

## Groundfish Management

### Adopt Stock Assessments

The Council adopted catch-only projections for bocaccio and Oregon black rockfish for use in groundfish fishery management for the next biennium and beyond.

The Council delayed adoption of an update assessment of widow rockfish and requested further review of this assessment as recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). The full SSC is planning to conduct a second Supplemental Review webinar in January 2026 to review any additional analyses for the 2025 widow update assessment. This supplemental review is being planned for January 20 and January 22. Final confirmation of meeting dates will be available on the Council's website. SSC recommendations will be available for Council consideration at the March 2026 meeting.

With the goals of conducting a full benchmark assessment for widow rockfish in 2027 and setting 2027-2028 harvest levels consistently with National Standards 1, 2, and 8, the Council requested the following topics be included in the Supplemental Review:

1. The SSC conduct the review, with requests to the stock assessment team (STAT) as noted in [F.2.a Supplemental SSC Report 1](#), and recommend the best scientific information available for widow rockfish for use in 2027-2028.
2. The STAT use that best scientific information available to project a ramp-down that departs from the proxy harvest control rule while keeping the stock above  $B_{40\%}$  in 2029 (e.g. annual catch limits [ACLs] of 8,842 mt in 2027 and 7,958 mt in 2028, representing a 10 percent decrease in the “assumed catch” from Table 4 of F.2 Attachment 3 each year).
3. The STAT include a Bayesian projection to evaluate the probability that the stock would remain above  $B_{40\%}$  in 2029, if such a method is feasible to achieve within existing workload capacity and model structure.
4. The SSC review the ramp-down forecast for the March 2026 meeting.
5. Staff and NMFS explore and discuss with the SSC the discretion to recommend alternate acceptable biological catches to the Council for preventing overfishing.
6. The STAT and SSC work on a Q&A document to answer the questions the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) outlined in [Agenda Item F.2.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1 \(November 2025\)](#).