

## GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON ADOPT STOCK ASSESSMENTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) does not recommend adopting supplemental revised catch only projections for Oregon black rockfish ([Agenda Item G.3, Revised Attachment 17, September 2025](#)) and bocaccio ([Agenda Item G.3, Revised Attachment 18, September 2025](#)) as they apply a revised formula for establishing time-varying sigma that is not clearly outlined in the Groundfish Terms of Reference or Accepted Practices Guidelines. Specifically, the revised assessments include an increase in the time-varying sigma as they have an M value (mortality) that is greater than 0.15 ([Agenda Item G.3.a, Supplemental SSC Report 2, September 2025](#)).

The GAP understands that the SSC is also recommending to apply this method to chilipepper rockfish, but because the assessment ([Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 3, September 2025](#)) currently contains the original time-varying sigma we still recommend adopting that assessment. Under Agenda Item G.6.a, we will speak to the SSC's recommendation on this issue for chilipepper.

Regarding the use of this method in the future, the GAP continues to recommend another look at time-varying sigma ([Agenda Item E.7.a., Supplemental GAP Report 1, June 2025](#)) before being applied to any species. As an example, the GAP understands that this revised method of calculating time-varying sigma would potentially apply to widow rockfish which is expected to be reviewed at the Supplemental Review in October and proposed for consideration of adoption in November.

This behind-the-scenes change is coming at a time when groundfish stakeholder faith in the stock assessment process is at an all-time low, and we have concerns about the process that was followed. The GAP seeks transparent clarification on how exactly this approach is intended to be applied, more specifics about how it would be applied in different scenarios (such as for species with sex-specific mortality), and whether the impacts will further compound the effects of time-varying sigma the further we get from assessments. We recommend that any change to sigma be brought through Council review.

PFMC  
09/22/25