



Pacific Fishery Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220-1384
Phone 503-820-2280 | Toll free 866-806-7204 | Fax 503-820-2299 | www.pcouncil.org
Pete Hassemer, Chair | Merrick J. Burden, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 6, 2026

TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee

FROM: Jessi Waller, Council Staff

SUBJECT: Widow Rockfish Supplemental Review Meeting

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will be meeting online to review the widow rockfish assessment on January 20 and 22, 2026. Meeting logistics and materials can be found on the [event page](#). The SSC should review the materials provided and provide comments on the following for the March 2026 Council meeting:

1. The SSC will review and consider the stock assessment for widow rockfish as a component of the best scientific information available for management decision-making, and particularly for use in setting the 2027-2028 harvest specifications and management measures for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery. This includes the stock assessment category and sigma.
2. In response to the [Council's November motion](#), the SSC, in coordination with the Stock Assessment Team (STAT), will discuss the questions and issues raised by the industry and in the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel report. (See "Widow Q&A Document")
3. The SSC will review the current and alternative method(s) for establishing the harvest specifications including the overfishing limit as outlined in the [Council's November motion](#). The alternative method(s) include an option to implement a ramp-down strategy for 2027-28 while ensuring the stock stays above 40% of unfished biomass by 2029. Following the 2027-28 biennium, the default harvest control rule (HCR, i.e., application of Fmsy proxy) would be applied. The expectation is that a new benchmark assessment would be available in 2027 and in the subsequent biennia (2029-30) and the Council could elect to deviate from the default HCR at a later time. Key considerations include:
 - i) Discuss the impacts and risks of the alternative method(s) to prevent overfishing
 - ii) Discuss whether the alternative method(s), implemented for two years, jeopardizes the capacity of the stock to produce MSY (e.g., over the next 10 years).

At the March meeting, after hearing the SSC report, the Council will consider whether to begin a process to further examine the alternative method(s) and, ultimately, whether to use the alternative method to establish the specifications in 2027-28.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Jessi Waller
Council Staff