DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR AMENDMENT [TBD] TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAWL GEAR EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT AND SALE OF RECREATIONAL GROUNDFISH SKELETAL WASTE

This proposed Amendment to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan would amend Chapter 6 at Sections 6.6.1.2 and 6.6.2 and associated introductory text. The Amendment is necessary to reflect the proposed actions under consideration in this agenda item. An Amendment number will be assigned upon transmittal.

The language at Section 6.6.1.2 must be revised to reflect Action Item 1, which is the implementation of the trawl gear EFPs. The primary edits to this section reflect the use of selective flatfish trawl gear. Secondary edits were necessary to ensure consistency with current trawl program and regulatory provisions. The edits simplify and reduce the amount of text in this section

Additionally, Pacific Fishery Management Council Staff were informed of changes to the scientific nomenclature of several species, based on the most recent American Fisheries Society Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico, 8th edition, 2023. In order to comport to these changes, revisions were made to Tables 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3. Further shortbelly rockfish was inadvertently omitted from Table 3-3 and is now restored to that table.

Only the FMP sections with proposed revisions are shown below. Corrections are made in red underline. Strike-out text is used to indicate text removals.

PACIFIC COAST GROUNDFISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR THE CALIFORNIA, OREGON, AND WASHINGTON GROUNDFISH FISHERY THROUGH AMENDMENT XX

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Current Chapters	Previous Chapters (July 1993 Version)	Summary of Amendment Changes
Chapter 1 Introduction	Chapter 1 Introduction	Updated by Amendment 18
Chapter 2 Goals and Objectives	Chapter 2 Goals and Objectives	Amendments and additions, no substantial change in organization. (Amendments 12, 13, 16-1, 17, 18, 24, and 30.)
Chapter 3 Areas and Stocks Involved	Chapter 3 Areas and Stocks Involved	Amendments and additions, no substantial change in organization. (Amendment 16-1.) Specification of Ecosystem Component (EC) species added under Amendment 24. EC species shared by all four West Coast FMPs added under Amendment 25. Re-designated big skate as an actively managed species under Amendment 27. Designated shortbelly rockfish as an EC species under Amendment 29. Stocks of black, canary, copper, quillback, squarespot, vermilion, vermilion/sunset rockfishes; Dover, petrale, and rex soles; lingcod, Pacific spiny dogfish, sablefish, and shortspine thornyhead were defined under Amendment 31. Stocks of chilipepper, redbanded, rougheye/blackspotted, widow, yellowtail, yelloweye rockfishes, and English sole were defined under Amendment 35. Amendment 38 identified arrowtooth flounder, aurora rockfish, bank rockfish, big skate, blackgill rockfish, bocaccio rockfish, California scorpionfish, cowcod, darkblotched rockfish, flathead sole, greenspotted rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, longnose skate, longspine thornyhead, Pacific cod, Pacific hake, Pacific ocean perch , Pacific sanddab, redstripe rockfish , sharpchin rockfish , shortraker rockfish , silvergray rockfish, splitnose rockfish , starry rockfish, and yellowmouth rockfish as in need of conservation and management. Stocks of these species were also defined under Amendment 37. Amendment 37 identified black

Current Chapters	Previous Chapters (July 1993 Version)	Summary of Amendment Changes
		rockfish off Washington, blackspotted, canary, chilipepper, quillback off of Washington, squarespot, vermilion, redbanded, rougheye, sunset, widow, yellowtail, yelloweye rockfishes; Dover, English, petrale, and rex soles; lingcod, Pacific spiny dogfish, sablefish, and shortspine thornyhead were identified as in need of conservation and management Amendment 38 Table 3.2 corrected to accurately label the California stock of black rockfish. Duplication of roundfish stocks were removed. Amendment XX Corrections to Tables 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3 to revise scientific names to the most recently accepted nomenclature and to restore shortbelly rockfish to Table 3-3, ecosystem component species, which was inadvertently omitted under a previous amendment.
Chapter 4 Optimum Yield	Chapter 4 Optimum Yield	Substantially changed and expanded by Amendment 16-1, which moved and revised material on determining OFL, OY, precautionary thresholds, and rebuilding overfished species that was in Chapter 5 into this chapter. Amendments 16-2 and 16-3 add rebuilding plan summaries to section 4.5.4. Amendment 16-4 revises rebuilding plans in section 4.5.4. Substantially changed and expanded by Amendment 23, which provided material on specifying OFLs, redefined ABCs, ACLs, and ACTs. Amendment 30 to specify 2,000 mt threshold for shortbelly rockfish to trigger Council review of fishery Amendment 33 added rebuilding parameters and plans for yelloweye rockfish and California quillback rockfish to section 4.6.3. Amendment 38 removed yelloweye rockfish and California quillback rockfish from Section 4.6.3.7 as it was found to not be overfished per the 2027 assessments.
Chapter 5 Specification and Apportionment of Harvest Levels	Chapter 5 Specification and Apportionment of Harvest Levels	Substantially changed by Amendment 16-1, which moved material to Chapter 4, as noted above. Discussion of DAH,

Current Chapters	Previous Chapters (July 1993 Version)	Summary of Amendment Changes
		DAP, JVP, and TALFF deleted. (Also, Amendments 12, 13, 17, and 18.) Substantially changed by Amendment 23, which incorporated new National Standard 1 guidelines and mandates of the 2006 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Default harvest control rule process added under Amendment 24.
Chapter 6 Management Measures	Chapter 6 Management Measures	Substantially reorganized and changed by Amendment 18 and 19. (Also Amendments 10, 11, 13, 16-1, 17, 20, 21, 21-1, 21-2, 21-3, 21-4, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, and 30.) Chapter 6 changed to reflect Amendment 28: 1) Elimination of the trawl RCA off Oregon and California, 2) changed configuration of EFH closed areas, and 3) Closure to bottom contact fishing deeper than 3500m. Formal allocations for lingcod south of 40°10' N lat., Minor Slope Rockfish south of 40°10' N lat., petrale sole, and widow rockfish removed from the FMP under Amendment 29. Amendment 30 amended language to Seasons (6.8.1), Rockfish Conservation Areas (6.8.2), and language describing the function and use of Block Area Closures (6.8.3). Amendment 32 removed CCAs for non-trawl and recreational fishing and added new groundfish exclusion areas (GEAs) (6.8.10). Amendment 33 revised Table 6-1 to show removal of formal allocation of shortspine thornyhead. Amendment 34 removed list of GEAs from FMP (6.8.10) Amendment 36 updated language to address increased gear allowances for limited entry non-trawl vessels (formerly LEFG). Amendment XX revised Chapter 6, Sections 6.6.1.2 to trawl gear allowances and Section 6.6.2 to recreational fishing.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 History of the Fishery Management Plan

The Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) was approved by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) on January 4, 1982 and implemented on October 5, 1982. Prior to implementation of the FMP, management of domestic groundfish fisheries was under the jurisdiction of the states of Washington, Oregon, and California. State regulations have been in effect on the domestic fishery for more than 100 years, with each state acting independently in both management and enforcement. Furthermore, many fisheries overlapped state boundaries and participants often operated in more than one state. Management and a lack of uniformity of regulations had become a difficult problem, which stimulated the formation of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) in 1947. PSMFC had no regulatory power but acted as a coordinating entity with authority to submit specific recommendations to states for their adoption. The 1977 Fishery Conservation and Management Act (later amended and renamed the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act or Magnuson-Stevens Act) established eight regional fishery management Councils, including the Pacific Council. Between 1977 and the implementation of the groundfish FMP in 1982, state agencies worked with the Council to address conservation issues. Specifically, in 1981, managers proposed a rebuilding program for Pacific ocean perch. To implement this program, the states of Oregon and Washington established landing limits for Pacific ocean perch in the Vancouver and Columbia management areas.

Management of foreign fishing operations began in February 1967 when the U.S. and U.S.S.R. signed the first bilateral fishery agreement affecting trawl fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California. The U.S. later signed bilateral agreements with Japan and Poland for fishing off the U.S. West Coast. Each of these agreements was renegotiated to reduce the impact of foreign fishing on important West Coast stocks, primarily rockfish, Pacific whiting, and sablefish. When the U.S. extended its jurisdiction to 200 miles (upon signing the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) developed and the Secretary implemented the preliminary management plan for the foreign trawl fishery off the Pacific Coast. From 1977 to 1982, the foreign fishery was managed under that plan. Many of these regulations were incorporated into the FMP, which provided for continued management of the foreign fishery.

Joint-venture fishing, where domestic vessels caught the fish to be processed aboard foreign vessels, began in 1979 and by 1989 had entirely supplanted directed foreign fishing. These joint ventures primarily targeted Pacific whiting. Joint-venture fisheries were then rapidly replaced by wholly domestic processing; by 1991 foreign participation had ended and U.S.-flagged motherships (MS), catcher-processors, and shore-based vessels had taken over the Pacific whiting fishery. Since then, U.S. fishing vessels and seafood processors have fully utilized Pacific Coast fishery resources. Although the Council may entertain applications for foreign or joint venture fishing or processing at any time, provisions for these activities have been removed from the FMP. Re-establishing such opportunities would require another FMP amendment.

Since it was first implemented in 1982, the Council has amended the Groundfish FMP 33 times in response to changes in the fishery, reauthorizations of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and litigation

that invalidated provisions incorporated by earlier amendments. During the first 10 years of plan implementation, up to 1992, the Secretary approved six amendments. Amendment 4, approved in 1990, was the most significant early amendment; in addition to a comprehensive update and reorganization of the FMP, it established additional framework procedures for establishing and modifying management measures. Another important change was implemented in 1992 with Amendment 6, which established a license limitation (limited entry) program intended to address overcapitalization by restricting further participation in groundfish trawl, longline, and trap fisheries. Amendments 7 (bycatch of non-groundfish species) and 8 (IFQ for fixed gear sablefish) were not approved by the Council.

The next decade, through 2002, saw the approval of another seven amendments. Amendment 9 modified the limited entry (LE) program by establishing a sablefish endorsement for longline and pot permits. Amendments 11, 12, and 13 were responses to changes in the Magnuson-Stevens Act due to the 1996 Sustainable Fisheries Act. These changes required FMPs to identify essential fish habitat (EFH), more actively reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality, and strengthen conservation measures to both prevent fish stocks from becoming overfished and promote rebuilding of any stocks that had become overfished. Amendment 14, implemented in 2001, built on Amendment 9 to further refine the LE permit system for the economically important fixed gear sablefish fishery. It allowed a vessel owner to "stack" up to three LE permits on one vessel along with associated sablefish catch limits. This, in combination with a concurrent action to extend the season length, in effect established a limited tradable quota system for participants in the primary sablefish fishery.

Most of the amendments adopted since 2001 deal with legal challenges to the three Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (SFA)-related amendments mentioned above, which were remanded in part by the Federal Court. These have required new amendments dealing with overfishing, bycatch monitoring and mitigation, and EFH. In relation to the first of these three issues, the Magnuson-Stevens Act now requires FMPs to identify thresholds for both the fishing mortality rate constituting overfishing and the stock size below which a stock is considered overfished. Once the Secretary determines a stock is overfished, the Council must develop and implement a plan to rebuild it to a healthy level. The Court found that the rebuilding plan framework adopted by Amendment 12 did not comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Act. In response, Amendments 16-1, 16-2, 16-3, 16-4, and 16-5 (also known as Secretarial Amendment 1) established the current regime for managing these overfished species. Amendment 16-1, approved in 2003, incorporated guidelines for developing and adopting rebuilding plans and substantially revised Chapters 4 and 5. Amendments 16-2 and 16-3, approved in 2004, incorporated key elements of rebuilding plans into Section 4.5.4. In 2005, a Court of Appeals ruling refined court interpretation of the Magnuson-Stevens Act rebuilding period requirements. Amendment 16-4, partially approved in 2006, revised the FMP to specify that rebuilding periods will be as short as possible, taking into account the status and biology of the stocks, the needs of fishing communities, and interactions of overfished stocks with the marine ecosystem. As a result of this ruling, Amendment 16-4 also revised the rebuilding periods for darkblotched rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, canary rockfish, bocaccio, cowcod, widow rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish. Amendment 16-5 established a petrale sole rebuilding plan and established new proxy reference points for managing flatfish species.

Amendment 15 was initiated in 1999 in response to provisions in the American Fisheries Act intended to shield West Coast fisheries from certain effects of that legislation. Because of

competing workload and no threatened imminent harm, the Council tabled action on Amendment 15 in 2001. Work on the amendment was re-initiated in 2007 in response to changes in the Pacific whiting fishery. Its purpose was to address conservation and socioeconomic issues in the shoreside, catcher/processor, and MS sectors of the Pacific whiting fishery by requiring vessels to qualify for an additional license to participate in a given sector, based on their historical participation. It was an interim measure, which sunsetted with trawl rationalization program (Amendment 20) implementation.

Amendment 17 modified the periodic process the Council uses to establish and modify harvest specifications and management measures for the groundfish fishery. Although not an SFA-related issue, this change did solve a procedural problem raised in litigation. The Council now establishes specifications and management measures every two years, allowing more time for them to be developed during the Council's public meetings.

Amendment 18, approved in 2006, addresses a remand of elements in Amendment 11 related to bycatch monitoring and mitigation. It incorporates a description of the Council's bycatch-related policies and programs into Chapter 6. It also affected a substantial reorganization and update of the FMP, so that it better reflects the Council's and NMFS's evolving framework approach to management. Under this framework, the Council may recommend a range of broadly defined management measures for NMFS to implement. In addition to the range of measures, this FMP specifies the procedures the Council and NMFS must follow to establish and modify these measures. When first implemented, the FMP specified a relatively narrow range of measures, which were difficult to modify in response to changes in the fishery. The current framework allows the Council to effectively respond when faced with the dynamic challenges posed by the current groundfish fishery.

Amendment 19, also approved in 2006, revises the definition of groundfish EFH, identified habitat areas of particular concern (HAPCs), and describes management measures intended to mitigate the adverse effects of fishing on EFH. This amendment supplants the definition of EFH added to the FMP by Amendment 11.

Amendment 20 was approved in 2010 and establishes the groundfish trawl rationalization program. Under this program, groundfish LE trawl vessels making shoreside deliveries are managed with individual fishing quotas. Motherships and associated catcher-vessels in the at-sea Pacific whiting sector are managed under a system of regulated cooperatives. Pacific whiting catcher-processors fish within a voluntary cooperative; the amendment establishes provisions to strengthen this cooperative. As noted above, Amendment 20 supersedes provisions in Amendment 15; corresponding text was replaced.

Amendment 21 was approved in 2010 and establishes long-term allocations between the trawl and non-trawl sectors of the groundfish fishery; establishes a short-term allocational split between the shoreside whiting and non-whiting fishery, necessary for implementation of the individual fishing quota (IFQ) program (established through Amendment 20); establishes darkblotched rockfish, Pacific ocean perch and widow rockfish allocations among the at-sea trawl and shoreside trawl sectors (later removed by Amendment 21-4); identifies the need for initial set-asides for the at-sea trawl sectors; and establishes a Pacific halibut bycatch allowance to be provided to the trawl fishery in the form of individual bycatch quota (established through Amendment 20).

Amendment 21-1 was approved in 2011. It clarified that the Amendment 21 allocation percentages supersede the limited entry/open access allocations for certain groundfish species and revised the amount of bycatch quota pounds that will be issued for the shoreside trawl fishery to cover Pacific halibut mortality to better match the objective specified in Amendment 21.

Amendment 21-2 was approved in 2012. It revised catch accounting provisions for clarity, reinstated provisions that were inadvertently deleted with Amendment 21, and revised annual catch limit set-aside provisions to allow for the routine reallocation of unused harvest set-asides as part of any considered inseason fishery adjustment.

Amendment 21-3 was approved in 2017. It changed the at-sea whiting sector's allocations of darkblotched rockfish and POP from total catch limits to set-asides, while maintaining the allocation formulas in the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for these two stocks to determine the set-aside amounts.

Amendment 21-4 was approved in 2018. It changed the at-sea whiting sectors' allocations of canary rockfish and widow rockfish from total catch limits to set-asides and removed from the FMP the formulas for determining the set-aside amounts for darkblotched rockfish, POP, and widow rockfish going to the at-sea sectors.

Amendment 22 (an open access fishery registration program) was not approved by the Council.

Amendment 23 was approved in 2010 to incorporate new National Standard 1 guidelines to prevent overfishing. These new National Standard 1 guidelines were developed in response to the Magnuson-Stevens Act re-authorization of 2006 which mandated an end to overfishing.

Amendment 24 was approved in February 2015 to describe the use of default harvest control rules in the biennial harvest specifications process and to clarify the descriptions of new and routine management measures that may be implemented during the biennial process. Amendment 24 also designated some species as Ecosystem Component Species and incorporated a variety of technical changes to the FMP.

Amendment 25 was approved in 2015 and added a suite of lower trophic level species to the FMP's list of ecosystem component (EC) species. Consistent with the objectives of the Council's FMPs and its Fishery Ecosystem Plan, Amendment 25 prohibits future development of directed commercial fisheries for the suite of EC species shared between all four FMPs until and unless the Council has had an adequate opportunity to both assess the scientific information relating to any proposed directed fishery and consider potential impacts to existing fisheries, fishing communities, and the greater marine ecosystem.

Amendment 26 (removing blackgill rockfish from the southern Slope Rockfish complex and amending the trawl/non-trawl allocations of blackgill rockfish and the other species in the complex) was not approved by the Council.

Amendment 27 reclassified big skate from an ecosystem component species to "in the fishery," listed deacon rockfish in Table 3-1, and revised Chapter 5.5 to describe a new inseason process in California. The new inseason process for California fisheries occurs outside of a Council meeting and allows NMFS to take action based upon attainment or projected attainment of Federal harvest

limits of black rockfish (commercial and recreational), canary rockfish (recreational), and yelloweye rockfish (recreational). Additionally, this amendment included updates to the FMP to clarify matters from Amendment 23 and acknowledge the successful rebuilding of canary rockfish and petrale sole.

Amendment 28 modified the configuration of EFH Conservation Areas (EFHCAs) that are closed to groundfish bottom trawl fishing in order to protect EFH, closed waters deeper than 3,500 meters to bottom contact fishing gear, opened the trawl RCA to bottom trawl fishing off Oregon and California, and created a framework to consider and implement more flexible area closures with block area closures.

Amendment 29 was approved in 2020. It designated shortbelly rockfish as an ecosystem component species and removed the formal allocations of lingcod south of 40°10' N lat., petrale sole, widow rockfish, and Minor Slope Rockfish south of 40°10' N lat. from the FMP.

Amendment 30 was approved in 2022. It developed a 2,000 mt shortbelly rockfish catch threshold that, when exceeded or projected to be exceeded, would trigger Council review of the fishery, corrections to the block area closure definition, clarification of Rockfish Conservation Areas, and change of the sablefish season specification language.

Amendment 31 was approved in 2023. It defined and delineated stocks for black, canary, copper, quillback, squarespot, vermilion, vermilion/sunset rockfishes; Dover, petrale, and rex soles; lingcod, Pacific spiny dogfish, sablefish, and shortspine thornyhead.

Amendment 32 removed the CCAs for commercial non-trawl and recreational fishing, authorized the use of BACs for non-trawl gear, and added new fishery closures, including groundfish exclusion areas (GEAs, 6.8.10) and new non-trawl bottom contact groundfish and non-tribal directed halibut EFHCAs.

Amendment 33 was approved in 2024. It added Section 4.6.3.7 to Chapter 4 to specify rebuilding parameters for the overfished stocks of yelloweye and California quillback rockfishes, removed Appendix (added to SAFE document), and revised the shortspine thornyhead from Section 6.3.2.3 Table 6-1.

Amendment 34 removed the history and list of GEAs from the FMP in Section 6.8.10.

Amendment 35 defined and delineated stocks for chilipepper, redbanded, rougheye/blackspotted, widow, yellowtail, yelloweye rockfishes, and English sole.

Amendment 36 made revisions to Chapter 6 and Chapter 11 to update language and outdated references, updated all references to reflect the change in gear endorsement allowance from limited entry fixed gear to limited entry non-trawl, removed the base permit designation, and updated language related to Amendment 6 to the FMP to reflect the Council's policy choice about how opportunities will be allocated to LE and OA participants

Amendment 37 identified arrowtooth flounder, aurora rockfish, bank rockfish, big skate, blackgill rockfish, bocaccio rockfish, California scorpionfish, cowcod, darkblotched rockfish, flathead sole, greenspotted rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, longnose skate, longspine thornyhead, Pacific cod, Pacific hake, Pacific ocean perch , Pacific sanddab, redstripe rockfish , sharpchin rockfish ,

shortraker rockfish , silvergray rockfish, splitnose rockfish , starry rockfish, and yellowmouth rockfish as in need of conservation and management and defined their stock units. Black rockfish off Washington, Blackspotted, canary, chilipepper, quillback off of Washington, squarespot, vermilion, redbanded, rougheye, sunset, widow, yellowtail, yelloweye rockfishes; Dover, English, petrale, and rex soles; lingcod, Pacific spiny dogfish, sablefish, and shortspine thornyhead were identified as in need of conservation and management but their stocks were defined under either Amendment 31 or Amendment 35.

Amendment 38 made revisions to Chapter 4, at 4.6.3.7, by removing yelloweye rockfish and California quillback rockfish from the stock rebuilding plans section as these stocks were found to no longer be overfished. Table 3.2 corrected to accurately label the California stock of black rockfish. Duplication of roundfish stocks were removed.

Amendment XX made revisions to Chapter 6 at 6.6.1.2 Trawl Gear and 6.6.2 Recreational Fisheries. The changes revised the language to be consistent with allowances for selective flatfish gear and for deference to the states regarding sale of recreational skeletal waste. Corrections to Tables 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3 to revise scientific names to the most recently accepted nomenclature and to restore shortbelly rockfish to Table 3-3, ecosystem component species, which was inadvertently omitted in a previous version of the FMP.

Chapter 3 AREAS AND STOCKS INVOLVED

Table 3-1. Common and scientific names[1] of species actively managed in this FMP.

Common Name	Scientific Name
ELASMOBRANCHS	
Big skate	*Beringraja binoculata*
Leopard shark	*Triakis semifasciata*
Longnose skate	*Caliraja rhina*
Pacific Spiny dogfish	*Squalus suckleyi*
ROUNDFISH	
Kelp greenling	*Hexagrammos decagrammus*
Lingcod	*Ophiodon elongatus*
Pacific cod	*Gadus macrocephalus*
Pacific whiting (hake)	*Merluccius productus*
Sablefish	*Anoplopoma fimbria*
SCORPAENIDS	
Cabezon	*Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*
California scorpionfish	*Scorpaena guttata*
ROCKFISHES	
Aurora rockfish	*Sebastes aurora*
Bank rockfish	*S. rufus*
Black rockfish	*S. melanops*
Black and yellow rockfish	*S. chrysomelas*
Blackgill rockfish	*S. melanostomus*
Blackspotted rockfish	*S. melanostictus*
Blue rockfish	*S. mystinus*
Bocaccio	*S. paucispinis*
Bronzespotted rockfish	*S. gilli*
Brown rockfish	*S. auriculatus*
Calico rockfish	*S. dallii*
Canary rockfish	*S. pinniger*
Chameleon rockfish	*S. phillipsi*
Chilipepper rockfish	*S. goodei*
China rockfish	*S. nebulosus*
Copper rockfish	*S. caurinus*
Cowcod	*S. levis*
Darkblotched rockfish	*S. crameri*
Deacon rockfish	*S. diaconus*
Dusky rockfish	*S. ciliatus*
Dwarf-red rockfish	*S. rufinanus*

[1] Common and scientific names based on the American Fisheries Society's Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico, 8th edition, 2023.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Flag rockfish	*S. rubrivinctus*
Freckled rockfish	*S. lentiginosus*
Gopher rockfish	*S. carnatus*
Grass rockfish	*S. rastrelliger*
Greenblotched rockfish	*S. rosenblatti*
Greenspotted rockfish	*S. chlorostictus*
Greenstriped rockfish	*S. elongatus*
Halfbanded rockfish	*S. semicinctus*
Harlequin rockfish	*S. variegatus*
Honeycomb rockfish	*S. umbrosus*
Kelp rockfish	*S. atrovirens*
Mexican rockfish	*S. macdonaldi*
Olive rockfish	*S. serranoides*
Pink rockfish	*S. eos*
Pinkrose rockfish	*S. simulator*
Pygmy rockfish	*S. wilsoni*
Pacific ocean perch	*S. alutus*
Quillback rockfish	*S. maliger*
Redbanded rockfish	*S. babcocki*
Redstripe rockfish	*S. proriger*
Rosethorn rockfish	*S. helvomaculatus*
Rosy rockfish	*S. rosaceus*
Rougheye rockfish	*S. aleutianus*
Sharpchin rockfish	*S. zacentrus*
Shortraker rockfish	*S. borealis*
Silvergray rockfish	*S. brevispinis*
Speckled rockfish	*S. ovalis*
Splitnose rockfish	*S. diploproa*
Squarespot rockfish	*S. hopkinsi*
Sunset rockfish	*S. crocotulus*
Starry rockfish	*S. constellatus*
Stripetail rockfish	*S. saxicola*
Swordspine rockfish	*S. ensifer*
Tiger rockfish	*S. nigrocinctus*
Treefish	*S. serriceps*
Vermilion rockfish	*S. miniatus*
Widow rockfish	*S. entomelas*
Yelloweye rockfish	*S. ruberrimus*
Yellowmouth rockfish	*S. reedi*
Yellowtail rockfish	*S. flavidus*
THORNYHEADS	
Longspine thornyhead	*Sebastolobus altivelis*
Shortspine thornyhead	*S. alascanus*
FLATFISHES	
Arrowtooth flounder	*Atheresthes stomias*
Butter sole	*Isopsetta isolepis*

Common Name	Scientific Name
Curlfin sole	*Pleuronichthys decurrens*
Dover sole	*Microstomus pacificus*
English sole	*Parophrys vetulus*
Flathead sole	*Hippoglossoides elassodon*
Pacific sanddab	*Citharichthys sordidus*
Petrale sole	*Eopsetta jordani*
Rex sole	*Glyptocephalus zachirus*
Rock sole	*Lepidopsetta bilineata*
Sand sole	*Psettichthys melanostictus*
Starry flounder	*Platichthys stellatus*

3.2 Stocks Managed under this Fishery Management Plan

The Council geographically delineates (i.e., defines) stocks of managed groundfish species (Table 3-2) describes the stock and its boundaries. Stock definitions are based on the best scientific information available, taking into consideration the goals and objectives of the FMP and other requirements. The Council may review, and potentially adjust, a stock definition based on new information. Updating the defined stocks requires an FMP amendment.

Table 3-2. Groundfish stocks within the fishery management unit (FMU) of the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP and their boundaries, as amended through Amendment 37.

Stock	Scientific Name	Stock Boundaries
ELASMOBRANCHS		
Pacific Spiny Dogfish	*Squalus suckleyi*	Pacific West Coast
Big Skate	*Beringraja binoculata*	Pacific West Coast
Longnose Skate	*Caliraja rhina*	Pacific West Coast
ROUNDFISH		
Lingcod *North*	*Ophiodon elongatus*	North of 40°10' N. lat.
Lingcod *South*	*O. elongatus*	South of 40°10' N. lat.
Pacific Hake	*Merluccius productus*	Pacific West Coast
Pacific Cod	*Gadus macrocephalus*	Pacific West Coast
Sablefish	*Anoplopoma fimbria*	Pacific West Coast
SCORPAENIDS		
California Scorpionfish	*Scorpaena guttata*	South 42° N. lat.
ROCKFISHES		
Aurora Rockfish	*Sebastes aurora*	Pacific West Coast
Bank Rockfish	*S. rufus*	Pacific West Coast
Black Rockfish –*Washington*	*S. melanops*	North of 46°16' N. lat.
Black Rockfish –*Oregon*	*S. melanops*	46°16' N. lat. to 42° N. lat.
Black Rockfish –*California*	*S. melanops*	South of 42° N. lat.
Blackgill Rockfish	*S. melanostomus*	Pacific West Coast
Bocaccio	*S. paucispinis*	Pacific West Coast
Canary Rockfish	*S. pinniger*	Pacific West Coast
Chilipepper Rockfish	*S. goodei*	Pacific West Coast
Cowcod	*S. levis*	South 42° N. lat.

Stock	Scientific Name	Stock Boundaries
Darkblotched Rockfish	*S. crameri*	Pacific West Coast
Greenspotted Rockfish	*S. chlorostictus*	Pacific West Coast
Greenstriped Rockfish	*S. elongatus*	Pacific West Coast
Pacific Ocean Perch	*S. alutus*	Pacific West Coast
Quillback Rockfish -*Washington*	*S. maliger*	North of 46°16' N. lat.
Quillback Rockfish - *Oregon*	*S. maliger*	46°16' N. lat. to 42° N. lat.
Quillback Rockfish - *California*	*S. maliger*	South of 42° N. lat.
Redbanded Rockfish	*S. babcocki*	Pacific West Coast
Redstripe Rockfish	*S. proriger*	Pacific West Coast
Rosethorn Rockfish	*S. helvomaculatus*	Pacific West Coast
Rougheye/Blackspotted Rockfish	*S. aleutianus/* *S. melanostictus*	Pacific West Coast
Sharpchin Rockfish	*S. zacentrus*	Pacific West Coast
Shortraker Rockfish	*S. borealis*	Pacific West Coast
Silvergray Rockfish	*S. brevispinis*	Pacific West Coast
Splitnose Rockfish	*S. diploproa*	Pacific West Coast
Squarespot Rockfish	*S. hopkinsi*	Pacific West Coast
Starry Rockfish	*S. constellatus*	South 42° N. lat.
Stripetail Rockfish	*S. saxicola*	Pacific West Coast
Vermilion Rockfish	*S. miniatus*	North of 42° N. lat.
Vermilion/Sunset Rockfish	*S. miniatus/S. crocotulus*	South 42° N. lat.
Widow Rockfish	*S. entomelas*	Pacific West Coast
Yelloweye Rockfish	*S. ruberrimus*	Pacific West Coast
Yellowmouth Rockfish	*S. reedi*	Pacific West Coast
Yellowtail Rockfish *North*	*S. flavidus*	North of 40°10' N. lat.
Yellowtail Rockfish *South*	*S. flavidus*	South of 40°10' N. lat.
THORNYHEADS		
Longspine Thornyhead	*Sebastolobus altivelis*	Pacific West Coast
Shortspine Thornyhead	*Sebastolobus alascanus*	Pacific West Coast
FLATFISHES		
Arrowtooth Flounder	*Atheresthes stomias*	Pacific West Coast
Dover Sole	*Microstomus pacificus*	Pacific West Coast
English Sole	*Parophrys vetulus*	Pacific West Coast
Flathead Sole	*Hippoglossoides elassodon*	Pacific West Coast
Pacific Sanddab	*Citharichthys sordidus*	Pacific West Coast
Petrale Sole	*Eopsetta jordani*	Pacific West Coast
Rex Sole	*Glyptocephalus zachirus*	Pacific West Coast

3.3 Ecosystem.Component.Species

The species in Table 3-3 are designated Ecosystem Component Species (see section 4.4.4 for more details). The inclusion of all endemic skates, except longnose and big skate, and all endemic grenadiers will allow more precise catch monitoring without the need for a sorting requirement for these species since skates and grenadiers are generally landed in unidentified species market categories (e.g., Unidentified Skates).

Table 3-3. Groundfish species designated as Ecosystem Component Species.

Common Name	Scientific Name
CHIMERAS	
Spotted ratfish	*Hydrolagus colliei*
ELASMOBRANCHS	
Alaska skate	*Bathyraja parmifera*
Aleutian skate	*B. aleutica*
Broad skate	*Amblyraja ~~pectoralis~~ hyperborea*
California skate	*Raja inornata*
Bering skate	*B. interrupta*
Deepsea skate	*B. abyssicola*
Fine-spined skate	*B. microtrachys*
Pacific white skate	*B. spinosissima*
Roughtail/black skate	*B. trachura*
Sandpaper skate	*B. kincaidii*
~~Spotted ratfish~~	~~*Hydrolagus colliei*~~
Soupfin shark	*Galeorhinus ~~zyopterus~~ galeus*
GRENADIERS	
Abyssal grenadier	*Coryphaenoides armatus*
California grenadier	*Nezumia stelgidolepis*
Filamented grenadier	*Coryphaenoides filifer*
Ghostly grenadier	*C. leptolepis*
Giant grenadier	*Albatrossia pectoralis*
Pacific grenadier	*Coryphaenoides acrolepis*
Popeye grenadier	*C. cinereus*
Shoulderspot grenadier	*Coelorinchus scaphopsis*
Smooth grenadier	*Nezumia liolepis*
Softhead grenadier	*Malacocephalus laevis*
Yaquina grenadier	*Coryphaenoides yaquinae*
MORIDS	
Finescale codling/Pacific flatnose	*Antimora microlepis*
SCORPAENIDS	
Shortbelly rockfish	*Sebastes jordani*

6.6.1.2 Trawl Gear

Trawl gear is a cone or funnel-shaped net, which is towed or drawn through the water by one or two vessels. Trawls are used both on the ocean bottom and off bottom. They may be fished with or without trawl doors. They may employ warps or cables to herd fish. Trawl gear includes roller, bottom, and pelagic (mid-water) trawls, and as appropriate, trawls used to catch non-groundfish species but which incidentally intercept groundfish. Trawl gear is complex, usually constructed from several panels of mesh and engineered with varying ropes, chains, and trawl doors to target particular sizes, shapes, or species of fish. The Council has historically worked with the trawl industry and the states, usually through the issuance of EFPs, to develop new trawl gear restrictions or modifications intended to accomplish one or more FMP goals, usually the reduction of bycatch. ~~The following discussion of the Council's efforts to modify trawl gear provides examples of the types of trawl gear modifications that may be made to meet FMP goals, but does not limit the range of future trawl gear restrictions.~~

Gear modifications or restrictions have historically included items such as minimum mesh size, codend restrictions, and prohibitions on chafing gear. However, as of 2019, there are limited restrictions remaining based on the Council's recommendations under the "Gear Regulations" package (final rule). For current trawl gear restrictions, please see the Federal groundfish regulations.

The Council has also allowed modifications to ~~used~~ gear types ~~in order~~ to achieve FMP goals and objectives. In 2000, the Council began to distinguish between large and small footrope trawl gear. Initially, the Council used the distinction between large and small footrope gear to prohibit large footrope use for less abundant, nearshore, and continental shelf species. Large footrope gear is bottom trawl gear with a footrope diameter larger than eight inches, including any material (rollers, bobbins, etc.) encircling the footrope. Large footrope gear allows trawlers to access rockier areas by bouncing the bottom of the trawl net over larger obstructions without tearing. Small footrope gear is bottom trawl gear with a footrope diameter of eight inches or smaller. ~~Allowing only small footrope gear in nearshore and shelf areas was intended to reduce trawl access to newly-designated overfished species and their rockier habitats~~. Pelagic (midwater or off-the-bottom) trawl gear is required to have unprotected footrope gear and is not permitted to be encircled with chains, rollers, bobbins, or other material. The most recent trawl gear specifics are reported in Federal groundfish regulations

~~In 2002 the Council introduced Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs, Section 6.8.2), initially through emergency rulemaking and later through permanent regulations, as a catch control mechanism, primarily for overfished species. Large footrope trawl gear had been prohibited inshore of the trawl RCA (typically the line approximating 100 fm). In 2018 the Council took action to remove the trawl RCA offshore of Oregon and California because the trawl catch shares program (Amendment 20) effectively reduced rockfish bycatch and the trawl RCA was no longer needed as a year-round catch control tool, but the trawl RCA remains in place offshore of Washington.~~

Large footrope gear (larger than 8") is prohibited shoreward of the 100 fm contour, coastwide. This restriction is intended to mitigate the potential adverse effects of fishing in groundfish EFH, ~~the eight inch footrope restriction described here is made permanent, as listed at~~ (Section 6.6.1.1).

A 100 fm management line, the shoreward boundary of the trawl RCA when the permanent measure was implemented, is identified as the seaward extent of the prohibition.

~~In 2005, the Council introduced new trawl gear requirements for small footrope trawl gear north of 40°10' N. latitude. Trawlers operating inshore of the Trawl RCA are required to use selective flatfish trawl gear, which is configured to reduce bycatch of rockfish while allowing the nets to retain flatfish.~~ Selective flatfish trawl gear ~~nets~~ (SFFT) is type of small footrope gear. SFFT have an ovoid trawl mouth opening that is wider than it is tall and the headropes on these nets are recessed from the trawl mouth~~.~~ This net type is characterized by a combination of a flattened oval shape and a recessed headrope that herds flatfish into the trawl net while allowing rockfish to slip up and over the headrope, without entering the net. ~~This gear type is detailed in Federal trawl regulations~~. SFFT gear can be used as a salmon bycatch mitigation for bottom trawl vessels. ~~Groundfish trawlers worked with the State of Oregon to develop these nets in order to have greater access to healthy flatfish stocks. The Council is working with the State of California to determine whether the selective flatfish trawl net is also effective at reducing the bycatch of southern overfished species in fisheries targeting more abundant southern stocks.~~

6.6.2 Recreational Fisheries

Recreational fishing is fishing with authorized gear for personal use only, ~~and not for sale or barter.~~ The only types of fishing gear authorized for recreational fishing are hook-and-line and spear. The definition of hook-and-line gear for recreational fishing is the same as for commercial fishing. Hook limits, restrictions on the number of hooks that may be used per fishing line, or on the size or configuration of hooks used in a recreational fishery, have been established as routine management measures under Section 6.2.1. Hook limits are used in the recreational fishery to either constrain recreational fishery effort by limiting the number of hooks per fishing line, or to select for certain species by limiting the size of hooks used.