

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON EMERGENCY ACTION:
REVISED 2026 SPECIFICATIONS AND MEASURES FOR CANARY ROCKFISH,
SHORTSPINE THORNYHEAD, AND PETRALE SOLE- FINAL ACTION

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed standard and alternative catch-only projections for [petrale sole](#), [canary rockfish](#), and [shortspine thornyhead](#). For each species, the standard projection is provided in the first table of Agenda Item G.7 Attachments 1-3, where actual catches for 2023 and 2024 are listed and anticipated 2025 and 2026 removals are provided by the Groundfish Management Team. For 2027 and subsequent years, removals in the standard and alternative catch-only projections are set to those specified by the adopted sigma and P*, and the 40-10 or 25-5 harvest control rules.

The alternative runs also calculate Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and catch assumptions for 2026. For petrale sole, one alternative catch-only projection is provided where 2026 removals are set equal to 92 percent of the ACL. For canary rockfish, two alternative catch-only projections are provided. Because canary rockfish stock status is below the B_{MSY} reference point, a 40-10 control rule is applied to an assumed 88 percent attainment of the ACL for 2026. In the second alternative catch-only projection, the effect of the 40-10 control rule is removed and an assumed 88 percent attainment of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for 2026 is assumed. For shortspine thornyhead, two alternative catch-only projections are provided. In the first alternative, a new ACL for 2026 is calculated based on the standard approach and the new projection. In the second alternative catch-only projection an ad hoc ACL of 897 mt is assumed. In both scenarios, modeled catches in 2026 are based on 67 percent attainment of the ACL.

These alternative catch-only projections are unusual in that they are taking place mid-biennium. One projection does not use the adopted approach for calculating the scientific uncertainty buffer in setting the ABC (shortspine thornyhead; Table 3 in Agenda Item G.7, Attachment 3). Such changes to the ABC setting process are expected to occur infrequently; however, they fall within the National Standard 1 guidelines for phasing in changes to ABCs. The projections are required to enable an increase in the ABC in 2026 relative to the default harvest control rules to accommodate the proposed ACL. Impacts on stock status are less than 1 percent throughout the period of projection, and the revised ABCs remain below the Overfishing Limits (OFLs).

The SSC finds these catch-only projections were conducted correctly and endorses the OFLs and ABCs for use in 2026.