ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON ADOPT STOCK ASSESSMENTS

The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) appreciates the work of the National Marine Fisheries Service's Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers and the Stock Assessment Teams to produce risk tables for yellowtail, chilipepper, and California quillback rockfishes and sablefish, and include them in these stock assessments. As the EAS has noted previously, given the rapid changes in ocean conditions the West Coast has experienced in recent years, it is important the Council review and consider how ecosystem and assessment factors are influencing scientific uncertainty in managing groundfish stocks.

The EAS also appreciates the work of the Science Centers to produce the pilot *2025 West Coast Groundfish Stock Assessments At-a-Glance* (Agenda Item G.3.a, Supplemental NWFSC/SWFSC Report 1, September 2025). These two-page graphical summaries succinctly and clearly communicate the stocks' current status, how their status has changed over time, major changes in the stock assessments, and the influence of ecosystem factors via the risk tables, and we support the development of these summaries for future groundfish stock assessments.

Finally, it is the EAS's understanding that the purpose of this agenda item is for the Council to consider the adoption of these groundfish stocks assessments for use in fisheries management, and that there may be an opportunity for a more in-depth review and broader discussion about risk tables scheduled for March 2026, which the EAS supports; we look forward to providing additional input at that time.

PFMC
09/21/25