

**GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON 2027-2028 BIENNIAL
HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS INTERIM FINAL PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) recommends that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) select their preliminary preferred alternatives (PPA) as the interim final preferred alternatives (FPA) for all stocks/complexes, with the exception of yelloweye rockfish. For yelloweye rockfish, the GAP recommends Alternative 1, the default, as FPA. Stocks with alternative harvest control rules being considered are summarized in Table 1 with rationale for the recommendations described in more detail below.

Table 1. Summary of GAP/GMT Recommendations for 2027-2028, with 2025-2026 included for comparison. Recommendations highlighted in blue.

Stock	Alt	Harvest Control Rule	Annual Catch Limit (ACL)				GAP/GMT Recommendation
			2025 ¹	2026 ²	2027	2028	
Canary Rockfish	Alt 1	Default: ABC>ACL (40-10 rule, P*=0.45)	572	626	606	623	FPA
	Alt 2	ABC = ACL (P* = 0.45)			643	664	
Chilipepper Rockfish	Alt 1	Default: ABC=ACL (P*=0.45)	3,028a/	3,185a/	3,211a/	3,086a/	FPA
	Alt 2	ACL=2,114 mt for 2027-28, return to default in 2029			2,114a/	2,114a/	
Petrale Sole	Alt 1	Default: ABC=ACL (P*=0.45)	2,354	2,489	2,449	2,423	FPA
	Alt 2	ABC/ACL=2,489 mt for 2027-28, return to default in 2029			2,489	2,489	
Rougheye/ Blackspotted	Alt 1	Default: ABC=ACL (P*=0.45)	189b/	187b/	844b/	827b/	FPA
	Alt 2	ACL=300 mt			300b/	300b/	
Shortspine Thornyhead	Alt 1	Default: ABC=ACL (P*=0.45)	815	897	847	856	FPA
	Alt 2	ABC/ACL=902 mt for 2027-28, return to default in 2029			902	902	
Yelloweye Rockfish	Alt 1	Default: ABC=ACL (P*=0.4)	55.8	56.6	113	113	FPA
	Alt 2	ACL=85 mt for 2027-28, return to default in 2029			85	85	

¹ [Table 1a to Part 660, Subpart C, Title 50 — 2025 Specifications of OFL, ABC, ACL, ACT and Fishery HG](#)

² [Table 2a to Part 660, Subpart C, Title 50 — 2026 Specifications of OFL, ABC, ACL, ACT, and Fishery HG](#)

Yellowtail Rockfish North of 40°10' N. lat.	Alt 1	Default: ABC=ACL (P*=45)	6,241	6,023	4,723	4,540	
	Alt 2	Ad-hoc phase in			5,050	4,730	FPA

a/ Apportioned 7 percent to shelf rockfish complex north of 40° 10' N. lat. (211.9 mt in 2025, 199 mt in 2026, 225 mt in 2027 and 216 mt in 2028 under Alt 1; 148 mt in 2027-28 under Alt 2) and 93 percent to be managed individually south of 40° 10' N. lat. (2,816 mt in 2025, 2,643 mt in 2026, 2,986 mt in 2027 and 2,870 mt in 2028 under Alt 1; 1,966 mt in 2027-28 under Alt 2).

b/ Apportioned 98% percent to slope rockfish complex north of 40° 10' N. lat. (185.4 mt in 2025, 183 mt in 2026, 827 mt in 2027 and 17 mt in 2028 under Alt 1; 294 mt in 2027-28 under Alt 2) and 2% percent to the slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat. (3.8 mt in 2025, 3.7 mt in 2026 17 mt in 2027-28 under Alt 1; 6 mt in 2027-28 under Alt 2).

Canary Rockfish

The GAP recommends Alternative 2 [Acceptable Biological Catch, ABC = ACL (P* = 0.45)] as the FPA for canary rockfish, which would result in 2027-2028 annual catch limits (ACLs) of 643 metric tons (mt) and 664 mt, as shown in Table 1. The impact analysis ([Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 1, April 2026](#)) states that “the choice between Alternatives will not impact the overall stock status in the projection period”, but Alternative 2 will provide an additional 37 mt in 2027 and 41 mt in 2028 which are significant to our fisheries (as described in [Agenda Item D.6.a., Supplemental GAP Report 1, March 2026](#)).

Chilipepper Rockfish

The GAP recommends Alternative 2 as the FPA for chilipepper rockfish, which would result in 2027-2028 ACLs of 2,114 mt (to be split north and south of 40° 10' N. lat.), as shown in Table 1. While Alternative 1 would provide an additional 1,097 mt in 2027 and 972 mt in 2028, the GAP does not anticipate that Alternative 2 would be constraining in either the north (as a part of the shelf rockfish complex) or the south (managed individually) during the next biennium, and Alternative 2 results in a higher stock status over the time period.

Petrale sole

The GAP recommends Alternative 2 as the FPA for Petrale sole, which would result in 2027-2028 ACLs of 2,489 mt, as shown in Table 1. The impact analysis ([Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 1, April 2026](#)) states that “the choice between Alternatives will not impact the overall stock status in the projection period,” but Alternative 2 will provide an additional 40 mt in 2027 and 66 mt in 2028. As described in our March report referenced above, Petrale sole is a highly important stock to the bottom trawl fishery and the additional quota will provide socio-economic benefits.

Rougheye/blackspotted

The GAP recommends Alternative 2 as the FPA for rougheye/blackspotted, which would result in 2027-2028 ACLs of 300 mt (to be apportioned), as shown in Table 1. The GAP continues to support this cautious approach to accommodate recent maximum catch for this long-lived and targetable species because the scale of the assessment is uncertain.

Shortspine thornyhead

The GAP recommends Alternative 2 as the FPA for shortspine thornyhead, which would result in 2027-2028 ACLs of 902mt, as shown in Table 1. The GAP continues to support Alternative 2 to lessen impacts from the drastic ACL decrease due to the 2023 stock assessment (59 percent reduction from 2024 to 2025). In comparison to the default HCR, this approach would provide an additional 55 mt of shortspine in 2027 and 46 mt in 2028. Shortspine thornyhead is currently

constraining to both trawl and non-trawl commercial fisheries- and the additional quota would provide some needed flexibility (for trawl participants) and targeting opportunities for non-trawl participants. Additionally, as shown in the catch only projection for shortspine thornyhead (Agenda Item Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 1), the stock status over the time series varies less than 0.1 percent and the ACL decreases no more than 2 mt in any year through the 2036 ACL (which assumes 100 percent attainment), suggesting that there is no risk to the stock by allowing increased yield in the interim.

Yelloweye rockfish

The GAP recommends Alternative 1 as the FPA for yelloweye rockfish, which would result in 2027-2028 ACLs of 113 mt, as shown in Table 1. While the Council and GAP previously proposed and supported Alternative 2 as the PPA (85 mt) to provide a precautionary approach for the stock being declared newly rebuilt, while allowing for minimal retention opportunities in fisheries. After further consideration, the GAP recommends Alternative 1, in combination with the status quo non-trawl annual catch limit (ACT) structure set at a level that results in essentially the same precautionary approach but with more flexibility to manage restrictive retention allowances in fisheries that will benefit the collection of data on for this species. (Note, the GAP will address management measures, including ACTs, in more detail in Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, April 2026). The biological risk to the stock associated with each alternative are almost identical, with both trajectories seeing increases over time in the fraction unfished (see Table 11 in Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 1). Therefore, Alternative 1, in combination with the status quo management structure (i.e., ACTs) is still highly precautionary but will allow for fishery benefits and collection of biological data important for tracking the status of this species.

Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.

The GAP recommends Alternative 2 as the FPA for yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat., which would result in 2027-2028 ACLs of 5,050 mt and 4,730 mt. The impact analysis ([Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 1, April 2026](#)) states that “the choice between Alternatives will not impact the overall stock status in the projection period,” but Alternative 2 will provide an additional 327 mt in 2027 and 190 mt in 2028, which would help to reduce the impacts of the significant ACL decline from the most recent 2025 stock assessment.

PFMC

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