

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON BIENNIAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2027-2028: AREA MANAGEMENT MEASURES AND OFF-THE-TOP DEDUCTIONS

This report covers Items #2-4 from the Action Item Checklist ([Agenda Item F.8, Attachment 1, November 2025](#)). Items #5-11 (GMT Report #2) and Items #12-19 (GMT Report #3) will be in separate reports. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) would like to note that, due to the ongoing lapse in Federal funding, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Region and Science Center GMT members were not present at the October GMT work session and thereby were unable to provide input on this report's development. Some management measure ideas that were signaled in earlier reports were vetted by Federal staff prior to the ongoing lapse in Federal funding and are noted where applicable. Nonetheless, as this report was submitted before Federal GMT members were able to provide input on its final draft, it is possible that relevant issues are not addressed which the present members of the GMT were not best qualified to explore or elucidate. Any issues which come to the fore, following the review of this report by Federal GMT members, may be addressed in supplemental report(s) under this or future agenda items, pending the return of Federal employees.

### Recommendations

- *AIC#2 Area Management:*
  - The GMT recommends moving forward with status quo Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) configurations for overwinter analysis.
  - The GMT recommends removing from regulations the Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas (YRCAs) that have never been implemented, which are the Tillamook, Newport, Stonewall Bank expansions 1 and 2, Florence, Point St. George, South Reef, Reading Rock, Point Delgada (North), and Point Delgada (South) YRCAs ([§660.70](#) (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), and (n)-(r)).
- *AIC#3-4 Off-the-top Deductions:*
  - Research Set-asides
    - The GMT recommends the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopt the research set-asides for 2027-28 in Appendix 2. With the exception of yelloweye rockfish, these are the rolling 5-year median mortality in the research sector. For yelloweye rockfish, the GMT recommends continuing to use the custom value of 2.92 mt. Using the median for all other stocks and stock complexes 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.
  - Incidental Open Access
    - The GMT recommends adopting the Incidental Open Access (IOA) set-asides for 2027-28 in Appendix 2. These are the rolling 5-year average mortality in the IOA sector. Using the average for IOA, compared to research, allows for the estimate to account for the possibility of large bycatch events occurring again in the future.
  - Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs): There are no EFP set-asides requested for 2027-28.

- **Pacific Halibut**
  - **The GMT recommends not moving forward with this specific fishery set-aside and keep current practices to account for this mortality in the IOA sector.**
- **Tribal Set-asides**
  - **The GMT recommends the Council adopt the Tribal requested set asides, as shown in Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 1, November 2025 and Appendix 2 of this report, pending any updates from the Tribes at the November Council meeting.**

## **Action Item #2: Updates to Selected Rockfish Conservation Area Coordinates**

At this time, the GMT has not received any requests for RCA waypoint modifications. Therefore, **the GMT recommends moving forward with status quo RCA configurations for overwinter analysis.**

The YRCAs are spatial closures defined in [50 CFR §660.70](#) to reduce fishing impacts on yelloweye rockfish. These areas may be activated and deactivated as needed to support conservation objectives. Several YRCAs have never been implemented but remain in Federal regulations as available tools.

The [2025 yelloweye rockfish stock assessment](#) adopted by the Council indicates that the stock's spawning output now exceeds the management target of 40 percent of the unfished level, signaling recovery. The GMT sees an opportunity for regulatory streamlining by removing from regulation any YRCAs ([§660.70](#)) that have never been activated or deemed necessary. Because these areas have not been closed historically, their removal from regulation is anticipated to have little to no impact on the stock. **Therefore, the GMT recommends removing from regulations the YRCAs that have never been implemented, which are the Tillamook, Newport, Stonewall Bank expansions 1 and 2, Florence, Point St. George, South Reef, Reading Rock, Point Delgada (North), and Point Delgada (South) YRCAs ([§660.70](#) (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), and (n)-(r)).**

At present, active YRCAs include:

- 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)).

The GMT discussed deactivating these YRCAs, but would highlight that if yelloweye rockfish retention is explored this cycle, there is still a potential need for these YRCAs to remain active so as to mitigate impacts to yelloweye rockfish in a newly rebuilt status. The GMT also

considered the Westport and South Coast YRCAs. These YRCAs were deactivated for recreational fisheries during the 2021-22 biennial process ([Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 1, April 2021](#)). Those two YRCAs remain in regulation and are an active voluntary area to be avoided by commercial fixed gear ([50 CFR 660.230\(d\)\(3\)](#), 50 CFR 660.230(d)(4), [50 CFR 660.330\(d\)\(3\)](#), 50 CFR 660.330(d)(4)).

The GMT discussed removing the inactive YRCAs from regulation and deactivating current YRCAs. Ultimately, the GMT concluded that these actions would require further analysis and could later be explored as a follow-on action, if desired, alongside potential removal of the non-trawl RCA which is still largely in place to protect yelloweye rockfish as well. The GMT also understands that removal of a previously active YRCA from regulation may require detailed essential fish habitat (EFH) analysis and would be considered a new management measure.

### **Action Item #3: Off-the-top Deductions**

The fishery harvest guideline (HG) forms the basis for allocations to the directed groundfish fisheries (e.g., trawl and non-trawl). It is derived by deducting from the annual catch limit (ACL) a fixed amount that is intended to account for mortality in fisheries that the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan does not directly manage (i.e., exempted fishing permits, tribal, research, and non-directed groundfish fisheries [e.g., pink shrimp]), also referred to as “off-the-top deductions.” These amounts are estimated each biennium, and off-the-top deductions are intended to lower the risk that the total mortality across all directed and non-directed groundfish fisheries exceeds the ACL. Given that off-the-top deductions are meant to account for expected mortality from other sources, some of which are not under Council jurisdiction, management action is not required if a sector covered under an off-the-top deduction exceeds its set-aside.

To minimize risk of exceeding the ACL, and given the lack of inseason information on mortality from research and IOA, off-the-top deductions have generally been set at the historical maximum mortality in the past for each sector. In general, the total attainment of a set-aside may not be known until the following year when the annual groundfish mortality report is produced. While larger deductions reduce the amount available to directed groundfish fisheries, they also reduce the risk of exceeding the ACL. For stocks with low ACL attainment, particularly those targeted in groundfish fisheries, setting smaller off-the-top deductions may benefit directed groundfish fisheries without greatly increasing the risk that total mortality will exceed the ACL if off-the-top sectors exceed their set-asides. For highly attained stocks, such as petrale sole and sablefish, mortality in directed groundfish sectors is highly monitored and generally much larger than the scale of the set-aside. Therefore, the GMT does not expect the ACLs of highly attained stocks to be at risk either.

### **Research and Incidental Open Access**

Research activities include the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Groundfish Bottom Trawl, Hook and Line, and International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) longline surveys, as well as other Federal and state research projects. IOA set-asides are used to account for incidental groundfish mortality in non-groundfish fisheries. IOA comprises directed Pacific halibut, limited entry and open access California halibut, pink shrimp, and other incidental fisheries.

In past biennial cycles, the Council generally set research and IOA set-asides at long-term

maximum mortality values for most stocks. During the November 2023 meeting, the GMT proposed using a ten-year rolling maximum to set the default IOA and research set-asides instead, which was seen as more indicative of current mortality trends ([Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, November 2023](#)). After further consideration and evaluation of the changes that have occurred in West Coast fisheries since 2020, the GMT has further refined its estimation of expected mortality in research and IOA fisheries. With the exception of the research set-aside for yelloweye rockfish, the GMT recommends adopting a uniform method of determining set-asides for research and IOA that a) better reflects ongoing changes in the research and IOA sectors and b) accounts 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.

**In the case of research, the GMT recommends the Council adopt the 5-year rolling median research mortality as the research set-aside for individual stocks and stock complexes** - with the exception of yelloweye rockfish. The rationale for this exception is detailed below. 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.

It is difficult to anticipate the needs of research projects and determine whether a certain year's catch is anomalous, so the GMT continues to request that we be briefed ahead of a biennial cycle as to what research projects the science centers and/or state agencies are planning and anticipating. This helps the GMT better understand research set-aside needs and whether this new method of setting research set-asides would not be appropriate for a given stock.

**In the case of IOA fisheries, the GMT recommends the Council adopt the 5-year rolling average mortality as the IOA set-aside for individual stocks and stock complexes.** The status quo method of a rolling 10-year maximum does not best reflect current trends of mortality in IOA fisheries, hence the GMT determined a 5-year average is a better choice for setting the IOA set-aside since it is a more accurate representation of the current IOA fishery mortality, as provided in the annual groundfish estimated multiyear mortality report (GEMM, [Agenda Item G.1.a, NWFSC Report 2, September 2025](#)). Compared to the research set-aside, it is more important in IOA fisheries to account for the possibility of large bycatch events; hence, the GMT is recommending the average as opposed to the median be used to set the IOA set-aside, since the average is influenced by large outliers.

Overall, the GMT anticipates that these further-refined methods of accounting for mortality in research and IOA will increase the availability of yield for several stocks in directed groundfish fishery sectors, without putting the ACL at risk for those stocks. Furthermore, the likelihood that all directed groundfish sectors and off-the-top deductions will be fully attained or even exceeded in the same year or multiple years is low. Therefore, the GMT does not expect that exceeding any of the off-the-top deductions will risk the conservation of any groundfish stocks. Off-the-top deductions are reviewed biennially, and the rolling-average method we propose is intended to account for dynamic changes in mortality trends.

The summarized research and IOA set-asides for 2027 and 2028 can be found in Tables A-1 and A-2, Appendix 1. This table details (by species) the “status quo” set aside, the new GMT recommended set-aside, the resultant “savings” to the directed groundfish fishery, and the total GMT-recommended research and IOA set-aside amount relative to the 2027 ACL.

The Team would like to note that, moving forward, there will not be observer coverage in IOA sectors other than the non-tribal directed Pacific halibut fishery. Therefore, the Council should reconsider the appropriateness of these methods of setting IOA set-asides in future cycles, since discard data will not be reported and available through the GEMM from these other IOA fisheries.

### **Yelloweye rockfish**

For yelloweye rockfish, the Council adopted a custom value of 2.92 mt for 2025 and 2026 research, based on anticipated research needs of the IPHC (1.1 mt); Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW; 1 mt); Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW; 0.4 mt); California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW; 0.22 mt); and other projects (0.2 mt). The 5-year average research mortality is 1.3 mt, and the 5-year median mortality is 1 mt. Despite this, the stock status of yelloweye rockfish is such that the GMT anticipates a great deal of focus on this species in the coming years. Additionally, there is considerable uncertainty surrounding the future survey activity of the IPHC in Regulatory Area 2A (i.e., WA-OR-CA). In light of this, the GMT considers some additional level of caution for this set-aside to be appropriate. **The GMT recommends that the Council continue to adopt the custom 2.92 mt yelloweye rockfish research set-aside for the 2027 and 2028 harvest specifications.**

### **Exempted Fishing Permits**

The Council considered exempted fishing permits (EFPs) under Agenda Item F.4. Based on Council action, three EFPs were forwarded for public review. None of the EFP applications request off-the-top deductions.

### **Pacific Halibut**

The Council expressed interest in identifying groundfish set-asides for the directed Pacific halibut fishery. At present, groundfish mortality in the directed Pacific halibut fishery is already accounted for in the IOA set-aside, so **the GMT recommends not moving forward with this specific fishery set-aside and maintaining current practices to account for this mortality in the IOA sector.**

## **Action Item #4: Tribal Set-asides**

For most stocks, a Tribal set-aside is based on the request from the tribes, which will allow them to manage the expected mortality in their upcoming fisheries. The GMT has been notified that the Tribes intend on continuing all of their existing groundfish fisheries for 2027 and 2028, and are requesting the set-asides as noted within Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 1, November 2025. These set-asides are consistent with the off-the-top deductions requested by the Tribes during the 2025-26 biennial specifications process, with the exception of the set-asides for petrale sole and yelloweye rockfish. For petrale sole, the Tribes are requesting the updated 2026 value under the September Emergency Rule of 322 mt be carried forward into 2027-28. For yelloweye rockfish, the Tribes are requesting an increase from 8 mt to 16 mt.

**The GMT recommends the Council adopt the Tribal requested set-asides, as shown in Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 1, November 2025 and Appendix 2 of this report, pending any updates from the Tribes at the November Council meeting.**

## Appendix 1.

Table A-1. Status quo and GMT recommended research and IOA set-asides in 2027 and 2028.

| Species                           | Area                | Status Quo Research (mt) | GMT Recommendation for Research - 2027/28 (mt) | Status Quo IOA (mt) | GMT Recommendation for IOA - 2027/28 (mt) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH               | Coastwide           | 2.92                     | 2.92                                           | 3.8                 | 1.4                                       |
| Arrowtooth flounder               | Coastwide           | 20.7                     | 8.0                                            | 33.6                | 18.9                                      |
| Big skate                         | Coastwide           | 5.5                      | 2.6                                            | 48.1                | 31.6                                      |
| Black rockfish                    | California          | 0.1                      | 0.0                                            | 1.1                 | 0.3                                       |
| Black rockfish                    | Washington          | 1.0                      | 0.6                                            | 0.0                 | 0.0                                       |
| Bocaccio                          | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 5.6                      | 2.7                                            | 2.1                 | 0.6                                       |
| Cabezon                           | S of 42° N. lat.    | 0.0                      | 0.0                                            | 1.5                 | 0.6                                       |
| California scorpionfish           | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 0.8                      | 0.1                                            | 1.5                 | 0.6                                       |
| Canary rockfish                   | Coastwide           | 10.1                     | 4.4                                            | 3.8                 | 2.1                                       |
| Chili pepper                      | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 14.0                     | 5.4                                            | 13.2                | 0.3                                       |
| Cowcod                            | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 10.0                     | 0.5                                            | 0.1                 | 0.0                                       |
| Darkblotched rockfish             | Coastwide           | 8.5                      | 2.5                                            | 9.3                 | 13.7                                      |
| Dover sole                        | Coastwide           | 61.9                     | 44.6                                           | 25.2                | 4.9                                       |
| English sole                      | Coastwide           | 8.0                      | 4.8                                            | 12.7                | 7.2                                       |
| Lingcod                           | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 17.7                     | 6.7                                            | 18.8                | 12.1                                      |
| Lingcod                           | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 3.2                      | 0.8                                            | 5.7                 | 1.4                                       |
| Longnose skate                    | Coastwide           | 14.7                     | 12.3                                           | 22.7                | 10.2                                      |
| Longspine thornyhead              | N of 34°27' N. lat. | 18.4                     | 14.4                                           | 1.3                 | 0.1                                       |
| Longspine thornyhead              | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 18.4                     | 0.8                                            | 0.5                 | 0.2                                       |
| Nearshore rockfish north          | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 0.5                      | 0.1                                            | 0.9                 | 0.6                                       |
| Nearshore rockfish south          | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1.1                      | 0.5                                            | 2.3                 | 1.4                                       |
| Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish | Oregon              | 0.1                      | 0.0                                            | 1.2                 | 0.5                                       |
| Oregon cabezon/kelp greenling     | Oregon              | 0.1                      | 0.0                                            | 0.7                 | 0.2                                       |
| Other fish                        | Coastwide           | 0.1                      | 0.0                                            | 10.2                | 4.0                                       |

| Species                           | Area                | Status Quo<br>Research (mt) | GMT<br>Recommendation<br>for Research -<br>2027/28 (mt) | Status Quo<br>IOA (mt) | GMT<br>Recommendation<br>for IOA -<br>2027/28 (mt) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Other flatfish                    | Coastwide           | 23.6                        | 18.6                                                    | 87.3                   | 46.9                                               |
| Pacific cod                       | Coastwide           | 0.7                         | 0.1                                                     | 0.2                    | 0.0                                                |
| Pacific ocean perch               | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 5.4                         | 3.8                                                     | 3.9                    | 2.0                                                |
| Pacific spiny dogfish             | Coastwide           | 41.8                        | 8.0                                                     | 11.0                   | 4.9                                                |
| Pacific whiting a/                | Coastwide           | --                          | --                                                      | --                     | --                                                 |
| Petrale sole                      | Coastwide           | 24.1                        | 15.7                                                    | 4.8                    | 3.2                                                |
| QUILLBACK                         | California          | 0.1                         | 0.0                                                     | 0.0                    | 0.0                                                |
| Sablefish b/                      | N of 36° N. lat.    | 59.3                        | 40.7                                                    | --                     | --                                                 |
| Sablefish                         | S of 36° N. lat.    | 2.7                         | 1.5                                                     | 25.0                   | 10.5                                               |
| Shelf rockfish north              | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 48.3                        | 8.9                                                     | 22.7                   | 9.7                                                |
| Shelf rockfish south              | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 15.1                        | 9.4                                                     | 10.6                   | 4.0                                                |
| Shortspine thornyhead             | Coastwide           | 21.2                        | 9.3                                                     | 8.4                    | 3.4                                                |
| Slope rockfish north              | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 10.8                        | 5.0                                                     | 12.4                   | 9.1                                                |
| Slope rockfish south              | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 18.2                        | 1.3                                                     | 0.8                    | 0.2                                                |
| Splitnose rockfish                | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 11.2                        | 4.1                                                     | 2.9                    | 0.0                                                |
| Starry flounder                   | Coastwide           | 0.6                         | 0.0                                                     | 23.8                   | 12.7                                               |
| Washington cabezon/kelp greenling | Washington          | 0.4                         | 0.0                                                     | 0.0                    | 0.0                                                |
| Widow rockfish                    | Coastwide           | 17.3                        | 0.5                                                     | 1.0                    | 0.1                                                |
| Yellowtail rockfish               | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 20.6                        | 4.9                                                     | 4.4                    | 2.0                                                |

a/ A Pacific whiting set-aside for research and pink shrimp is decided every November Council meeting for the following year. This is because Pacific whiting harvest specifications are set through an annual treaty process outside of biennial groundfish management. Therefore, there are no research or IOA set-asides set in the biennial process for Pacific whiting.

b/ Sablefish north of 36° N. lat. does not have a set-aside for the incidental open access sector. The GMT will discuss all sablefish set-asides and allocations under AIC #8 in GMT Report 2 of this agenda item.

**Table A-2. Comparison of the total status quo research/IOA set-asides and total GMT recommendations for research/IOA set-asides in 2027 and 2028, with comparisons to the 2027 ACL based on the default harvest control rule.**

| Species                           | Area                | Status Quo Research + IOA (mt) | GMT Recommendation for Research + IOA - 2027/28 (mt) | Total Percent Change from Status Quo to GMT Recommendation | Resultant Additional Poundage to Fishery HG (mt) | ACL 2027 | GMT Recommended Set-Aside Totals Relative to 2027 ACL |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH                | Coastwide           | 6.7                            | 4.3                                                  | -36%                                                       | 2.4                                              | 113      | 3.8%                                                  |
| Arrowtooth flounder               | Coastwide           | 54.3                           | 26.9                                                 | -50%                                                       | 27.4                                             | 7,947    | 0.3%                                                  |
| Big skate                         | Coastwide           | 53.6                           | 34.2                                                 | -36%                                                       | 19.4                                             | 1,155    | 3.0%                                                  |
| Black rockfish                    | California          | 1.2                            | 0.3                                                  | -75%                                                       | 0.9                                              | 249      | 0.1%                                                  |
| Black rockfish                    | Washington          | 1.0                            | 0.6                                                  | -40%                                                       | 0.4                                              | 240      | 0.2%                                                  |
| Bocaccio                          | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 7.7                            | 3.3                                                  | -57%                                                       | 4.4                                              | 2,288    | 0.1%                                                  |
| Cabazon                           | S of 42° N. lat.    | 1.5                            | 0.6                                                  | -61%                                                       | 0.9                                              | 150      | 0.4%                                                  |
| California scorpionfish           | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 2.3                            | 0.7                                                  | -70%                                                       | 1.6                                              | 233      | 0.3%                                                  |
| Canary rockfish                   | Coastwide           | 13.9                           | 6.5                                                  | -53%                                                       | 7.4                                              | 606      | 1.1%                                                  |
| Chilipepper                       | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 27.2                           | 5.7                                                  | -79%                                                       | 21.5                                             | 2,986    | 0.2%                                                  |
| Cowcod                            | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 10.1                           | 0.5                                                  | -95%                                                       | 9.6                                              | 74       | 0.7%                                                  |
| Darkblotched rockfish             | Coastwide           | 17.8                           | 16.2                                                 | -9%                                                        | 1.6                                              | 773      | 2.1%                                                  |
| Dover sole                        | Coastwide           | 87.1                           | 49.5                                                 | -43%                                                       | 37.6                                             | 38,573   | 0.1%                                                  |
| English sole                      | Coastwide           | 20.7                           | 12.0                                                 | -42%                                                       | 8.7                                              | 3,168    | 0.4%                                                  |
| Lingcod                           | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 36.5                           | 18.8                                                 | -48%                                                       | 17.7                                             | 3,482    | 0.5%                                                  |
| Lingcod                           | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 8.9                            | 2.2                                                  | -75%                                                       | 6.7                                              | 789      | 0.3%                                                  |
| Longnose skate                    | Coastwide           | 37.4                           | 22.5                                                 | -40%                                                       | 14.9                                             | 1,546    | 1.5%                                                  |
| Longspine thornyhead              | N of 34°27' N. lat. | 19.7                           | 14.5                                                 | -27%                                                       | 5.3                                              | 1,878    | 0.8%                                                  |
| Longspine thornyhead              | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 18.9                           | 1.0                                                  | -95%                                                       | 17.9                                             | 593      | 0.2%                                                  |
| Nearshore rockfish north          | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 1.4                            | 0.7                                                  | -50%                                                       | 0.7                                              | 85       | 0.8%                                                  |
| Nearshore rockfish south          | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 3.4                            | 1.9                                                  | -44%                                                       | 1.5                                              | 928      | 0.2%                                                  |
| Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish | Oregon              | 1.3                            | 0.5                                                  | -62%                                                       | 0.8                                              | 448      | 0.1%                                                  |
| Oregon cabezon/kelp greenling     | Oregon              | 0.8                            | 0.2                                                  | -74%                                                       | 0.6                                              | TBD      | TBD                                                   |

| Species                           | Area                | Status Quo Research + IOA (mt) | GMT Recommendation for Research + IOA - 2027/28 (mt) | Total Percent Change from Status Quo to GMT Recommendation | Resultant Additional Poundage to Fishery HG (mt) | ACL 2027 | GMT Recommended Set-Aside Totals Relative to 2027 ACL |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Other fish                        | Coastwide           | 10.3                           | 4.0                                                  | -61%                                                       | 6.3                                              | 223      | 1.8%                                                  |
| Other flatfish                    | Coastwide           | 110.9                          | 65.5                                                 | -41%                                                       | 45.5                                             | 6,577    | 1.0%                                                  |
| Pacific cod                       | Coastwide           | 0.9                            | 0.2                                                  | -83%                                                       | 0.8                                              | 1,600    | 0.0%                                                  |
| Pacific ocean perch               | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 9.3                            | 5.8                                                  | -38%                                                       | 3.5                                              | 3,123    | 0.2%                                                  |
| Pacific spiny dogfish             | Coastwide           | 52.8                           | 12.9                                                 | -76%                                                       | 39.9                                             | 1,278    | 1.0%                                                  |
| Pacific whiting a/                | Coastwide           | --                             | --                                                   | --                                                         | --                                               | TBD      | --                                                    |
| Petrale sole                      | Coastwide           | 28.9                           | 18.9                                                 | -35%                                                       | 10.0                                             | 2,449    | 0.8%                                                  |
| Quillback rockfish                | California          | 0.1                            | 0.0                                                  | -59%                                                       | 0.1                                              | 12       | 0.3%                                                  |
| Sablefish b/                      | N of 36° N. lat.    | 59.3                           | 40.7                                                 | -31%                                                       | 18.6                                             | 10,962   | 0.2%                                                  |
| Sablefish                         | S of 36° N. lat.    | 27.7                           | 12.0                                                 | -57%                                                       | 15.7                                             | 3,002    | 0.4%                                                  |
| Shelf rockfish north              | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 71.0                           | 18.6                                                 | -74%                                                       | 52.4                                             | 1,342    | 1.4%                                                  |
| Shelf rockfish south              | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 25.7                           | 13.4                                                 | -48%                                                       | 12.3                                             | 1,456    | 0.9%                                                  |
| Shortspine thornyhead             | Coastwide           | 29.6                           | 12.7                                                 | -57%                                                       | 16.9                                             | 847      | 1.5%                                                  |
| Slope rockfish north              | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 23.2                           | 14.1                                                 | -39%                                                       | 9.2                                              | 1,623    | 0.9%                                                  |
| Slope rockfish south              | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 19.0                           | 1.5                                                  | -92%                                                       | 17.5                                             | 699      | 0.2%                                                  |
| Splitnose rockfish                | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 14.1                           | 4.1                                                  | -71%                                                       | 10.0                                             | 620      | 0.7%                                                  |
| Starry flounder                   | Coastwide           | 24.4                           | 12.7                                                 | -48%                                                       | 11.7                                             | 393      | 3.2%                                                  |
| Washington cabezon/kelp greenling | Washington          | 0.4                            | 0.0                                                  | -100%                                                      | 0.4                                              | 14       | 0.0%                                                  |
| Widow rockfish                    | Coastwide           | 18.3                           | 0.6                                                  | -97%                                                       | 17.7                                             | TBD      | TBD                                                   |
| Yellowtail rockfish               | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 25.0                           | 6.9                                                  | -72%                                                       | 18.1                                             | 4,723    | 0.1%                                                  |

a/ A Pacific whiting set-aside for research and pink shrimp is decided every November Council meeting for the following year. This is because Pacific whiting harvest specifications are set through an annual treaty process outside of biennial groundfish management. Therefore, there are no research or IOA set-asides set in the biennial process for Pacific whiting.

b/ Sablefish north of 36° N. lat. does not have a set-aside for the incidental open access sector. The GMT will discuss all sablefish set-asides and allocations under AIC #8 in GMT Report 2 of this agenda item.

## Appendix 2.

**Table A-3. GMT recommended off-the-top deductions for Tribal, research, EFPs, and incidental open access sectors for 2027-28, with resulting 2027 Fishery Harvest Guidelines based on 2027 ACLs under the default harvest control rule.**

| Species                 | Area                | 2027<br>ACL | Tribal | EFP | Research | IOA  | Set-aside<br>Total | 2027<br>Fishery<br>HG |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------|-----|----------|------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH      | Coastwide           | 113         | 16     | 0   | 2.92     | 1.4  | 20.3               | 93                    |
| Arrowtooth flounder     | Coastwide           | 7,947       | 2,041  | 0   | 8.0      | 18.9 | 2,067.9            | 5,879                 |
| Big skate               | Coastwide           | 1,155       | 15     | 0   | 2.6      | 31.6 | 49.2               | 1,106                 |
| Black rockfish          | Washington          | 240         | 18     | 0   | 0.6      | 0.0  | 18.6               | 221                   |
| Black rockfish          | California          | 249         | 0      | 0   | 0.0      | 0.3  | 0.3                | 249                   |
| Bocaccio                | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 2,288       | 0      | 0   | 2.7      | 0.6  | 3.3                | 2,285                 |
| Cabazon                 | S of 42° N. lat.    | 150         | 0      | 0   | 0.0      | 0.6  | 0.6                | 149                   |
| California scorpionfish | Coastwide           | 233         | 0      | 0   | 0.1      | 0.6  | 0.7                | 232                   |
| Canary rockfish         | Coastwide           | 606         | 50     | 0   | 4.4      | 2.1  | 56.5               | 550                   |
| Chilipepper             | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 2,986       | 0      | 0   | 5.4      | 0.3  | 5.7                | 2,980                 |
| Cowcod                  | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 74          | 0      | 0   | 0.5      | 0.0  | 0.5                | 74                    |
| Darkblotched rockfish   | Coastwide           | 773         | 5      | 0   | 2.5      | 13.7 | 21.2               | 752                   |
| Dover sole              | Coastwide           | 38,573      | 1,497  | 0   | 44.6     | 4.9  | 1,546.5            | 37,027                |
| English sole            | Coastwide           | 3,168       | 200    | 0   | 4.8      | 7.2  | 212.0              | 2,956                 |
| Lingcod                 | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 3,482       | 250    | 0   | 6.7      | 12.1 | 268.8              | 3,213                 |
| Lingcod                 | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 789         | 0      | 0   | 0.8      | 1.4  | 2.2                | 787                   |
| Longnose skate          | Coastwide           | 1,546       | 220    | 0   | 12.3     | 10.2 | 242.5              | 1,304                 |
| Longspine thornyhead    | N of 34°27' N. lat. | 1,878       | 30     | 0   | 14.4     | 0.1  | 44.5               | 1,834                 |
| Longspine thornyhead    | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 593         | 0      | 0   | 0.8      | 0.2  | 1.0                | 592                   |
| Pacific cod             | Coastwide           | 1,600       | 500    | 0   | 0.1      | 0.0  | 500.2              | 1,100                 |
| Pacific ocean perch     | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 3,123       | 130    | 0   | 3.8      | 2.0  | 135.8              | 2,987                 |
| Pacific spiny dogfish   | Coastwide           | 1,278       | 275    | 0   | 8.0      | 4.9  | 287.9              | 990                   |
| Pacific whiting         | Coastwide           | TBD         | 0      | 0   | 0.0      | 0.0  | 0.0                | TBD                   |
| Petrable sole           | Coastwide           | 2,449       | 322    | 0   | 15.7     | 3.2  | 340.9              | 2,108                 |
| Quillback Rockfish      | California          | 12          | 0      | 0   | 0.0      | 0.0  | 0.0                | 12                    |

| Species                           | Area                | 2027<br>ACL | Tribal | EFP | Research | IOA  | Set-aside<br>Total | 2027<br>Fishery<br>HG |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------|-----|----------|------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Sablefish                         | N of 36° N. lat.    | 10,962      | 1,096* | 0   | 40.7     | --   | 1,137              | 9,825                 |
| Sablefish                         | S of 36° N. lat.    | 3,002       | 0      | 0   | 1.5      | 10.5 | 12.0               | 2,990                 |
| Shortspine thornyhead             | Coastwide           | 847         | 50     | 0   | 9.3      | 3.4  | 62.7               | 784                   |
| Splitnose rockfish                | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 620         | 0      | 0   | 4.1      | 0.0  | 4.1                | 616                   |
| Starry flounder                   | Coastwide           | 393         | 2      | 0   | 0.0      | 12.7 | 14.7               | 378                   |
| Widow rockfish                    | Coastwide           | TBD         | 200    | 0   | 0.5      | 0.1  | 200.6              | TBD                   |
| Yellowtail rockfish               | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 4,723       | 0      | 0   | 4.9      | 2.0  | 6.9                | 4,716                 |
| <b>Complexes</b>                  |                     |             |        |     |          |      |                    |                       |
| Nearshore rockfish north          | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 85          | 1.5    | 0   | 0.1      | 0.6  | 2.2                | 83                    |
| Nearshore rockfish south          | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 928         | 0      | 0   | 0.5      | 1.4  | 1.9                | 926                   |
| Shelf rockfish north              | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,342       | 30     | 0   | 8.9      | 9.7  | 48.6               | 1,293                 |
| Shelf rockfish south              | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,456       | 0      | 0   | 9.4      | 4.0  | 13.4               | 1,443                 |
| Slope rockfish north              | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,623       | 36     | 0   | 5.0      | 9.1  | 50.1               | 1,573                 |
| Slope rockfish south              | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 699         | 0      | 0   | 1.3      | 0.2  | 1.5                | 698                   |
| Other fish                        | Coastwide           | 223         | 0      | 0   | 0.0      | 4.0  | 4.0                | 219                   |
| Other flatfish                    | Coastwide           | 6,577       | 60     | 0   | 18.6     | 46.9 | 125.5              | 6,452                 |
| Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish | Oregon              | 448         | 0      | 0   | 0.0      | 0.5  | 0.5                | 448                   |
| Oregon cabezon/kelp greenling     | Oregon              | TBD         | 0      | 0   | 0.0      | 0.2  | 0.2                | TBD                   |
| Washington cabezon/kelp greenling | Washington          | 14          | 2      | 0   | 0.0      | 0.0  | 2.0                | 12                    |

\*Sablefish north of 36° N. lat. is allocated to the Tribes at 10 percent of the sablefish north ACL, which is a share rather than a set-aside. The GMT will discuss all sablefish set-asides and allocations under AIC #8 in GMT Report 2 of this agenda item.

PMMC  
11/04/25