2025 LISTS OF THE PRIORITIZED AND THE PROPOSED GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT MEASURES LISTS

This document is a tabular version of GMT Report 1. That report provides additional detail to the items identified in the tables below. These tables show the management measures prioritized and currently being developed by the Council (Table A), previously proposed measures not prioritized (Table B). The items in these lists are not ranked. (H = high, M = medium, L = low)

Table A. Groundfish management measures items prioritized by the Council Items are not ranked.(H = high, M = medium, L = low)

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Purpose	Analytical Workload	Primary Analysts	Progress to Date	Scheduled on YAG
A1	All	Stock Definitions-Phase 2 (including stock complexes, deferral/removal)	Current step: Identify and define groundfish stocks in need of conservation and management	H	Todd Phillips/ Katrina Bernaus Abbie Moyer	Scoping, ROA/PPA	FPA, PPA June 2025
A2	LEFG	LEFG follow on					
a	Primary Tier Fishery	Cost recovery	Increase gear flexibility for LEFG permits, develop a cost recovery for the primary tier fishery, and other administrative changes	H	Jessi Waller/ NMFS staff	Initial analysis, white papers, ROA, PPA,	FPA June 2025
b		Removal of base permit designation					
c		Removal of start/stop time from regulation					
d	LEFG	Permit price reporting					
e		Change LEFG gear endorsements to increase flexibility					
A3	IFQ	Removal of Selective Flatfish Trawl (SFFT) requirement between 40° 10′ and 42° N. lat.	Implement EFP exemption into regulation	Unknown	Unknown	NMFS 2025 Rpt and Ongoing EFP	No
A4	IFQ	Remove Certain Time and Area-Management Restrictions for	Implement EFP exemption into regulation	Unknown	Unknown	NMFS2025 Rpt and Ongoing EFP	No

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Purpose	Analytical Workload	Primary Analysts	Progress to Date	Scheduled on YAG
		Midwater Trawl Gear Targeting Non-whiting					
A5	All	Mid-Biennium Harvest Specifications Change/Phase In-ABC Control Rule/Green Light	Allow change to harvest specifications during the biennium, including through a "green light" mechanism; allow phase-in of control rules	Unknown	Unknown	None	Discussion Doc April 2025
A6	All	Harvest Specifications Framework	Change P* maximum to 0.4999 and examine time-varying sigma	Unknown	Unknown	None	Discussion Doc April 2025
A7	All	Big "C" Carryover	Adjust harvest specifications through carrying over unharvested fish from prior year	Unknown	Unknown	None	Discussion Doc April 2025
A8	All	Multi-Year Average Catch Policy	Develop multi-year average catch policy for setting harvest specifications	Unknown	Unknown	None	Discussion Doc April 2025
A9	Recreational	Permitting Commercial Sale of Recreational Fish Waste	Removal federal regulations to allow sale of recreationally-caught fish waste to reduce costs and recover value	L	None	None	No

Table B. Unprioritized groundfish management measure items (not in priority order nor scheduled on YAG). (H = high, M = medium, L = low)

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Purpose	Expected Analytical Workload	Progress to Date
B1	IFQ, Non-Trawl	New Dressed to Round Conversion Factors for Sablefish	Remove or modify Federal regulation specifying the sablefish conversion factor	L	Preliminary discussions held at PacFIN meeting
B2	IFQ	Increasing IFQ Carryover from 10 Percent	Increase the amount of IFQ carryover to greater than 10 percent	L	None
B3	IFQ	Aggregate Non-whiting QS Control Limits and Individual Species Weighting	Consider changes to the overall non-whiting QS control limit and weighting calculation	M	Pending research; Considering in upcoming catch share review
B4	Salmon troll	Salmon VMS Ping Rate	Consider an exemption to the salmon troll VMS ping rate requirement when retaining groundfish to reduce costs and monitoring	H	Preliminary scoping
B5	Commercial	Prohibition of directed shortbelly rockfish fishery	Reduce impacts to California current forage species	H	ODFW report Nov 2021 Staff 2025 Document
B6	Salmon troll/ Incidental Open Access	Lingcod trip limit adjustments north of 40° 10' N lat.	Increase the lingcod allowance in the salmon troll fishery (currently 1:2 limited to 10 per trip)	M	None
B7	Non-trawl	Remove the non-trawl RCA	Increase access to fishing grounds to non-trawl sector	H	None
B8	Recreational	Use of natural bait in Oregon recreational long-leader fishery	Change regulations to allow recreational anglers to select fishing methods	M	None
B9	Fixed Gear	Season Start Date for the Primary Tier Fishery	Increase fishing opportunity while minimizing co-occurrence with whales	U	None

UNPRIORITIZED PROPOSED MANAGEMENT MEASURES: DETAIL.

This information is summarized. The complete text may be read in Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, March 2025 and is summarized for brevity

B1. New Dressed to Round Conversion Factors for Sablefish

Research by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) suggests that the current conversion factor in Federal regulations of 1.60 for dressed and head-off sablefish may be too high, particularly during certain times of the year. This new management measure item would revise or remove the current Federal rule which specifies "for headed and gutted (eviscerated) sablefish the weight conversion factor is 1.6" (50 CFR 660.60(h)(5)(ii)(A)(1)). However, Federal regulations also specify that conversion factors are established by the states. It is the GMT's understanding that this new management measure was originally requested by WDFW for the state of Washington so that WDFW can apply the conversion factors of 1.54 for rolled-cut and 1.57 for slight angle cut, because they may be more appropriate and more representative of recent research. When this was discussed in the past, WDFW indicated, even if the Federal regulation were removed or modified to give the states flexibility in sablefish conversion factors, WDFW would continue to use the 1.6 conversion factor unless and until Oregon and California choose to also use the conversion factors of 1.54 and 1.57, in order to maintain consistency in how we account for sablefish mortality coastwide. The GMT also notes that if one state changes a conversion factor, debiting for IFQ species would differ between states, potentially creating equity issues.

Sector(s): IFQ, Non-trawl

Anticipated Analytical Workload: Low

B2. Increasing Individual Fishing Quota Carryover from 10 Percent

Each year, typically in the Spring, the Council recommends issuing carryover up to 10 percent in the Shorebased IFQ Program for those stocks or stock complexes where the annual catch limit (ACL) is less than the acceptable biological catch (ABC). During the initial five-year catch share program review, the Community Advisory Board (CAB) identified increasing the available amount to greater than 10 percent as a potential priority.

As shown in Table 1 below, only six stocks or stock complexes are currently eligible for carryover. Canary rockfish and shortspine thornyhead are newly eligible for carryover as of 2025, because their ACLs for 2025 and 2026 are set below the ABC. However, NMFS evaluates each eligible species to ensure the ACL is not expected to be exceeded as a result of carryover. Therefore, carryover only generates a benefit if an ACL is not fully attained. the carryover percentage would be a procedural change, so workload is expected to be low.

Sector(s): IFQ

Anticipated Analytical Workload: Low

Table 1. Shorebased IFQ stocks and 2025 ABC/ACL comparison. Species in all uppercase are those that are overfished. Bolded rows indicate ABC is greater than ACL.

IFQ Stocks	2025 ABC/ACL Comparison
Arrowtooth flounder	ABC = ACL
Bocaccio south of 40° 10′ N. lat.	ABC = ACL
Canary rockfish	**ABC > ACL**
Chilipepper rockfish south of 40° 10′ N. lat.	ABC = ACL
Cowcod south of 40° 10′ N. lat.	ABC = ACL
Darkblotched rockfish	ABC = ACL
Dover sole	ABC = ACL
English sole	ABC = ACL
Lingcod north of 40° 10′ N. lat.	ABC = ACL
Lingcod south of 40° 10′ N. lat.	**ABC > ACL**
Longspine thornyhead north of 34° 27′ N. lat.	ABC = ACL
Minor shelf rockfish north of 40° 10′ N. lat.	ABC = ACL
Minor shelf rockfish south of 40° 10′ N. lat.	**ABC > ACL**
Minor slope rockfish north of 40° 10′ N. lat.	ABC = ACL
Minor slope rockfish south of 40° 10′ N. lat.	ABC = ACL
Other flatfish	ABC = ACL
Pacific cod	**ABC > ACL**
Pacific halibut (IBQ) north of 40° 10′ N. lat.	NA
Pacific ocean perch north of 40° 10′ N. lat.	ABC = ACL
Petrale sole	ABC = ACL
Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.	ABC = ACL
Sablefish south of 36° N. lat.	ABC = ACL
Shortspine thornyhead	**ABC > ACL**
Splitnose rockfish south of 40° 10′ N. lat.	ABC = ACL
Starry flounder	ABC = ACL
Widow rockfish	ABC = ACL
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	**ABC > ACL**
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10′ N. lat.	ABC = ACL
Splitnose rockfish south of 40° 10′ N. lat.	ABC = ACL
Starry flounder	ABC = ACL
Widow rockfish	ABC = ACL
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	**ABC > ACL**

B3. Aggregate Non-Whiting Quota Share Control Limits and Individual Species Weighting

This item was identified by the CAB during the initial trawl IFQ 5-year review as a possible priority follow-on action but was not selected by the Council for inclusion in the follow-on package resulting from that initial program review. This item would reconsider the current 3.2 percent aggregate non-whiting control limit and the weighting methodology used in calculating the limit. The GMT was made aware of a new study[1] funded by NOAA which evaluates the aggregate non-whiting control limit.

Sector(s): IFQ

Anticipated Analytical Workload: Medium

B4. Salmon VMS Ping Rate

In June 2019, the Enforcement Consultants (EC) provided an update to the Council on Vessel Monitoring Movement (VMM) with respect to vessel monitoring system (VMS) ping rate for salmon troll vessels (Agenda Item I.2.a, Supplemental EC Report 1, June 2019). In their June 2019 report, they noted the "Council [previously] chose not to consider exempting salmon trollers in subsequent VMM Public Scoping Documents, primarily due to concerns related to monitoring salmon troll activity in and near the North Coast Commercial Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA) and activity inside and outside of the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas." In that same report, the EC recommended the Council consider exempting the salmon trollers from the then proposed, now current 15-minute VMS ping rate (85 FR 35594), but create specific areas where an increased ping rate would be required (e.g., a geofence around YRCAs).

Sector(s): Salmon troll/incidental open access groundfish

Anticipated Analytical Workload: High

B5. Prohibition of Directed Shortbelly Rockfish Fishery

The background for this item is detailed in Agenda Item H.8, Attachment 1 in the March 2025 briefing book.

Sector(s): IFQ

Anticipated Analytical Workload: High

B6. Lingcod Trip Limit Adjustments in the Salmon Troll Fishery North of 40° 10' N. lat.

The Council took inseason action in April 2021 to increase the lingcod opportunity for salmon trollers. At that time, the Council adjusted the lingcod allowance ratio from 1 per 5 Chinook salmon

[1] Guo, Xinyu & Kedagni, Desire & Weninger, Quinn, "undated". "Strategic underproduction and ownership limit policy in cap-and-trade," ISU General Staff Papers 202112212129530000, Iowa State University, Department of Economics.

to 1 per 2 Chinook salmon, per trip when fishing in the non-trawl RCA north of 40° 10′ N. lat. The GMT and Council had lengthy discussions about the ability to, and appropriateness of, making that adjustment under inseason action. Ultimately, the Council chose to pursue inseason action due to prior analyses in the 2019-20 Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Environmental Assessment and the need for immediate action due to COVID-19 related impacts and depressed salmon quotas. Since this action was taken, lingcod retention in the directed groundfish fishery has been prohibited in the non-trawl RCA between 42° and 40° 10′ N. lat. to protect quillback rockfish (Agenda Item G.8.a Supplemental GMT Report 5 September 2023, Agenda Item F.7.a Supplemental GMT Report 1 June 2024). The proposed action would increase access to lingcod by the salmon troll fishery between 42° and 40° 10′ N. lat (if/when their season reopens) while the Council continues to prohibit the retention of lingcod in the directed groundfish fishery. Thus, this action raises concerns about providing opportunity to salmon trollers where restrictions exist for directed groundfish vessels to protect California quillback rockfish. The GMT recognizes that this lingcod trip limit is particularly important for Washington salmon trollers, because the non-trawl RCA effectively covers their entire fishing grounds off of Washington. Off of Oregon and California, salmon trollers can access the Open Access trip limits outside of the non-trawl RCA.

Sector(s): Salmon troll/incidental open access groundfish

Anticipated Analytical Workload: Medium

B7. Remove the Non-Trawl RCA

This new management measure would aim to remove the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA), which was originally implemented to protect overfished rockfish species at that time. Those species have now all been rebuilt, with the exception of yelloweye rockfish. The GMT notes that there will be EFH and ESA considerations. New data sources to analyze impacts have emerged in recent years, including the non-trawl logbook and the allowance of fishing with non-bottom contact gear within the non-trawl RCA, which may be used to inform Council action.

Sector(s): Non-trawl

Anticipated Analytical Workload: High

B8. Use of Natural Bait in Oregon Recreational Long-leader Fishery

The Oregon recreational long-leader fishery was implemented in April 2018 (March 29, 2018; 83 FR 13428) after testing under an EFP. The EFP test fishing, which commenced in 2009 and ended in 2011, was conducted by the Oregon Recreational Fishing Alliance in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) under a NMFS authorized EFP. The EFP and analysis (regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NMFS-2017-0047) used to support the utility of long-leader gear successfully avoiding yelloweye rockfish provided the additional detail that canary rockfish prefer natural bait. During the testing and development of the gear, both canary and yelloweye rockfishes were in the midst of a rebuilding plan, thus not allowing the use of natural bait was a key component in the gears success at avoiding both canary and yelloweye rockfishes.

Recently, a request to allow natural bait in the long-leader fishery was brought forward, particularly in light of a recent allowance for natural bait for commercial stationary vertical jig gear (12E) as part of Amendment 32 (88 FR 83830). The request to allow natural bait in the long-leader fishery was made prior to the 2023 canary rockfish stock assessment, with the intent to open up the fishery to harvest midwater rockfish with greater ease/flexibility. This measure may require considerations of seabird and salmon interactions with the gear in accordance with their respective biological opinions.

Sector(s): Oregon recreational fisheries

Anticipated Analytical Workload: Medium