

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR DEVELOPING THE 2027-28 GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND
MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Table 1. Proposed Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) schedule for the activities associated with developing the 2027-28 biennial groundfish harvest specifications and management measures. Bold font dates represent Council meeting dates. Council meeting dates beyond June 2025 are considered tentative and may be modified.

Start/ End Date	Meeting/Event	Key Advisory Body, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and/or Council Staff Tasks/ & Deliverables	Council Task/Action
May 19 to 23, 2025	Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel #1 Seattle, WA Yellowtail Rockfish N. of 40° 10' North Latitude.	<p>STAR Panel Report (to Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) Groundfish Subcommittee (GFSC))</p> <p>Council Representation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSC designated STAR Panel chair and one reviewer • One representative advisor each from the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) <p>Prior to STAR Panel, GMT provides information on fishing regulations, spatial management, and removals for default base model projections.</p> <p>GMT advisor may request model projections for any management alternatives.</p>	N/A
May 14, 2025	Advanced Briefing Book deadline: June Council meeting	Advisory bodies, state, and Federal agencies may submit statements related to the 2027-28 groundfish harvest specifications and	Review of Documents

Start/ End Date	Meeting/Event	Key Advisory Body, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and/or Council Staff Tasks/ & Deliverables	Council Task/Action
		management measure process (biennial process). Council staff submits 2027-28 harvest specifications and management measures Process and Plan Documents.	
May 28, 2025	SSC Review Deadline	Update stock assessment documents for widow and yelloweye rockfish available 2 weeks prior to SSC GFSC review (after the Advanced Briefing Book).	
June 11, 2025	Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) Groundfish Subcommittee (GFSC) Meeting	SSC GFSC reviews: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two update assessments: widow rockfish and yelloweye rockfish • Stock categories and sigma (i.e., category 1, 2, 3) • Provides recommendations to the full SSC on update assessments in report • Discussion of any issues in preparation of default harvest control rule specifications to inform the full SSC. 	N/A
June 11-14, 2025	June Council Meeting:	GMT/GAP make recommendations related to Council Tasks, as appropriate SSC provides recommendations to Council on 2025 update assessments for widow and yelloweye rockfish, including if best scientific information available (BSIA), stock category, sigma.	The Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies key fishery issues • Considers process plan and resolves process questions/concerns. • Adopts a final process and schedule for developing groundfish harvest specifications and management measures for 2027-28. • May task the GMT/Staff with preliminary analyses to support decision making in September for the biennial process

Start/ End Date	Meeting/Event	Key Advisory Body, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and/or Council Staff Tasks/ & Deliverables	Council Task/Action
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduled to adopt 2025 update stock assessments for widow and yelloweye rockfish, stock categories, and sigmas endorsed by SSC.¹
June to August	Over-summer GMT work	GMT completes any biennial process management measure analyses for September Council meeting	N/A
June 23-27, 2025	STAR Panel #2 Santa Cruz, CA Chilipepper Rockfish and CA Quillback Rockfish	<p>STAR Panel Report (to SSC GFSC)</p> <p>Council Representation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSC designated STAR Panel chair One representative advisor each from the GMT and GAP <p>Prior to STAR Panel, GMT provides information on fishing regulations, spatial management, and removals for default base model projections.</p> <p>GMT advisor may request model projections for any management alternatives.</p>	N/A
July 14-18, 2025	STAR Panel #3 Seattle, WA Rougheye/Blackspotted Rockfish and Sablefish	<p>STAR Panel Report (to SSC GFSC)</p> <p>Council Representation:</p>	N/A

¹ Council action could be postponed for any stock assessments recommended for further review by the SSC (i.e., those assessments the Council authorizes to be sent to the September 29-October 3, 2025 “mop-up” panel).

Start/ End Date	Meeting/Event	Key Advisory Body, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and/or Council Staff Tasks/ & Deliverables	Council Task/Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSC designated STAR Panel chair and one reviewer • One representative advisor each from the GMT and GAP <p>Prior to STAR Panel, GMT provides information on fishing regulations, spatial management, and removals for default base model projections.</p> <p>GMT advisor may request model projections for any management alternatives.</p>	
July 29, 2025	SSC Review Deadline	Catch-only projection documents for petrale sole, canary rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, darkblotched rockfish, black rockfish (Oregon), and bocaccio available 2 weeks prior to SSC GFSC review meeting in August.	N/A
August 12-13, 2025	Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Groundfish Subcommittee (GFSC) Meeting.	<p>SSC GFSC reviews:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAR Panel reports: Five full assessments: yellowtail rockfish N of 40° 10' N. latitude, chilipepper rockfish, California quillback rockfish, rougheye/blackspotted rockfish, sablefish • Six catch-only projections: petrale sole, canary rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, darkblotched rockfish, black rockfish (Oregon), bocaccio • Stock categories and sigma (i.e., category 1, 2, 3) 	N/A

Start/ End Date	Meeting/Event	Key Advisory Body, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and/or Council Staff Tasks/ & Deliverables	Council Task/Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides recommendations to the full SSC on full assessments and catch-only projections in the report. SSC-GFSC reviews and prepares 2027-28 OFL, ABC, and ACLs for default harvest specifications². 	
August 20, 2025	September Council meeting: Advanced Briefing Book deadline	<p>Advisory bodies, state, and Federal agencies may submit statements related to the groundfish biennial process, notably for the range of alternatives (ROA)</p> <p>Submission of STAR Panel reports, full stock assessment documents, catch-only projection documents (pre-SSC revised drafts).</p> <p>GMT submits any over-summer analyses.</p> <p>Council Staff provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft default 2027-28 harvest specifications ACL dispersal to fishery amounts. 	Review of Documents
September 4, 2025	Deadline: Revisions to catch assumptions and other items related to Stock Assessment Terms of Reference (TOR)	<p>2 weeks prior to September Council mtg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any requested revisions to GMT provided catch assumptions in the first two years of projection period should be provided in writing to the GMT, including rationale. 	

² Recommendations should be made at the scale of stock definitions under Amendment 31 and 35, as applicable.

Start/ End Date	Meeting/Event	Key Advisory Body, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and/or Council Staff Tasks/ & Deliverables	Council Task/Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMT approves revisions as appropriate and communicates to stock assessment teams for potential to complete revised projections by November Council meeting (2 weeks prior for full SSC review). 	
September 18-24, 2025	September Council Meeting	<p>SSC provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations to the Council on full assessments and catch-only projections, including if BSIA, stock categories, and sigmas • Recommendations to the Council on OFLs, where possible³. <p>GMT/GAP make recommendations related to Council Tasks, as appropriate</p> <p>New management measures should be introduced for Council and advisory body consideration</p> <p>GMT/GAP should review 2027-28 OFL, ABC, and ACLs as a QA/QC measure</p>	<p>The Council adopts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stock assessments, stock categories, and sigmas endorsed by the SSC.⁴ • Final preferred alternatives (FPAs) for 2027-28 OFLs recommended by the SSC, where possible. • Default harvest control rules (HCR) including preliminary preferred alternatives (PPA) for ACLs • A range of alternative HCRs to be considered, including a range of P* values and ABCs, as applicable. • Preliminary range of new management measures necessary to keep catch within or attain a specification or to address a habitat or protected resources concern.⁵

³ Recommendations should be made at the scale of stock definitions under Amendment 31 and 35, if applicable.

⁴ Council action could be postponed from September to November for any stock assessments recommended for further review by the SSC (i.e., those assessments the Council authorizes to be sent to the September 25-29, 2025 “mop-up” panel).

⁵ The inclusion of new management measures in this biennial cycle may not be consistent with recent Executive Orders, and therefore the Council may need to consider any new management measures under the scope of different actions/agenda items.

Start/ End Date	Meeting/Event	Key Advisory Body, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and/or Council Staff Tasks/ & Deliverables	Council Task/Action
			<p>Council considers any GMT over-summer analyses (if tasked) and provides additional guidance, as appropriate.</p> <p>Council provides guidance to GMT regarding tasks for their Fall meeting work session.</p>
September 29-October 3, 2025	SSC GFSC Review Meeting (“mop-up”), if necessary.	<p>SSC GFSC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews rebuilding analyses prepared for stocks estimated to be below MSST, any stock assessments forwarded for further review at a “mop-up” panel (Location TBD) • Reviews and prepares 2027-28 OFLs, ABCs, and ACL, as appropriate • Provides recommendations to the full SSC in report. <p>Representatives from the GMT and GAP to any STAR Panel or GFSC meeting with assessments forwarded for further review to attend.</p> <p>GMT provides removals for default base model projections and rebuilding analyses, as appropriate.</p>	N/A
October 2025 TBD	GMT Fall Meeting	<p>GMT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews/updates 2027-28 harvest specifications and ACL dispersals to fishery, as appropriate • Completes any Council-directed tasks 	N/A

Start/ End Date	Meeting/Event	Key Advisory Body, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and/or Council Staff Tasks/ & Deliverables	Council Task/Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMT/Staff develop Action Item Checklist (AIC) • Complete preliminary scoping of any new management measures identified by the Council.⁶ • Develop off-the-top deductions for Tribal, incidental open access mortality, exempted fishing permits (EFP), and research mortality. • Considers allocations, as appropriate • Draft statements relevant to the groundfish biennial process for November Council meeting. 	
October 2025	Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Document	Council staff initiates work on SAFE document with input from GMT, SSC, etc., as applicable	N/A
September 30 to November 13, 2025	Coastal Treaty Tribes process	Letter(s) to Council and NOAA's Regional Administrator sent before the November 2025 Council meeting providing information on Tribal groundfish set-asides and/or regulations specific to the Tribes for 2027-28.	N/A
October 15, 2025	Advanced Briefing Book deadline: November Council meeting	Advisory bodies, state, and Federal agencies may submit statements related to the groundfish biennial process and Council tasks for the November Council meeting.	Review of Documents

⁶ the inclusion of new management measures in this biennial cycle may not be consistent with recent Executive Orders, and therefore the Council may need to consider any new management measures under the scope of different actions/agenda items

Start/ End Date	Meeting/Event	Key Advisory Body, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and/or Council Staff Tasks/ & Deliverables	Council Task/Action
		<p>GMT submits Fall meeting analyses, as appropriate.</p> <p>Stock assessment documents and projections, rebuilding analyses, resulting from further review (after September Council meeting).</p> <p>Council Staff provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical document(s) in support of Council tasks at the November Council meeting • Draft impact analyses of default HCS and PPA for those stocks considered under Alternative HCRs • Revised/corrected 2027-28 harvest specifications (as appropriate) and • Draft MSA analysis of default HCRs and ROA/PPA for stocks with Alternative HCRs. • Exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications, if submitted. 	
November 13-19, 2025	November Council Meeting	<p>The SSC considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any remaining OFLs, stock categories, and sigmas not adopted at the September Council meeting. • Any stock assessments approved for further review from the September 29- 	<p>The Council adopts⁷</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebuilding analyses (if applicable), as recommended by the SSC. • Stock assessments, stock categories, and sigmas, if necessary

⁷ Any remaining OFLs, stock categories, and sigmas endorsed by the SSC and not adopted at the September Council meeting

Start/ End Date	Meeting/Event	Key Advisory Body, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and/or Council Staff Tasks/ & Deliverables	Council Task/Action
		<p>October 3, 2025 SSC GFSC “mop-up” panel meeting, if applicable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any rebuilding analyses. Provides recommendations to the Council, as appropriate. <p>GMT/GAP make recommendations related to Council Tasks, as appropriate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FPA for P* values where there are no alternative HCRs included for analysis. FPA for OFLs, ABCs where there are no alternative HCRs decided for analysis. PPA ACLs for stocks with alternative HCRs. A tentative range of two-year allocation alternatives.⁸ Preliminary recommendation for 2027-28 EFPs. Range of routine management measure analysis (trip limits, allocations etc.). Range of new management measures for detailed analysis necessary to keep catch within or attain a specification or to address a habitat or protected resources concern.
November 20, 2025 to February 4, 2026	Overwinter work period	<p>NMFS makes stock status determinations, notifying the Council appropriately</p> <p>GMT, Council staff, and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) complete analytical work in support of 2027-28 biennial process. Develops rebuilding plan (s) if applicable.</p>	N/A

⁸ Allocations to be reviewed include the trawl and non-trawl allocations, as well as the within non-trawl sector apportionments and accountability measures (e.g., recreational harvest guidelines).

Start/ End Date	Meeting/Event	Key Advisory Body, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and/or Council Staff Tasks/ & Deliverables	Council Task/Action
		<p>Council staff compile Council documents for March and April 2026 Council meetings</p> <p>NMFS conducts National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping and makes a preliminary determination regarding the type of NEPA analysis necessary for the proposed action.</p> <p>NMFS and Council staff prepare a schedule for regulation deeming and fishery management plan (FMP) transmittal.</p>	
November 2025 to April 2026	Period for state and tribal agencies to hold constituent meetings	Obtain input on final harvest specifications and preliminary management measures in preparation for the April 2026 Council meeting.	N/A
January 2026 TBD	GMT Overwinter meeting	GMT develops/completes management measures analyses, as appropriate.	N/A
February 2025 TBD	Advanced Briefing Book deadline: March Council meeting	The GMT may submit reports/analyses developed during the overwinter period requiring input from the Council.	Review of Documents
March 4-10, 2026	March Council Meeting	<p>GMT and/or staff updates the Council on overwinter work. may provide detailed analyses to the Council and request input and guidance.</p> <p>NMFS updates the Council on the results of the NEPA scoping and provides a schedule for regulation deeming and FMP transmittal, as necessary.</p>	<p>Council considers overwinter analytical work products and any emerging issues identified in the course of the overwinter work.</p> <p>Council may need to provide guidance to the GMT/Staff on issues they bring forward.</p> <p>Council may need to take action on emerging issues, as necessary</p>

Start/ End Date	Meeting/Event	Key Advisory Body, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and/or Council Staff Tasks/ & Deliverables	Council Task/Action
March 2026 TBD	Advanced Briefing Book deadline: April Council meeting	<p>Advisory body, state, and/or Federal agencies submit reports relevant to support FPA for harvest specifications and PPA for management measures.</p> <p>Council staff submits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Analytical document(s), including draft NEPA and draft MSA analyses, in support of PPA for 2027-28 management measures and FPA harvest specifications. <p>If applicable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft rebuilding plan(s) Draft FMP language. 	Review of Documents
April 7-13, 2026	April Council meeting	<p>SSC/GMT/GAP draft statements and make recommendations related to FPA harvest specifications, as appropriate.</p> <p>GMT/GAP make recommendations related to PPA management measures, as appropriate.</p>	<p>The Council adopts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FPA ACLs for stocks with alternative HCRs and other harvest specifications, as applicable. PPA for management measures for all fishery sectors, including allocations, set-asides, and any new management measures.
April 12, 2026 to May 8, 2026	Work period	Council staff, NMFS, GMT, and subject matter experts validate and refine analysis, consequent to the April Council meeting actions, as necessary.	N/A
May 14 2026	Advanced Briefing Book deadline: June meeting	Advisory body, state, and/or Federal agencies may submit reports relevant to support FPA for harvest specifications and PPA for management measures.	Review of Documents

Start/ End Date	Meeting/Event	Key Advisory Body, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and/or Council Staff Tasks/ & Deliverables	Council Task/Action
		<p>Council staff submits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Analytical document(s), including draft NEPA and draft MSA analyses, in support of FPA for 2027-28 management measures (and harvest specifications, if applicable). • 	
June 11-17, 2026	June Council meeting	<p>SSC/GMT/GAP draft statements and make recommendations related to FPA harvest specifications, as appropriate.</p> <p>GMT/GAP make recommendations related to FPA management measures, as appropriate.</p>	<p>The Council adopts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corrections to the FPA for harvest specifications, if needed • FPA for management measures for all fishery sectors, including allocations, set-asides, and any new management measures • Final EFP recommendations for 2027-28. • Rebuilding plan(s) if applicable
June 14, 2026 to July 15, 2026 ⁹	Action team process	<p>Council staff and NMFS staff finalize and submit all relevant 2027-28 harvest specification analytical documents (NEPA, MSA, etc.) to NMFS for Secretarial review on or before July 15.</p> <p>Council staff finalize and publish SAFE report.</p>	N/A

⁹ July 15, 2026 is an estimated deadline for the completed NEPA document. NMFS may determine an alternative deadline to better synchronize rulemaking and any MSA process associated with adoption of a potential FMP amendment.

Start/ End Date	Meeting/Event	Key Advisory Body, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and/or Council Staff Tasks/ & Deliverables	Council Task/Action
		Council staff sends appropriate regulatory deeming letter to NMFS Regional Administrator.	
July 2026 to Dec 2026	NMFS process	NMFS completes the rule making process (proposed rule, public comment period, final rule).	N/A
August 2026 TBD	Advanced Briefing Book deadline: September Council meeting	Documents related to any biennial process corrections submitted, as appropriate.	Review of Documents
September 2026	September Council meeting	Advisory bodies, state, and/or Federal agencies draft statements related to 2027-28 biennium corrections, as appropriate.	Council considers, reviews, and adopts corrections under the groundfish Inseason agenda item, as applicable.
January 1, 2027	2027-28 biennial regulations are implemented	N/A	N/A

PFMC
05/21/2025