GROUNDFISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON INITIAL HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS FOR 2027-28

Table 1. Summary of GAP/GMT Recommendations

Stock	Alt	Harvest Control Rule	ACL				GAP/GMT Recom-mendation
			2025[1]	2026[2]	2027	2028	
Canary Rockfish	Alt 1	Default: ABC>ACL (40-10 rule, P*=0.45)	572	626	606	623	
	Alt 2	ABC = ACL (P* = 0.45)			643	664	PPA
Chilipepper Rockfish	Alt 1	Default: ABC=ACL (P*=0.45)	2,815	2,643	3,211	3,086	
	Alt 2	ACL=2,114 mt for 2027-28, return to default in 2029			2,114a/	2,114a/	PPA
Petrale Sole	Alt 1	Default: ABC=ACL (P*=0.45)	2,354	2,489	2,449	2,423	
	Alt 2	ABC/ACL=2,489 mt for 2027-28, return to default in 2029			2,489	2,489	PPA
Yelloweye Rockfish	Alt 1	Default: ABC=ACL (P*=0.4)	55.8	56.6	113	113	
	Alt 2	ACL=85 mt for 2027-28, return to default in 2029			85	85	PPA
Yellowtail Rockfish North of 40°10' N. lat.	Alt 1	Default: ABC=ACL (P*=45)	6,241	6,023	4,723	4,540	
	Alt 2	Ad-hoc phase in			5,050	4,730	PPA

a/Apportioned 7 percent to north of 40° 10' N. lat. (148 mt) and 93 percent to south of 40° 10' N. lat. (1,966 mt).

Canary Rockfish

For canary rockfish, the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) recommends Alternative 2 [ABC = ACL (P* = 0.45)] as the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA), which would result in annual catch limits (ACLs) of 643 metric tons (mt) in 2027 and 664 mt in 2028. Table 4 of the catch only projection (Agenda Item D.6, Attachment 1, March 2026) shows that the fraction of unfished spawning output remains below 40 percent throughout the ten-year period under both alternatives, with no more than two tenths of a percent difference in stock status in any given year when comparing alternatives. While the biological outcomes of both alternatives are nearly identical, the additional 37 mt in 2027 and 41 mt in 2028 under Alternative 2 would provide meaningful opportunity to all West Coast groundfish sectors.

Chilipepper Rockfish

[1] Table 1a to Part 660, Subpart C, Title 50 — 2025 Specifications of OFL, ABC, ACL, ACT and Fishery HG
[2] Table 2a to Part 660, Subpart C, Title 50 — 2026 Specifications of OFL, ABC, ACL, ACT, and Fishery HG

For chilipepper rockfish, the GAP recommends Alternative 2 as the PPA, which would result in ACLs (to be split north and south of 40° 10' N. lat.) of 2,114 mt in 2027 and 2028. While Alternative 1 would provide an additional 1,097 mt in 2027 and 972 mt in 2028, the GAP does not anticipate that Alternative 2 would be constraining in either the north (as a part of the shelf rockfish complex) or the south (managed individually) during the next biennium.

Petrale sole

For petrale sole, the GAP recommends Alternative 2 as the PPA, which would result in ACLs of 2,489 mt in 2027 and 2028. Table 1 of the catch only projection (Agenda Item D.6, Attachment 3, March 2026) shows no more than two tenths of a percent difference in stock status in any given year when comparing alternatives. While the biological outcomes of both alternatives are nearly identical, the additional 40 mt in 2027 and 66 mt in 2028 under Alternative 2 would provide benefit to petrale fishermen and ACL stability for the biennium.

Yelloweye rockfish

For yelloweye rockfish, the GAP discussed the risk tradeoff between Alternative 1 [Default: ABC=ACL (P*=0.4)] which would result in ACLs of 113 mt in 2027 and 2028, and Alternative 2 which would result in ACLs of 85 mt in 2027 and 2028. While there is only a very minor difference in stock status under both alternatives, and Alternative 1 would provide a larger ACL, the GAP ultimately decided to recommend Alternative 2 as the PPA to exercise precaution as yelloweye has just rebuilt (estimated 44.3 percent depletion in 2027, see Table 1 of Agenda Item D.6, Attachment 4).

Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.

For yellowtail rockfish, the GAP recommends Alternative 2 as the PPA, which would result in ACLs of 5,050 mt in 2027 and 4,730 mt in 2028. Table 1 of the alternative projection (Agenda Item D.6, Attachment 5, March 2026) shows very minor differences in stock status between the alternatives, but Alternative 2 provides an additional 327 mt in 2027 and 190 mt in 2028. As noted in the Agenda Item D.6.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, while there is an increased risk to overfishing with an acceptable biological catch set just under the overfishing limit, there are limited concerns given that yellowtail is historically not fully attained. Additionally, the GAP discussed the cost-benefit of having to "pay back" fish under an ad hoc phase-in (i.e., taking out more now than in the future), but because yellowtail is constraining but not fully attained, a catch-only projection would likely limit this impact in the future.

PFMC
03/06/26