GROUNDFISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2027-2028 – PART 2

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) offers the following recommendations for 2027-2028 management measures checklist items 2-4 (to correspond with items covered in Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025) and 12-19 (to correspond with items covered in Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3, November 2025). The GAP and Groundfish Management Team (GMT) recommendations align for these items.

#	Item	GAP Recommendation
2	Groundfish Conservation Areas	• RCAs: status quo • YRCAs: remove YRCAs that have never been implemented
3	Off-the-top deductions for research, EFPs, IOA	• Research: 5-year median mortality, except yelloweye 2.92mt • IOA: 5-year average
4	Off-the-top deductions for Treaty fisheries	Adopt values in Supplemental Tribal Report 1, except keep open discussions on canary rockfish
12	Trawl - shorebased IFQ trip limits	Status quo IFQ trip limits
13	Non-trawl - OA N of 40°10′ N lat	Overwinter, GMT to analyze: • Trip limits • Reducing regulatory complexity (Lausen Knoll and non-trawl trip limit tables) • Change from GMT Report 2: Non-bottom contact gear change cannot move forward in 2027-2028 package
14	Non-trawl - OA S of 40°10′ N lat	
15	Non-trawl - LEFG N of 40°10′ N lat	
16	Non-trawl - LEFG S of 40°10′ N lat	
17	Recreational - Washington	Overwinter: • WDFW to develop range of management measures based on ACLs/HGs at this November meeting • GMT to evaluate lingcod retention in Marine Areas 1 & 2
18	Recreational - Oregon	Overwinter: • ODFW to develop range of management measures based on ACLs/HGs at this November meeting • GMT to evaluate lingcod retention during offshore long-leader trips
19	Recreational - California	Overwinter: • CDFW to develop range of management measures based on ACLs/HGs at this November meeting • GMT to evaluate removal of recreational RCAs in CA • CDFW to consider cowcod retention, a 1-fish sub-bag limit during winter months • CDFW to remove cabezon and greenlings from the CA RCG complex as a routine bag limit change

Area Management

2. Groundfish Conservation Areas

Given the rebuilding of yelloweye rockfish, the GAP recommends removing from regulation any yelloweye rockfish conservation areas (YRCAs) that have never been implemented. These were initially added to reduce fishing impacts on yelloweye, but have never been activated or deemed necessary.

Off-the-Top Deductions

3. Research, Exempted Fishing Permits, Incidental Open Access (IOA) Deductions

The GAP supports the GMT recommendations to use the 5-year rolling median research mortality as the research set-aside (with the exception of yelloweye rockfish) and the 5-year rolling average mortality as the IOA set-aside for individual stocks and stock complexes. Use of the historical maximum mortality in previous cycles led to high research and IOA set-aside values where there were years of anomalous catch, and reduced the amount available to directed groundfish fisheries. The GAP also supports continuation of the 2025-2026 yelloweye rockfish research set-aside of 2.92 mt, as recommended by the GMT.

4. Treaty Fisheries

The GAP requested that the tribal representative on the GMT explore with tribal fishery managers the potential of providing more detailed catch information on tribal set-asides versus landings. The GAP recommends the Council adopt the tribal set-asides outlined in Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 1, November 2025 for analysis, with the hope that a discussion on the tribal set-aside value for canary for 2027-2028 can continue.

Trawl Sector

12. Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Trip Limits

The GAP supports the GMT recommendation to retain the status quo IFQ trip limits for the 2027-2028 period.

Non-Trawl Sector

For checklist items 13-16 (Open Access [OA] North of 40° 10’ N. lat., OA South of 40° 10’ N. lat., Limited Entry Fixed Gear [LEFG] North of 40° 10’ N. lat., LEFG South of 40° 10’ N. lat.), the GAP supports the GMT recommendations to have the GMT analyze trip limits and items to reduce regulatory complexity (Lausen Knoll and non-trawl trip limit tables) overwinter. During discussion, we learned from the GMT and NMFS that the proposal to change the minimum distance between the bottom weight and the troll wire’s connection to the horizontal mainline for groundfish troll gear from 50 ft to 30 ft the GAP had previously recommended for inclusion cannot move forward in the 2027-2028 harvest specifications and management package, since it’s a not a routine management measure. However, the GAP would like to explore this in the future.

For checklist items 17-19 (Washington, Oregon, and California Recreational), the GAP supports the GMT recommendations for each state to develop a range of recreational management measures over winter based on annual catch limits and harvest guidelines selected at this November meeting, and for the States and/or GMT to analyze the other identified recreational measures.

PFMC
11/16/25