

2027-28 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures - Part 2

Supplemental GMT Report 1
Action Items #2 - 4
Area Management Measures &
Off-the-top Deductions

Action Item #2 - Area Management Measures

Updates to Selected Rockfish Conservation Area Coordinates

1. Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) Configurations
 - a. GMT recommends Status Quo
2. Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas (YRCAs)
 - a. GMT recommends removing those that were never implemented

Inactive YRCAs - GMT Recommends Removal

- **Tillamook** – 50 CFR 660.70(g)
- **Newport** – 50 CFR 660.70(h)
- **Stonewall Bank expansions 1 & 2** – 50 CFR 660.70(j) & (k)
- **Florence** – 50 CFR 660.70(l)
- **Point St. George** – 50 CFR 660.70(n)
- **South Reef** – 50 CFR 660.70(o)
- **Reading Rock** – 50 CFR 660.70(p)
- **Point Delgada (North)** – 50 CFR 660.70(q)
- **Point Delgada (South)** – 50 CFR 660.70(r)

Active YRCAs - No Changes Recommended This Cycle

- **North Coast Recreational (§660.70(b)):** Active for Recreational (50 CFR 660.360(c)(1)(i)(A)), Voluntary Avoidance for Fixed Gear (50 CFR 660.230(d)(1), 50 CFR 660.330(d)(1)),
- **North Coast Commercial (§660.70(c)):** Active for LEFG (50 CFR 660.230(d)(2)) and OA (50 CFR 660.330(d)(2)),
- **North Coast Salmon Troll (§660.70(d)):** Active for vessels using salmon troll (50 CFR 660.330(d)(14))
- **Heceta Bank (§660.70(m)):** Active for LEFG (50 CFR 660.230(d)(8)) and OA (50 CFR 660.330(d)(8)), and
- **A portion of Stonewall Bank YRCA (§660.70(i)):** Active for recreational vessels (50 CFR 660.360(c)(2)(i)(A)).

Action Item #3 – Off-the-top Deductions



- Amount taken from ACL to account for groundfish mortality in sectors the Council does not actively manage
 - Research, Incidental Open Access, Non-Directed Groundfish Fisheries (e.g. Pink Shrimp), & Exempted Fishing Permits
- Want to set high enough to allow these sectors to proceed without endangering the ACL

Research & Incidental Open Access (IOA) Set-asides

- Past biennial cycles have set these based on long-term maximum or average mortality
- 2025-26 biennial cycle used a 10-year rolling maximum
- GMT recommends further refining the research and IOA set-asides to
 - Better reflect ongoing changes in the research and IOA sectors
 - Account for an estimate of mortality off of the ACL that is less restrictive to the directed groundfish fisheries without greatly increasing the risk of the ACL being exceeded
- **Research: GMT recommends a 5-year rolling median mortality**
 - Exception for yelloweye rockfish which will have a custom research set-aside of 2.92 mt for 2027 and 2028
- **IOA: GMT recommends a 5-year rolling average mortality**

**Table A-2, GMT Report 1 should say “Resultant Additional Tonnage to Fishery HG” in column 6*

**Corrections to Tables A-1 through A-3 can be found in GMT Supplemental Report 4*

Research - Changing to 5-year Rolling Median Calculation

- Using the median allows for the estimate to be less influenced by higher, often anomalous years that are unlikely to occur again due to the ephemeral nature of some research projects
- All combined Research & IOA set-asides will decrease compared to status quo using this methodology
- Full, corrected table comparing status quo to recommended values for Research and IOA set-asides detailed in F.8.a. Supplemental GMT Report 4

Research – Yelloweye rockfish

- **Yelloweye rockfish: GMT recommends continuing the custom value of 2.92 mt that the Council adopted for 2025 and 2026**
 - International Pacific Halibut Commission – 1.1 mt
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – 1.0 mt
 - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife – 0.4 mt
 - California Department of Fish and Wildlife – 0.22 mt
 - Other projects – 0.2 mt

Incidental Open Access - Moving to a 5-year Rolling Average

- Directed Pacific halibut, California Halibut, Pink shrimp, etc.
- Important to account for the possibility of large bycatch events within the IOA fisheries
 - **GMT is recommending the rolling 5-year average** as opposed to the median be used to set the IOA set-aside, since the average is influenced by large outliers.
- All combined Research & IOA set-asides will decrease compared to status quo using this methodology
- Full table comparing status quo to recommended values for Research and IOA set-asides detailed in F.8.a. Supplemental GMT Report 1 *Correction to Report 1 - Longspine South of 34°27' N. lat.

Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

- Under Agenda Item F.4., council forwarded three EFPs for 2027-28
- None of the EFP applications requested off-the-top deductions

Pacific Halibut

- Council expressed interest in identifying groundfish set-asides for the directed Pacific halibut fishery
- Pacific halibut is already accounted for in the IOA set-aside, so the **GMT recommends maintaining current practices to account for this mortality within the IOA sector**
- Note to Report 1: The West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) no longer observes the Directed Pacific Halibut fishery as of 2024. As such, the non-halibut catch data from this fishery is no longer collected by WCGOP. Therefore, it will not be available in the GEMM for IOA set-aside calculations.

Action Item #4 – Tribal Set-asides

- Tribal set-aside based on the request from the tribes & allows them to manage the expected mortality in upcoming fisheries
- Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 1 & 2
 - Consistent with 2025-26 biennial specifications process except for yelloweye rockfish and petrale sole
- GMT recommends adopting set-asides specified in Tribal Report 1 as PPA

GMT Summary Recommendations

- The GMT recommends moving forward with status quo RCAs
- Removing inactive YRCAs
 - 50 CFR 660.70 (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), and (n)-(r))
- Research & IOA set-asides: Adopt set-asides for 2027-28 in Appendix 2 of F.8.a Supplemental GMT Report 4
- EFPs: No EFP set-asides requested for 2027-28
- Pacific Halibut: Keep current practices to account for this mortality in the IOA sector
- Tribal set-asides: Adopt the Tribal requested set-asides as shown in Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 1

Questions?
