

Priority Number	FMP	Title	Action type (e.g. Changes to Regulations, Orders, Guidance Documents, Other Similar Agency Actions)	Relevant CFR Citation under Title 50 (if applicable)	Updated description of recommended action(s)	Rationale of how the recommended action(s) stabilize markets, improve access, enhance economic profitability, and prevent closures	Proposed plan and schedule for implementation
	CPS	Sardine Stock Definitions	Regulation Change & FMP Amendment	50 CFR 660, Subpart I	Currently, only the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine is defined in the CPS FMP, however, based on recent research and data showing that a large proportion of Pacific sardine catch comes from the "southern subpopulation", the Council has prioritized reviewing the stock definition for Pacific sardine to ensure all sardine present off the West coast are managed and available to U.S. fishermen	This action has seen longtime support from industry, as the current stock definition of Pacific sardine is restricting catch accounting to the northern subpopulation, a stock which is currently under a rebuilding plan. Reviewing stock definitions and ensuring all sardine caught off the west coast are properly accounted for will improve access for all sectors of the sardine fishery. Proper catch accounting will reduce the risk of approaching the ACL, stabilizing markets for live bait (which supports a wider recreational fishing sector) and other sectors in southern California by ensuring access to the stock year round. Defining stocks for all sardine coastwide will also prevent closures and restrictions caused by accounting all catch to the NSP until the end of the season, despite a large proportion actually coming from the SSP throughout the season. As the NSP is currently under a rebuilding plan, defining the SSP or one coastwide stock could increase access by revising the sustainable yield for the total biomass of all sardine off the West coast.	Final Council action in April 2026 for definitions; November 2026 for Reference Points & Harvest Control Rules. July 2027 NMFS implementation
	Groundfish	Flexible and Adaptive Management (Spex Flex)	Regulation Change & FMP Amendment	50 CFR 660, Subpart C	Currently in the scoping phase; examining ways to make the groundfish fishery more flexible and adapting to changing fishery and environmental conditions.	Actions being considered could provide improved access through increasing quotas, stabilize markets by ensuring a consistent supply of fish (including times where quotas are declining due to stock assessments), enhance profitability through increased access and flexibility and prevent unnecessary closures by finding methods of flexible catch accounting	Final Council action in March 2026, NMFS implementation January 2028
	Groundfish	Stock Definitions	FMP Amendment	50 CFR 660, Subpart C	Defines stocks in need of conservation and management	Determining which stocks are in need of conservation and management in Federal waters, may facilitate improved access to species in Federal waters by separating management of stocks principally caught in state waters. This action could provide increased flexibility and prevent closures caused by mortality of non-target, diminutive species that are currently in the FMP. The action may also increase profitability by focusing resources on stocks in need of conservation and management.	Final Council action September 2025, phased implementation with all actions implemented by NMFS in 2027
	HMS	EFPs for Fishery Development	Council Operating Procedures	50 CFR 600.745	The Council is developing EFP criteria to streamline EFP issuance.	This effort is intended to encourage innovation and provide a pathway for alternative gear types and fishing practices in anticipation of the 2027 prohibition on large mesh drift gillnets under the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act. By establishing clear EFP criteria in advance, the Council and NMFS can facilitate timely testing, data collection, and transition to new gear that supports sustainable fishing opportunities and market stability.	Final EFP metrics in March 2026, NMFS issues EFPs in a timely manner, after receipt
	Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan	Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan	Regulations and Catch Sharing Plan	50 CFR Part 300	The proposed changes include recreational season structures (e.g., opening dates, days open per week, port/area sharing, etc.) and changes to the non-tribal commercial season structure of the non-treaty directed halibut fishery. Other changes may also be proposed, including allocation changes among areas or sectors.	By tailoring season dates, fishing days, and area sharing, the Council can help stabilize markets and ensure fishing opportunities are distributed in ways that sustain both recreational and commercial sectors. Such measures strengthen the competitiveness of U.S. seafood while supporting resilient coastal economies.	Final Council action in November 2025; March 2026 NMFS implementation