stock California only</b> , Range is CA	Alt 1: FMP
<i>Pacific Spiny Dogfish</i>	*			<i>ALREADY DEFINED</i>	*	*	*	<b>1 stock, Coastwide</b> , potentially low population growth rate, however, broad	need more information
Pink Rockfish	*	*	*	No recommendation, pending further analysis	*	*	*	<b>Undefined</b> , <5mt Rec CA 0.01mt, OR 0, com 0.007mt, Range =CA & OR	Alt 2: Remove from FMP
Pinkrose Rockfish	*	*	*	No recommendation, pending further analysis	*	*	*	<b>Undefined</b> , undesirable <5mt com 0.004mt, Rec 0mt. Range=CA	Alt 2: Remove from FMP
Pygmy Rockfish	*	*	*	No recommendation, pending further analysis	*	*	*	<b>Undefined</b> undesirable pigmy sp. <5mt. Rec "trace" Com 0;	Alt 3: EC
<b>Rosethorn Rockfish</b>	*			<b>Option 1</b>	*	*	*	<b>Undefined</b> , undesirable <5mt Com	Alt 2: Remove from FMP
<i>Rougheye/Blackspotted Rockfish</i>	*			<i>ALREADY DEFINED</i>	*	*	*	<b>1 stock Coastwide</b> , low growth rate, however, a valued catch.	need more information
Speckled Rockfish	*	*	*	No recommendation, pending further analysis	*	*	*	<b>Undefined</b> , <5mt (2.17mt combined rec com in EEZ)	Alt 3: EC
<b>Stripetail Rockfish</b>	*			<b>Option 1</b>	*	*	*	<b>Undefined</b> , undesirable pigmy sp.	Alt 3: EC
Swordspine Rockfish	*	*	*	No recommendation, pending further analysis	*	*	*	<b>Undefined</b> , undesirable sp. <5mt (Com 0, Rec 0.26 mt), 2026 ACL 11.6mt	Alt 2: Remove from FMP