

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS - FINAL ACTION

In this report, the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) details the action items that have been brought to the GMT for the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) consideration regarding changes to be implemented for the remainder of 2026. Scorecards are available in Appendix 1 for Chinook salmon, canary rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish.

### Recommendations:

- **Sablefish: The GMT recommends adopting Option 2 to increase the sablefish Limited Entry (LE) and Open Access (OA) trip limits north and south of 36° N. lat.**
- **Vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.: The GMT recommends adopting Option 2 to decrease the LE and OA sub-trip limits within the shelf rockfish complex south of 34° 27' N. lat.**

### Action Items

#### *Sablefish*

The sablefish landings targets for the LE and OA sectors north and south of 36° N. lat. (i.e., LEN, OAN, LES, and OAS) continue to be relatively high in 2026, and industry members have indicated to the GMT that there is some optimism for market expansion. Landings to date are tracking in all four sectors such that there is room to increase the trip limits to support market growth and optimum yield. The GMT modeled an increase of approximately 30 percent (25 to 35 percent) to all four sectors' trip limits for the remainder of the year. This range helped avoid complicated trip limits; for example, an exact 30 percent increase to the current LEN trip limit of 11,000 lbs. bimonthly is 14,300 lbs., but the GMT proposes an Option 2 increase of 14,000 lbs.

The 2026 landings projections under the "high" price scenario<sup>1</sup>, which is still less than \$3 per pound, are shown in Table 1. Projections are based on a combination of actual landings through April 30<sup>th</sup> plus model projected landings for May 1-December 31. All four sablefish sectors are projected to remain well within their 2026 landings targets and below their anticipated 2027 landings targets, which are much lower than 2026 due to the recent sablefish stock assessment. 2026 landings are projected to be higher than those of 2025 for the LEN, LES, and OAS sectors. Tables 2-5 show sector-specific trip limit options, landings projections across all three price scenarios, and target attainments.

**The GMT recommends adopting Option 2 to increase the sablefish trip limits for the LE and OA sectors north and south of 36° N. lat. as shown in Tables 2-5.** Increasing the trip limits in June rather than waiting until September allows more participants in the fishery to take advantage of the higher limits. The GMT will continue to monitor attainment of the landings targets and alert the Council if one or more are projected to be reached or exceeded.

---

<sup>1</sup> There is only one price scenario for the LES sector, because prices had to be removed from the LES regression in order to generate reasonable predictions.

**Table 1. 2026 sablefish landings projections for all sectors north and south of 36° N. lat., compared to their respective 2026 and 2027 landings targets as well as 2025 landings. Bolded content represents the GMT’s recommendation. 2026 landings projections assume the “high” price scenario for both Options, across all sectors except for LES (see Table 4).**

Sector	2025 Landings	2026 Landings Projection		2026 Target	2027 Target
		Option 1, Status Quo	Option 2		
LEN	195	307	<b>366</b>	1,341	537
OAN	437	368	<b>426</b>	2,209	884
LES	198	219	<b>266</b>	2,956	1,190
OAS	45	54	<b>73</b>	1,267	510

**Table 2. LEN 2026 projected sablefish landings and attainments under the two trip limit options and across three price scenarios. Bolded content represents the GMT’s recommendation.**

Option	Trip Limit	Projected Landings (rd. wt. mt) under Three Price Scenarios			Target (mt)	Attainment under Three Price Scenarios		
		Low	Med.	High		Low	Med.	High
Opt. 1 (SQ)	5,500 lbs./week not to exceed 11,000 lbs./2 months	250	279	307	1,341	19%	21%	23%
<b>Opt. 2</b>	<b>7,000 lbs./week not to exceed 14,000 lbs./2 months</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>366</b>		<b>22%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>27%</b>

**Table 3. OAN 2026 projected sablefish landings and attainments under the two trip limit options and across three price scenarios. Bolded content represents the GMT’s recommendation.**

Option	Trip Limit	Projected Landings (rd. wt. mt) under Three Price Scenarios			Target (mt)	Attainment under Three Price Scenarios		
		Low	Med.	High		Low	Med.	High
Opt. 1 (SQ)	4,000 lbs./week not to exceed 8,000 lbs./2 months	324	346	368	2,209	15%	16%	17%
<b>Opt. 2</b>	<b>5,000 lbs./week not to exceed 10,000 lbs./2 months</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>426</b>		<b>17%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>19%</b>

**Table 4. LES 2026 projected sablefish landings and attainments under the two trip limit options. Prices had to be removed from the regression to generate realistic projections, and so only one price scenario is provided. Bolded content represents the GMT’s recommendation.**

Option	Trip Limit	Projected Landings (rd. wt. mt)	Target (mt)	Attainment
Opt. 1 (SQ)	3,000 lbs./week	219	2,956	7%
<b>Opt. 2</b>	<b>4,000 lbs./week</b>	<b>266</b>		<b>9%</b>

**Table 5. OAS 2026 projected sablefish landings and attainments under the two trip limit options and across three price scenarios. Bolded content represents the GMT’s recommendation.**

Option	Trip Limit	Projected Landings (rd. wt. mt) under Three Price Scenarios			Target (mt)	Attainment under Three Price Scenarios		
		Low	Med.	High		Low	Med.	High
Opt. 1 (SQ)	2,500 lbs./week not to exceed 7,500 lbs./2 months	51	53	54	1,267	4.0%	4.1%	4.2%
<b>Opt. 2</b>	<b>3,200 lbs./week not to exceed 9,600 lbs./2 months</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>73</b>		<b>5.5%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>5.8%</b>

*Vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat. sub-trip limit adjustments*

Within the Shelf Rockfish Complex, vermilion/sunset rockfish landings south of 40°10' N. lat. are tracking 10.4 mt higher than at the same time last year. Based on current catch trends, the informal commercial/recreational sharing agreement of 100 mt to commercial non-trawl is projected to be exceeded. As a result, the GMT analyzed potential trip limit reductions.

In 2026, both fishing effort and landings have increased in the OA and LE sectors south of 34°27' N. lat. This increase is reflected in a greater number of participants and a higher proportion of vessels attaining 90 percent or more of their monthly trip limits. To reduce the likelihood of exceeding the vermilion/sunset rockfish ACL contribution south of 40°10' N. lat., **the GMT recommends Option 2 in Table 6. This option would reduce OA South (OAS) and Limited Entry South (LES) sub-trip limits in response to increased participation and the associated increase in mortality.** Projected increases in effort within the Limited Entry Central (LEC) and Open Access Central (OAC) sectors are not expected to result in the ACL contribution being exceeded. The proposed trip limit reductions south of 34°27' N. lat. are expected to reduce vermilion/sunset rockfish mortality and better align harvest levels with the ACL contribution for the Shelf Rockfish Complex. The GMT will continue to monitor vermilion/sunset rockfish mortality throughout the year and will recommend additional adjustments, as necessary.

**Table 6. Projected vermilion/sunset non-trawl (NT) landings, discards, and total mortality in 2026 relative to the commercial non-trawl informal sharing agreement (100 mt). C = between 40° 10' N. lat. and 34° 27' N. lat.; S = south of 34° 27' N. lat. Bolded content represents the GMT's recommendation.**

Option	Sector	Trip Limit	Landings Projection (mt)	Est. Total Landings (mt)	Est. Discard Mortality (mt)	Est. Total Mortality (mt)	NT Attain.
Opt. 1 (Status Quo)	LEC	500 lbs./ 2 mos.	5.2	109.2	3.6	112.8	112.8%
	OAC	300 lbs./ 2 mos.	17.1				
	LES	3,000 lbs./ 2 mos.	52.2				
	OAS	900 lbs./ 2 mos.	34.6				
<b>Opt. 2</b>	<b>LEC</b>	<b>500 lbs./ 2 mos.</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>94.7</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>98.3%</b>
	<b>OAC</b>	<b>300 lbs./ 2 mos.</b>	<b>17.1</b>				
	<b>LES</b>	<b>2,500 lbs./ 2 mos.</b>	<b>43.5</b>				
	<b>OAS</b>	<b>750 lbs./ 2 mos.</b>	<b>28.9</b>				
Opt. 3	LEC	500 lbs./ 2 mos.	5.2	81.1	3.6	84.7	84.7%
	OAC	300 lbs./ 2 mos.	17.1				
	LES	2,000 lbs./ 2 mos.	35.0				
	OAS	600 lbs./ 2 mos.	23.8				

## Appendix 1.

### Chinook Salmon Scorecard

**Table A1. 2026 Chinook salmon catch (numbers of fish) in relation to the sector thresholds. Source: PacFIN IFQ021 Combined Sector Salmon Bycatch ESA Report, 6/10/2026).**

Sector a/	Sub-Sector	Catch To Date (# of fish)	Percent of Threshold	Total Threshold (# of fish)
Whiting	CP	1,314	12%	<b>11,000</b>
	MS	*	-	
	Shoreside	94	1%	
	Tribal	291 b/	2%	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,699</b>	<b>15%</b>	
Non-Whiting	Bottom Trawl	255	5%	<b>5,500</b>
	Midwater Trawl	87	2%	
	Tribal	*	*	
	Fixed Gear	500 c/	9%	
	WA Rec			
	OR Rec			
	CA Rec			
<b>Total</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>15%</b>		
<b>All groundfish fisheries &amp; EFPs</b>		<b>2,541</b>		

\* Confidential data

a/ There is a reserve of 3,500 fish, in addition to the number of fish in the whiting and non-whiting thresholds.

b/ Current year tribal landings are estimated as the maximum of the historic landings for the last 5 years.

c/ GMT proposed assumption of annual mortality, which assumed maximum historical mortality (154) plus a 250 fish buffer from the 2017 BiOp and an additional 96 fish to account for some uncertainty in recreational salmon seasons; recreational estimates only apply to groundfish fisheries occurring outside of salmon seasons.

## Canary Rockfish Scorecard

**Table A2. 2026 harvest limits or set asides (mt) and current year-to-date mortality estimates (mt) of canary rockfish as of June 10, 2026.**

Sector	Estimated Mortality (mt)	Harvest Limits or Set-Asides (mt)	Percent Attainment
<i>Trawl</i>	32.5	403.6	8%
--At-Sea CP	3.3	21.9	15%
--At-Sea MS	*		
--IFQ (shoreside whiting)	1.5	381.7	8%
--IFQ (non-whiting)	27.7		
<i>Non-Trawl</i>	25.4	154.7	16%
--Non-Nearshore & Nearshore	16.2	55.7	29%
--WA - Recreational a/	1.0	19.0	5%
--OR - Recreational b/	8.2	28.6	29%
--CA - Recreational c/	0.0	51.4	0%
<b>Fishery Harvest Guideline</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>558.3</b>	<b>10%</b>
<i>Set-Asides d/</i>	67.9	67.6	100%
--Research and Incidental	12.9	12.9	100%
--Treaty	54.7	54.7	100%
<b>Total (Harvest Limit = ACL)</b>	<b>125.5</b>	<b>625.9</b>	<b>20%</b>

\*Confidential data

a/ WA estimates available through April 2026

b/ OR estimates available through May 2026

c/ CRFS estimates available through March 2026

d/ Current year set-asides (tribal, research and incidental) are estimated as year-end projected full attainment.

## Yelloweye Rockfish Scorecard

Table A3. 2026 allocations and year-end total mortality estimates (mt) of yelloweye rockfish as of June 10, 2026.

Sector	Sub-sector	Estimated Total Mortality (mt)	Reference Point	Tracking Limit (mt)	Percent (%) Attainment
<b>Grand Total a/</b>		40.7	ACL c/	56.6	72%
<b>Off the top b/</b>		14.8	Set-Asides	14.8	100%
Trawl	CP	--	Trawl allocation	3.3	100%
	MS	*			
	IFQ	3.3			
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>3.3</b>			
Non-trawl	Non-nearshore + Nearshore	6.4	HG	8.1	80%
	WA Rec	2.0		9.8	20%
	OR Rec	5.1		9.0	57%
	CA Rec	9.1		11.6	78%
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>22.6</b>		<b>HG d/</b>	<b>38.5</b>
	Non-nearshore + Nearshore	6.4	ACT	6.3	102%
	WA Rec	2.0		7.7	26%
	OR Rec	5.1		7.0	73%
	CA Rec	9.1		9.1	100%
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>22.6</b>		<b>ACT</b>	<b>30.2</b>

\* Confidential data

a/ The Grand Total is the sum of the Trawl Sector Total and Non-trawl Sector ACT Total.

b/ Off-the-top set-asides: Tribal = 8.0 mt; EFPs = 0.0 mt; Research = 2.9 mt; Incidental Open Access = 3.9 mt.

c/ ACL = Set-asides + Trawl allocation + Non-trawl allocation.

d/ The non-trawl allocation is the sum of the non-trawl HGs, 38.5 mt.

PFMC

6/11/26