

## HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS FLEXIBILITY- SCOPING

At the March 2025 meeting, under the Groundfish Workload and New Management Measures agenda item, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopted several priorities aimed at providing flexibility in establishing harvest specifications intended to increase stability in the fishery (Items D1-D4 from [Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#)). At the April meeting, the Council prioritized the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for near-term application of selected adaptive management and flexibility tools, while continuing to explore the potential benefits of these or similar tools for other Council-managed fisheries.

In response to these actions, Council and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) staff prepared Supplemental Attachment 1, which offers a preliminary assessment of the challenges facing the groundfish fishery, an initial review of the March 2025 prioritized management measures (Items D1–D4), and proposes consideration of additional measures that could enhance management flexibility or enhance stability.

Given the diversity of target strategies and the range of challenges facing the groundfish fishery, the Council should clearly define the specific problems this action seeks to address and articulate the desired outcomes. A clear problem statement and well-defined objectives will support the development of a focused set of action alternatives and metrics to effectively assess their success. Staff will use this information to develop a purpose and need for the action and further refine a range of alternatives for adoption at a future meeting. On a parallel track, the Council will also be receiving an update on other components of the adaptive management project in September 2025 that may provide additional measures for improving conditions in the groundfish fishery.

At this meeting, the Council should consider the materials in Supplemental Attachment 1, further define the problem(s), and the desired outcomes. Depending on the scope of action, the Council may also need to provide guidance on sequencing actions.

### **Council Tasks:**

- 1. Further define the problem(s) facing the groundfish fishery that the action intends to solve.**
- 2. Outline the desired outcomes of the action.**
- 3. Provide guidance on developing a range of alternatives.**
- 4. Provide guidance on next steps, including sequencing actions, if necessary.**

### **Reference Materials:**

- 1. Agenda Item E.7, Supplemental Attachment 1: NMFS/Council Staff Report.*
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

### **Agenda Order:**

E.7 Harvest Specifications Flexibility- Scoping

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- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Further Define the Problem and Desired Outcomes, Provide Guidance on Range of Alternatives and Sequencing

PFMC  
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