

PHASE 2 STOCK DEFINITIONS: SUMMARY OF DECISION POINTS FOR JUNE 2025

This document is intended to provide a highly summarized synopsis of the Phase 2 Stock Definitions action. The role of the following is to supplement the analyses in Attachment 1 and Supplemental Attachment 2 and is meant to simplify the decision points of this action for the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Advisory Bodies.

In brief, there are several main decision points for the Council to consider. The first is to adopt the final preferred alternative (FPA) for 47 groundfish species. The second is to adopt a preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) for 39 groundfish species (hereinafter, species). The third is to consider the Groundfish Management Team's (GMT) analysis on ecosystem component (EC) species and determine if they need further evaluation.

The Council is considering three alternatives and three options under Alternative 1 (Figure 1):

- Alternative 1 would identify the species as in need of conservation and management in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and under consideration*
- Alternative 2 would identify the species as not in need of conservation and management in the EEZ, remove the species from the FMP and, thus, Federal Management
- Alternative 3 would identify the species as not in need of conservation and management in the EEZ and designate them as an EC species, thus remaining in the FMP.

Under Alternative 1, the Council is considering three stock definition Options:

- Option 1: Single stock, single area
- Option 2: Two stocks, two areas
- Option 3: Three stocks, three areas.

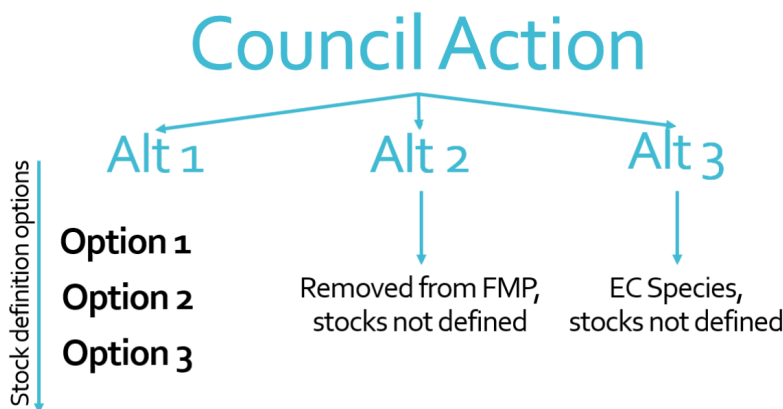


Figure 1. Overview of the Range of Alternatives and Options for this action. Species under Alternative 1 *ARE* in need of conservation and management, species under Alternatives 2 & 3 *ARE NOT* in need of conservation and management

1.1 FPA Decision Point (Attachment 1)

The first task for the Council is to consider adoption of its FPA Alternative for 47 species. The Council adopted Alternative 1 for the 47 species shown in Table 1 as PPA. Alternative 1 would identify these species as in need of conservation and management in the EEZ. The species would continue to be actively managed by the Council.

Table 1. Groundfish species adopted under Alternative 1 as PPA. Stocks of the italicized species previously defined.

Arrowtooth flounder	<i>Dover sole</i>	Pacific sanddab	Silvergray rockfish
Aurora rockfish	<i>English sole</i>	<i>Pacific spiny dogfish</i>	Splitnose rockfish
Bank rockfish	Flathead sole	<i>Petrale sole</i>	<i>Squarespot rockfish</i>
Big skate	Greenspotted rockfish	<i>Redbanded rockfish</i>	Starry rockfish
Blackgill rockfish	Greenstriped rockfish	Redstripe rockfish	Stripetail rockfish
<i>Blackspotted rockfish</i>	Harlequin rockfish	<i>Rex sole</i>	<i>Sunset rockfish</i>
Bocaccio	<i>Lingcod</i>	Rosethorn rockfish	<i>Vermilion rockfish</i>
California scorpionfish	Longnose skate	<i>Rougheye rockfish</i>	<i>Widow rockfish</i>
<i>Canary rockfish</i>	Longspine thornyhead	<i>Sablefish</i>	<i>Yelloweye rockfish</i>
<i>Chilipepper</i>	Pacific cod	Sharpchin rockfish	Yellowmouth rockfish
Cowcod	Pacific hake	Shortraker rockfish	<i>Yellowtail rockfish</i>
Darkblotched rockfish	Pacific Ocean perch	<i>Shortspine thornyhead</i>	

Stock Definition Options:

If the Council adopts Alternative 1 for any or all of these species, the next step is to adopt FPA stock definitions for those species. Of the species in Table 1, 19 have had stocks defined and those definitions are not under reconsideration at this time. Therefore, of the 47, stocks for 28 need to be defined as part of this action (Table 2).

Table 2. Species needing to have their stocks defined.

Arrowtooth flounder	Cowcod	Longspine thornyhead	Sharpchin rockfish
Aurora rockfish	Darkblotched rockfish	Pacific cod	Shortraker rockfish
Bank rockfish	Flathead sole	Pacific hake	Silvergray rockfish
Big skate	Greenspotted rockfish	Pacific Ocean perch	Splitnose rockfish
Blackgill rockfish	Greenstriped rockfish	Pacific sanddab	Starry rockfish
Bocaccio	Harlequin rockfish	Redstripe rockfish	Stripetail rockfish
California scorpionfish	Longnose skate	Rosethorn rockfish	Yellowmouth rockfish

A total of 23 species were considered only under Option 1, four species under Options 1 and 2, and one species under all Options (Table 3). The Council adopted Option 1 as PPA for all species. The Option 1 stock definition for 24 species would be coastwide, three species would be California-only stocks, and one species would be an Oregon/Washington stock.

Table 3. Stock definition Options considered for the 28 species with undefined stocks. The PPA is bolded for reference.

Stock	Option(s)	Stock (s)	Proposed Stock Definition
Species considered under Option 1 only			
Arrowtooth flounder	Option 1 (PPA)	Single Stock	Coastwide
Aurora rockfish			
Bank rockfish			
Big skate			
Blackgill rockfish			
Flathead sole			
Greenstriped rockfish			
Longnose skate			
Longspine thornyhead			
Pacific cod			
Pacific hake			
Pacific ocean perch			
Pacific sanddab			
Redstripe rockfish			
Rosethorn rockfish			
Sharpchin rockfish			
Shortraker rockfish			
Silvergray rockfish			
Splitnose rockfish			
Stripetail rockfish			
Yellowmouth rockfish			
California scorpionfish	Option 1 (PPA)	Single Stock	California-only
Starry rockfish			
Species considered under Options 1 & 2			
Bocaccio rockfish	Option 1 (PPA)	Single Stock	Coastwide
	Option 2	Two Stocks	A stock north of 40°10' N. lat. A stock south of 40°10' N. lat.
Cowcod	Option 1 (PPA)	Single Stock	California-only
	Option 2	Two Stocks	California Stock Oregon stock
Greenspotted rockfish	Option 1 (PPA)	Single Stock	Coastwide
	Option 2	Two Stocks	A stock north of 34°27' N. lat. A stock south of 34°27' N. lat.
Harlequin rockfish	Option 1 (PPA)	Single Stock	Oregon/Washington
	Option 2	Two Stocks	An Oregon stock A Washington stock

Stock	Option(s)	Stock (s)	Proposed Stock Definition
<i>Species considered under Options 1, 2, & 3</i>			
Darkblotched rockfish	Option 1 (PPA)	Single Stock	Coastwide
	Option 2	Two Stocks	A stock north of 42° A stock south of 42°
	Option 3	Three Stocks	A California stock, an Oregon stock, & a Washington stock

If the Council is undecided for any of these species, those species should be evaluated under the 10 Factors found at §600.305(c). Of note, Council staff determined one species, harlequin rockfish, could be a candidate for either Alternative 2 or Alternative 3 based on Council discussion and Advisory Body reports at the March 2025 meeting. As such, Council staff also evaluated harlequin rockfish under these 10 factors.

1.2 PPA Decision Point (Supplemental Attachment 2)

The Council directed staff to analyze 39 species under the 10 factors at §600.305(c) to support a PPA at this, the June, Council meeting. The next step is for the Council to adopt a PPA among Alternatives 1-3 for these 39 species (Table 4), with the option to also adopt a PPA for harlequin rockfish (see above).

Table 4. Species under consideration for PPA

Black and Yellow Rockfish	Flag rockfish	Pink rockfish
Black rockfish	Freckled rockfish	Pinkrose rockfish
Blue Rockfish	Gopher Rockfish	Pygmy rockfish
Bronzespotted rockfish	Grass Rockfish	Quillback rockfish
Brown Rockfish	Greenblotched rockfish	Rock sole
Butter sole	Halfbanded rockfish	Rosy rockfish
Cabezon	Harlequin rockfish	Sand sole
Calico Rockfish a/	Honeycomb rockfish	Speckled rockfish
Chameleon Rockfish	Kelp greenling	Starry flounder
China Rockfish	Kelp rockfish	Swordspine rockfish
Copper rockfish	Leopard shark	Tiger rockfish
Curlfin sole	Light Dusky Rockfish	Treefish
Deacon Rockfish	Mexican rockfish	
Dwarf-Red Rockfish	Olive rockfish	

If the Council adopts Alternative 1 for any or all of these species, the next step is to adopt PPA stock definitions for those species. Of the species in Table 4, three species (black, copper, and quillback) have had stocks defined and those definitions are not under reconsideration at this time. Therefore, of the 40 species, stocks for up to 37 could be defined as part of this action, depending on how many species are adopted under Alternative 1.

Table 5. Potential PPA stock definitions Options for 37 species, if adopted under Alternative 1

Species	Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3	Proposed Stock Delineations
Black and yellow rockfish	*	*	*	Opt 1 Coastwide or California/Oregon or Opt 2 California and Oregon
Blue rockfish	*	*	*	Opt 1 Coastwide, Opt 2 N/S of 42° N. lat. Opt 3 state-specific
Bronzespotted rockfish	*			Opt1 Coastwide or California-only
Brown rockfish	*	*	*	Opt 1 Coastwide, Opt 2 N/S of 42° N. lat. Opt 3 state-specific
Butter sole	*			Opt 1 Coastwide
Cabazon	*	*	*	Opt 1 Coastwide, Opt 2 N/S of 42° N. lat. Opt 3 state-specific
Calico rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide or California-only
Chameleon rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide or California-only
China rockfish	*	*	*	Opt 1 Coastwide, Opt 2 N/S of 42° N. lat. Opt 3 state-specific
Curlfin sole	*			Opt 1 Coastwide
Deacon rockfish	*	*	*	Opt 1 Coastwide, Opt 2 N/S of 42° N. lat. Opt 3 state-specific
Dwarf-red rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide or California-only
Flag rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide or California/Oregon or Opt 2 California and Oregon
Freckled rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide or California-only
Gopher rockfish	*	*		Opt 1 Coastwide or California/Oregon or Opt 2 California and Oregon
Grass rockfish	*	*		Opt 1. Coastwide or California/Oregon or Opt 2 California and Oregon
Greenblotched rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide
Halfbanded rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide
Harlequin rockfish	*	*		Opt 1 Coastwide or Oregon/Washington. Opt 2. Oregon, and Washington
Honeycomb rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide or California-only
Kelp greenling	*	*	*	Opt 1 Coastwide, Opt 2 N/S of 42° N. lat. Opt 3 state-specific,
Kelp rockfish	*	*		Opt 1 Coastwide or California/Oregon or Opt 2. California and Oregon
Light dusky rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide or Oregon/Washington. Opt 2. Oregon, and Washington

Species	Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3	Proposed Stock Delineations
Leopard shark	*	*		Opt 1 Coastwide or California/Oregon or Opt 2. California and Oregon
Mexican rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide or California-only
Olive rockfish a/	*	*		Opt 1 Coastwide or California/Oregon or Opt 2 California and Oregon
Pink rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide or California/Oregon or Opt 2 California and Oregon
Pinkrose rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide or California-only
Pygmy rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide
Rock sole	*			Opt 1 Coastwide
Rosy rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide
Sand sole	*			Opt 1 Coastwide
Speckled rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide
Starry flounder	*			Opt 1 Coastwide
Swordspine rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide or California-only
Tiger rockfish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide
Treefish	*			Opt 1 Coastwide or California-only

1.3 EC Review (GMT Report 1)

The Council directed evaluation of the current list of EC species in relation to the Phase 2 process. The GMT was tasked with evaluating these species. Their report, [Agenda Item E.6.a, GMT Report 1, June 2025](#), provides detailed information regarding these species.

It is important to note that reconsideration of the current EC species is not part of the scope of this action. In the event the Council were to consider moving any of these species under active management, a full 10 Factor evaluation would need to be completed. In the scoping of Phase 2 ([Agenda Item I.8, Attachment 1, September 2024](#)), Phase 2 is specific to the currently managed species and appropriate revisions to the stock complexes. These items must be addressed to align the FMP with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and its National Standards. Given the workload associated with Phase 2, Staff recommends reconsideration of EC species be undertaken in a subsequent Phase.