

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS
AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2027-2028 – PART 1

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) recommends that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopt:

- Alternative 1 (default harvest control rule (HCR)) as interim final overfishing limits (OFLs) and acceptable biological catches (ABCs), and preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) annual catch limits (ACLs) for all species except:
 - Canary rockfish
 - Chilipepper rockfish
 - Petrale sole
 - Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish
 - Shortspine thornyhead
 - Widow rockfish
 - Yelloweye rockfish
 - Yellowtail rockfish
- Alternative 3 as the PPA for the rougheye/blackspotted rockfish OFL/ABC/ACL, which would set a constant ACL of 300 mt and result in an updated OFL and ABC in 2028. The GAP previously recommended inclusion of this lower constant ACL as a cautious approach to accommodate recent maximum catch for this long-lived and targetable species because the scale of the assessment is uncertain and the default is high ([Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, September 2025](#)). The GAP recommends removing Alternative 2 (519 mt) to reduce workload, since it would already fall within the range of alternatives.
- Alternative 2 as the PPA for the shortspine thornyhead OFL/ABC/ACL, which would set a constant ACL of 902 mt and result in an updated OFL and ABC in 2028. The GAP previously recommended analysis of an ad-hoc phase-in approach for shortspine ([Agenda Item G.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, September 2025](#) and [Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, September 2025](#)) to lessen impacts from the drastic ACL decrease (59 percent reduction from 2024 to 2025). In comparison to the default HCR, this approach would provide an additional 55 mt of shortspine in 2027 and 46 mt in 2028. Additionally, as shown in the catch only projection for shortspine thornyhead ([Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 3, November 2025](#)), the stock status over the time series varies less than 0.1 percent and the ACL decreases no more than 2 mt in any year through the 2036 ACL (which assumes 100 percent attainment), suggesting that there is no harm to the stock by allowing increased yield in the interim.

For the remaining species that the Council requested alternative harvest projections for (canary rockfish, chilipepper rockfish, petrale sole, yelloweye rockfish, yellowtail rockfish) that are not yet available due to the government shutdown, or for which the stock assessment or projections have not yet been adopted (widow rockfish), the GAP will provide recommendations on these species in March or April when the information is available.

Through our discussions, the GAP and GMT noted that the scientific uncertainty buffers listed in Table 1 of [Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 2, November 2025](#) go out to 15 years, and in year 15 of a category 2 stock, the buffers are higher than for a category 3 stock, where sigma maxes out at 2 (= category 3). Therefore, we recommend this be updated as appropriate.

Year since assessment	Category 2 (baseline $\sigma = 1.0$)				
	P*				
	0.45	0.4	0.35	0.3	0.25
1	11.8%	22.4%	32.0%	40.8%	49.1%
2	12.6%	23.8%	33.9%	43.1%	51.6%
3	13.5%	25.3%	35.8%	45.3%	54.0%
4	14.3%	26.7%	37.6%	47.4%	56.2%
5	15.1%	28.1%	39.4%	49.4%	58.4%
6	15.9%	29.4%	41.1%	51.4%	60.4%
7	16.7%	30.7%	42.8%	53.3%	62.4%
8	17.4%	32.0%	44.4%	55.1%	64.2%
9	18.2%	33.3%	46.0%	56.8%	66.0%
10	19.0%	34.6%	47.6%	58.5%	67.7%
11	19.7%	35.8%	49.0%	60.1%	69.3%
12	20.5%	37.0%	50.5%	61.6%	70.8%
13	21.2%	38.2%	51.9%	63.1%	72.2%
14	22.0%	39.4%	53.3%	64.5%	73.6%
15	● 22.7%	● 40.5%	● 54.6%	● 65.9%	● 74.9%
	Category 3 (constant $\sigma = 2.0$)				
	P*				
	0.45	0.4	0.35	0.3	0.25
	● 22.2%	● 39.8%	● 53.7%	● 65.0%	● 74.0%

PFCMC
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