

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON PRELIMINARY PREFERRED MANAGEMENT MEASURE ALTERNATIVES FOR 2027-28 FISHERIES

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) has reviewed the documents pertaining to Agenda Item C.7, Preferred Alternatives for 2027-28 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures and has the following comments.

The EC met with members of the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) and the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to discuss the agenda item. The EC has the following specific comments related to [Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1](#).

Area Management

Lasuen Knoll and Osborne Bank

The EC supports Option 2 as the preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) to remove the 150 fathom Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundary line around Lasuen Knoll and to revise the Federal language regarding the exemption of RCA lines for these areas.

RCA Regulatory Text

The EC supports Option 2 as the PPA to modify the regulatory language in the Federal non-trawl trip limit tables.

Recreational Boat-Based Rockfish and Lingcod Season Structure

The EC reviewed the proposed season structures and appreciates the consistency with depths across the management areas. Regarding the proposed allowance to retain one cowcod and one yelloweye rockfish for one month out of the season, the EC recommends that these fish be maintained in a whole condition until being brought ashore. California regulations require rockfish fillets to have the entire skin attached ([CCR T14 27.65\(b\)\(8\)](#)). However, these fish have been prohibited for approximately 25 years and have not been lawfully filleted onboard vessels during that time frame. They have a body coloration that is very similar to other red/orange-skinned rockfish species.

For example, vermilion rockfish currently have a two fish or four fish bag limit depending on where they are taken. Enforcement uses eye coloration, fin edge coloration, and the texture on the underside of the jaw to differentiate a yelloweye rockfish from a vermilion rockfish, not body coloration. If yelloweye rockfish could be filleted at sea, it would be difficult for enforcement to differentiate the fillets of yelloweye rockfish from the fillets of vermilion rockfish in the field, making it challenging to effectively enforce the bag limit of both species.