

2027-28 HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS, MANAGEMENT MEASURES, AND EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS – FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) AMENDMENT

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduled to adopt their final preferred alternatives (FPA) for the 2027-28 harvest specifications and management measures. Under this agenda item the Council has three overarching and interconnected tasks. First, the Council should confirm FPA for all stocks and stock complexes adopted as interim FPA at the April 2026 meeting. Second, the Council will need to adopt their FPA for the widow rockfish harvest control rule and resulting harvest specifications (overfishing limits (OFL), allowable biological catches (ABC) and annual catch limit (ACL)). Third- the Council will need to adopt a suite of management measures designed to attain but not exceed, harvest objectives. Attachment 1, the Action Item Checklist, provides a summarized list of management measures to be addressed under this action for Council and advisory body reference and consideration.

The principal analytical documents in support of this action are 2027-28 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures analytical document (Attachment 2) and the Preliminary Draft Impacts Analysis (Attachment 3) for this action. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) are expected to provide reports to the Council with recommendations for this agenda item to aid in their decision-making process.

This agenda item is scheduled to be completed in two parts over two days. On Sunday, June 14, the objective is for advisory body and management entity to provide reports to the Council and for the Council to hear public comment. On Monday, June 15, the Council is scheduled to return to this agenda item for Council discussion and final action.

2027-28 Harvest Specifications

Under this agenda item, the Council will need to adopt their FPA for harvest specifications to ensure implementation of the biennial groundfish management regulatory package on January 1, 2027. The Council adopted an interim FPA for the 2027-28 harvest specifications for all stocks and stock complexes at their April 2026 meeting, except for widow rockfish. At that meeting, the Council revised its range of alternatives and forwarded two sub-options for further analysis. In addition to the default HCR (Alternative 1), the Council forwarded Alternative 2b (20% ramp down) and a new Alternative 2d (based on the SSC's recommended OFL from April 2026). Attachment 4 was provided by the Northwest Fishery Science Center (NWFSC) as an update of [Agenda Item C.3.a, Attachment 1](#) from April 2026 to provide an assessment of the impacts of the new alternative (2d) on the widow rockfish stock. The Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) is expected to contemplate the scientific analysis of these HCRs and their resulting harvest specifications.

Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP)

At its November 2025 meeting, the Council approved the California Department of Fish and Wildlife EFP to collect opportunistically caught yelloweye rockfish and cowcod from recreational commercial passenger fishing vessels (CPFV) off the coast of California proposed for the 2027-28 management period for public review, which is a renewal of 2025-26 EFP with minor revisions

(Attachment 5). The Council is scheduled to adopt its final EFP recommendations to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under this agenda item. *2027-28 Groundfish Management Measures*

The Council is expected to adopt the FPA management measures for the 2027-28 groundfish fishery to ensure implementation of this biennial groundfish regulator package on January 1, 2027. The Council adopted its preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) for the 2027-28 management measures at their April 2026 meeting for most fishery management categories as shown in the Action Item Check List (Attachment 1). The description of the PPA and the updated analysis for proposed management measures are provided in Attachment 2. In brief, the Council will consider adjustments to routine management measures needed to attain harvest objectives for such items as revisions to area management regulations, modifications to allocation methodology, non-trawl trip limits and recreational season structures. The preliminary draft impacts assessment to meet Federal requirements is provided as Attachment 3.

Amendment to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

The stock of California quillback rockfish is rebuilt and the stock of yelloweye rockfish is expected to be declared rebuilt soon; therefore, rebuilding plans are no longer necessary. To ensure consistency of the FMP with the best scientific information available, the FMP needs to be amended. This Amendment would revise the FMP to remove the rebuilding plans for California quillback rockfish and yelloweye rockfish. Attachment 6 provides the draft FMP language for both issues in redline and strikeout for Council review.

Council Action:

- 1. Confirm and adopt the iFPA harvest specifications (overfishing limits, acceptable biological catches, ACLs) as FPA for all groundfish stocks and/or stock complexes.**
- 2. Adopt FPA for 2027-28 harvest specifications (OFL, ABC, ACL) for widow rockfish**
- 3. Adopt final recommendations for 2027-28 EFPs, as appropriate.**
- 4. Adopt FPA 2027-28 off-the-top set-asides, tribal set-aside amounts, and harvest guidelines.**
- 5. Adopt FPA 2027-28 biennial allocations.**
- 6. Adopt FPA routine management measures for the 2027-28 commercial trawl, commercial non-trawl, and recreational fisheries.**
- 7. Adopt the FMP amendment language to remove the rebuilding plans for California quillback rockfish and yelloweye rockfish from the relevant FMP section, as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 1: Action Item Checklist.
2. Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 2: Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery 2027-28 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Analytical Document. (*Electronic Only*).
3. Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 3: Preliminary Draft Impact Assessment for the 2027-28 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures (*Electronic Only*).

4. Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 4: Northwest Fishery Science Center Analysis of Annual Catch Limit Alternatives for Widow Rockfish as Requested by the Pacific Fishery Management Council in April 2026.
5. Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 5, California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2027-2028 Exempted Fishing Permit Application.
6. Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 6, DRAFT Language to Support an Amendment [TBD] to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (**Electronic Only**).
7. Agenda Item E.6.a, CDFW Report 1. California Department of Fish and Wildlife Final Preferred Alternatives for 2027-28 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures.
8. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- E.6 2027-28 Harvest Specifications, Management Measures, and Exempted Fishing Permits –
 Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment Final Action Todd Phillips
(Part 1, Sunday, June 14)
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
- (Part 2, Monday, June 15)*
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Preferred Harvest Specifications, Management Measures, and Exempted Fishing Permits for 2027-28 Fisheries

PFMC
 05/20/26