

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON REVISIONS TO REPORTS 1 AND 3 REGARDING OFF-THE-TOP DEDUCTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS TO TRIP LIMITS, BAG LIMITS, AND OTHER ROUTINE MEASURES

Off-the-top Deductions- AIC #3

After review of [Agenda Item F.8 Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2025](#) following the end of the Federal furlough, an accounting error was identified for the new calculation of the Incidental Open Access (IOA) off-the-top set-aside of longspine thornyhead south of 34° 27' N. lat. This correction amounted to a difference of 0.2 metric tons (mt), documented in Table A-1. In Table A-1 & A-2, there is a separate, more substantial difference in the correction to the current Research set-aside; this change corrects a drafting error missed in the original version of this table from Report 1.

Additionally, as the ACLs for the Oregon stock of Cabezon/Kelp Greenling have been adopted under Agenda Item F.2 at this meeting, Table A-2 has been updated to reflect this new value. The corrections are detailed in the complete and updated versions of Tables A-1 through A-3 in the Appendix. **The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) recommends the values reported in Table A-1 of this report be used for the overwinter analysis.**

Commercial Non-Trawl Cowcod Retention- AIC #13-16

Cowcod retention has remained prohibited for nearly two decades. However, the stock was declared rebuilt in 2019, and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) took a stepwise approach when expanding access to the stock. For example, the Cowcod Conservation Areas in southern California were removed and replaced with smaller Groundfish Exclusion Areas in 2024, allowing commercial non-trawl participants to access fishing grounds important to the stock. The next step to improve access to this rebuilt stock will be to investigate limited retention. **In recognition of this seminal rebuilding success, the GMT recommends analyzing limited non-trawl commercial retention of cowcod to increase access and reduce regulatory discards, which would be in addition to recreational retention as discussed in [Agenda Item F.8 Supplemental GMT Report 3, November 2025](#).**

Non-Bottom Contact Gear Update- AIC #13-16

After communication with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), it was determined that the non-bottom contact gear update management measure discussed in [Agenda Item F.8 Supplemental GMT Report 3, November 2025](#) is considered a new management measure, as the impacts have not been analyzed previously. While it is the Council's purview to decide whether to include this measure in the biennial management measures package, it is the GMT's recommendation that this item not be considered at this time given that it would need to be implemented in a separate rulemaking package in order to avoid delaying harvest specifications implementation on January 1, 2027. **The GMT notes this measure has merit and recommends it be considered in March under the groundfish workload and prioritization agenda item.**

California Recreational - AIC #19

The [GMT's Report 3](#) addresses [June Council guidance](#) to explore all depth fishing in favor of management via sub-bag limits for the California recreational fishery. The GMT would like to provide additional clarification on this topic.

During overwinter analysis, the GMT will develop and analyze a range of routine adjustments to management measures to keep catches within limits while maximizing fishing opportunities. This analysis will include adjustments to season dates, depths (via recreational Rockfish Conservation Areas [RCAs]), and bag/sub-bag limits. While these options are developed, the Council's June guidance will be evaluated, along with stakeholder input. Generally, sub-bag limits are less effective at reducing mortality than depth restrictions, and would likely need to be paired with significant reductions in season lengths to meet but not exceed harvest guidelines. However, the Council's guidance is to explore these options, allowing flexibility while options are developed. We note that lower sub-bag limits paired with considerably shorter season lengths could be less preferred by stakeholders over management via RCAs.

Appendix 1.

Table A-1. Status quo and GMT recommended research and IOA set-asides in 2027 and 2028. Highlighted cells indicate values that have been corrected due to a calculation error. Any other negligible differences from our Report 1 would be due to a rounding difference.

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
Cabazon	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
Chilipepper	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
Longspine thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	1.3	0.8	0.5	0.2
Nearshore rockfish north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	0.5	0.1	0.8	0.6
Nearshore rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1.0	0.5	2.4	1.4
Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish	Oregon	0.1	0.0	1.2	0.5
Oregon cabazon/kelp greenling	Oregon	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.2

Other fish	Coastwide	0.1	0.0	10.2	4.0
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. Highlighted cells indicate values that have been corrected due to a calculation error. Any other negligible differences from our Report 1 would be due to a rounding difference.

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 Tonnage 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	14.4	-27%	5.3	1,878	0.8%
Longspine thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	1.8	1.0	-46%	0.8	593	0.2%
Nearshore rockfish north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1.3	0.7	-47%	0.6	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 cabazon/kelp	Oregon	0.8	0.2	-74%	0.6	188.4	0.1%

greenling							
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. Highlighted cells indicate values that have been corrected due to a calculation error. Any other negligible differences from our Report 1 would be due to a rounding difference.

Species	Area	2027 ACL	Tribal	EFP	Research	IOA	Set-aside Total	2027 Fishery 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	44.4	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
Petrale 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

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
Complexes								
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	188	0	0	0.0	0.2	0.2	188
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.