Additional projections with alternative catch streams for the Widow Rockfish Stock Assessment

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The STAT developed additional model projections in response to the November 2025 Council request to forecast a catch ramp-down. This ramp-down was designed to deviate from the proxy harvest control rule while ensuring the stock remains above the B40% target in 2029. For these runs, the Council proposed using ACLs of 8,842 mt in 2027 and 7,958 mt in 2028, which represents a 10% decrease from the "assumed catch."

Based on the January 2026 widow rockfish assessment model, the suggested forecast catch would result in 2029 relative spawning output going below the B40% management target (Table 1 below). A 20% decrease of that suggested catch would bring the 2029 relative spawning output to just below the 40% target, and a 25% decrease of the suggested catch would keep 2029 relative spawning output above B40% management target. Under the 25% reduction scenario, the fraction unfished is expected to stay above the B40% target for the entire forecast period, with the 2036 fraction unfished estimated at 45.2%.

We also created projections using ACLs that assume OFLs are equal to the SPR target (5,931 mt) with a standard constant buffer based on P* = 0.45. In this case, the 2029 fraction unfished is estimated to be above the B40% management target and is projected to remain above the target through the end of the forecast period, with the 2036 fraction unfished estimated at 44.9%.

Table 1: Quantities of interest and projected ACLs under different catch scenarios as described in the text above. All values are in metric tons with the exception of the rows showing the estimated fraction of unfished spawning output (shaded gray).

Label	Council "Request 2" forecast catch	5% decrease in forecast catch from Request 2	10% decrease in forecast catch from Request 2	20% decrease in forecast catch from Request 2	25% decrease in forecast catch from Request 2	ACL =buffer* SPR target equilibrium catch
Fraction unfished 2025	0.501	0.501	0.501	0.501	0.501	0.501
Equil. catch at MSY mt	6746	6746	6746	6746	6746	6746
Equil. catch at B40% mt	6239	6239	6239	6239	6239	6239
Equil. catch at SPR targ. mt	5931	5931	5931	5931	5931	5931
2027 ACL mt	8842	8400	7958	7074	6632	5569
2028 ACL mt	7958	7560	7162	6366	5969	5569
Fraction unfished 2029	0.378	0.382	0.387	0.397	0.402	0.410
2029 ACL mt	4529	4608	4686	4844	4916	5569
2030 ACL mt	4935	5002	5070	5174	5223	5569
2031 ACL mt	5201	5239	5277	5354	5394	5569
2032 ACL mt	5311	5341	5371	5433	5465	5569
2033 ACL mt	5351	5375	5400	5450	5475	5569
2034 ACL mt	5349	5370	5390	5432	5453	5569
2035 ACL mt	5338	5357	5375	5413	5432	5569
2036 ACL mt	5326	5343	5361	5395	5413	5569
Fraction unfished 2036	0.440	0.442	0.445	0.449	0.452	0.449