



Overview of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

The Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) was first implemented in 1982. Prior to then, the management of domestic groundfish fisheries was under the jurisdiction of the states of Washington, Oregon, and California. State regulations have been in effect on the domestic fishery for more than 100 years, with each state acting independently in both management and enforcement.

Due to overlapping state boundaries, a lack of uniformity of regulations, and other management challenges, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) was formed in 1947. PSMFC had no regulatory power but acted as a coordinating entity with authority to submit specific recommendations. In 1977 Fishery Conservation and Management Act (later amended and renamed the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act or Magnuson-Stevens Act) established eight regional fishery management Councils, including the Pacific Council.

Since first implemented in 1982, the groundfish FMP has been amended by the Council 28 times. Amendments have been made in response to ongoing changes in the fishery, reauthorizations of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and litigation that invalidated provisions incorporated by earlier amendments. Details regarding the Amendments can be found in the complete FMP.

Goals and Objectives for Managing the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery

The Council is committed to developing long-range plans for managing the Washington, Oregon, and California groundfish fisheries that will promote a stable planning environment for the seafood industry, including marine recreation interests, and will maintain the health of the resource and environment. In developing allocation and harvesting systems, the Council will give consideration to maximizing economic benefits to the United States, consistent with resource stewardship responsibilities for the continuing welfare of the living marine resources. Thus, management must be flexible enough to meet changing social and economic needs of the fishery as well as to address fluctuations in the marine resources supporting the fishery. The following goals have been established in order of priority for managing the west coast groundfish fisheries, to be considered in conjunction with the national standards of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Management Goals

Goal 1 - *Conservation*. Prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks by managing for appropriate harvest levels and prevent, to the extent practicable, any net loss of the habitat of living marine resources.

Goal 2 - *Economics*. Maximize the value of the groundfish resource as a whole.

Goal 3 - *Utilization*. Within the constraints of overfished species rebuilding requirements, achieve the maximum biological yield of the overall groundfish fishery, promote year-round availability of quality seafood to the consumer, and promote recreational fishing opportunities.

Objectives:

To accomplish these management goals, a number of objectives will be considered and followed as closely as practicable:

Conservation

1. Maintain an information flow on the status of the fishery and the fishery resource which allows for informed management decisions as the fishery occurs.
2. Adopt harvest specifications and management measures consistent with resource stewardship responsibilities for each groundfish species or species group. Achieve a level of harvest capacity in the fishery that is appropriate for

a sustainable harvest and low discard rates, and which results in a fishery that is diverse, stable, and profitable. This reduced capacity should lead to more effective management for many other fishery problems.

3. For species or species groups that are overfished, develop a plan to rebuild the stock as soon as possible, taking into account the status and biology of the stock, the needs of fishing communities, recommendations by international organizations in which the United States participates, and the interaction of the overfished stock within the marine ecosystem.
4. Where conservation problems have been identified for non-groundfish species and the best scientific information shows that the groundfish fishery has a direct impact on the ability of that species to maintain its long-term reproductive health, the Council may consider establishing management measures to control the impacts of groundfish fishing on those species. Management measures may be imposed on the groundfish fishery to reduce fishing mortality of a non-groundfish species for documented conservation reasons. The action will be designed to minimize disruption of the groundfish fishery, in so far as consistent with the goal to minimize the bycatch of non-groundfish species, and will not preclude achievement of a quota, harvest guideline, or allocation of groundfish, if any, unless such action is required by other applicable law.
5. Describe and identify EFH, adverse impacts on EFH, and other actions to conserve and enhance EFH, and adopt management measures that minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse impacts from fishing on EFH.

Economics

6. Within the constraints of the conservation goals and objectives of the FMP, attempt to achieve the greatest possible net economic benefit to the nation from the managed fisheries.
7. Identify those sectors of the groundfish fishery for which it is beneficial to promote year-round marketing opportunities and establish management policies that extend those sectors fishing and marketing opportunities as long as practicable during the fishing year.
8. Gear restrictions to minimize the necessity for other management measures will be used whenever practicable. Encourage development of practicable gear restrictions intended to reduce regulatory and/or economic discards through gear research regulated by EFP.

Utilization

9. Develop management measures and policies that foster and encourage full utilization (harvesting and processing), in accordance with conservation goals, of the Pacific Coast groundfish resources by domestic fisheries.
10. Recognize the multispecies nature of the fishery and establish a concept of managing by species and gear or by groups of interrelated species.
11. Develop management programs that reduce regulations-induced discard and/or which reduce economic incentives to discard fish. Develop management measures that minimize bycatch to the extent practicable and, to the extent that bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch. Promote and support monitoring programs to improve estimates of total fishing-related mortality and bycatch, as well as those to improve other information necessary to determine the extent to which it is practicable to reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality.

Social Factors

12. When conservation actions are necessary to protect a stock or stock assemblage, attempt to develop management measures that will affect users equitably.
13. Minimize gear conflicts among resource users.
14. When considering alternative management measures to resolve an issue, choose the measure that best accomplishes the change with the least disruption of current domestic fishing practices, marketing procedures, and the environment.
15. Avoid unnecessary adverse impacts on small entities.
16. Consider the importance of groundfish resources to fishing communities, provide for the sustained participation of fishing communities, and minimize adverse economic impacts on fishing communities to the extent practicable.
17. Promote the safety of human life at sea.

Species Managed by the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP

Common Name	Scientific Name
SHARKS	
Big skate	<i>Raja binoculata</i>
California skate	<i>R. inornata</i>
Leopard shark	<i>Triakis semifasciata</i>
Longnose skate	<i>R. rhina</i>
Souppin shark	<i>Galeorhinus zyopterus</i>
Spiny dogfish	<i>Squalus acanthias</i>
RATFISH	
Ratfish	<i>Hydrolagus collicii</i>
MORIDS	
Finescale codling (Pacific flatnose)	<i>Antimora microlepis</i>
GRENADIERS	
Pacific rattail (Pacific grenadier)	<i>Coryphaenoides acrolepis</i>
ROUNDFISH	
Cabezon	<i>Scorpaenichthys marmoratus</i>
Kelp greenling	<i>Hexagrammos decagrammus</i>
Lingcod	<i>Ophiodon elongatus</i>
Pacific cod	<i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>
Pacific whiting (hake)	<i>Merluccius productus</i>
Sablefish	<i>Anoplopoma fimbria</i>
ROCKFISH The category "rockfish" includes all genera and species of the family Scorpaenidae, even if not listed, that occur in the Washington, Oregon, and California area. The Scorpaenidae genera are <i>Sebastes</i> , <i>Scorpaena</i> , <i>Sebastobus</i> , and <i>Scorpaenodes</i> .	
Aurora rockfish	<i>Sebastes aurora</i>
Bank rockfish	<i>S. rufus</i>
Black rockfish	<i>S. melanops</i>
Black and yellow rockfish	<i>S. chrysomelas</i>
Blackjill rockfish	<i>S. melanostomus</i>
Blue rockfish	<i>S. mystinus</i>
Bocaccio	<i>S. paucispinis</i>
Bronzespotted rockfish	<i>S. gilli</i>
Brown rockfish	<i>S. auriculatus</i>
Calico rockfish	<i>S. dallii</i>
California scorpionfish	<i>Scorpaena gutatta</i>
Canary rockfish	<i>Sebastes pinniger</i>
Chameleon rockfish	<i>S. phillipsi</i>
Chilipepper	<i>S. goodei</i>
China rockfish	<i>S. nebulosus</i>
Copper rockfish	<i>S. caurinus</i>
Cowcod	<i>S. levis</i>
Darkblotched rockfish	<i>S. crameri</i>
Dusky rockfish	<i>S. ciliatus</i>
Dwarf-red rockfish	<i>S. rufinanus</i>
Flag rockfish	<i>S. rubrivinctus</i>
Freckled rockfish	<i>S. lentiginosus</i>
Gopher rockfish	<i>S. carnatus</i>
Grass rockfish	<i>S. rastrelliger</i>
Greenblotched rockfish	<i>S. rosenblatti</i>
Greenspotted rockfish	<i>S. chlorostictus</i>
Greenstriped rockfish	<i>S. elongatus</i>
Halfbanded rockfish	<i>S. semicinctus</i>
Harlequin rockfish	<i>S. variegatus</i>
Honeycomb rockfish	<i>S. umbrosus</i>
Kelp rockfish	<i>S. atrovirens</i>
Longspine thornyhead	<i>Sebastobus altivelis</i>

Mexican rockfish	<i>Sebastes macdonaldi</i>
Olive rockfish	<i>S. serranoides</i>
Pink rockfish	<i>S. eos</i>
Pinkrose rockfish	<i>S. simulator</i>
Pygmy rockfish	<i>S. wilsoni</i>
Pacific ocean perch	<i>S. alutus</i>
Quillback rockfish	<i>S. maliger</i>
Redbanded rockfish	<i>S. babcocki</i>
Redstripe rockfish	<i>S. proriger</i>
Rosethorn rockfish	<i>S. helvomaculatus</i>
Rosy rockfish	<i>S. rosaceus</i>
Rougheye rockfish	<i>S. aleutianus</i>
Sharpchin rockfish	<i>S. zacentrus</i>
Shortbelly rockfish	<i>S. jordani</i>
Shortraker rockfish	<i>S. borealis</i>
Shortspine thornyhead	<i>Sebastolobus alascanus</i>
Silvergray rockfish	<i>Sebastes brevispinis</i>
Speckled rockfish	<i>S. ovalis</i>
Splitnose rockfish	<i>S. diploproa</i>
Squarespot rockfish	<i>S. hopkinsi</i>
Starry rockfish	<i>S. constellatus</i>
Stripetail rockfish	<i>S. saxicola</i>
Swordspine rockfish	<i>S. ensifer</i>
Tiger rockfish	<i>S. nigrocinctus</i>
Treefish	<i>S. serriceps</i>
Vermilion rockfish	<i>S. miniatus</i>
Widow rockfish	<i>S. entomelas</i>
Yelloweye rockfish	<i>S. ruberrimus</i>
Yellowmouth rockfish	<i>S. reedi</i>
Yellowtail rockfish	<i>S. flavidus</i>
FLATFISH	
Arrowtooth flounder (turbot)	<i>Atheresthes stomias</i>
Butter sole	<i>Isopsetta isolepis</i>
Curlfin sole	<i>Pleuronichthys decurrens</i>
Dover sole	<i>Microstomus pacificus</i>
English sole	<i>Parophrys vetulus</i>
Flathead sole	<i>Hippoglossoides elassodon</i>
Pacific sanddab	<i>Citharichthys sordidus</i>
Petrale sole	<i>Eopsetta jordani</i>
Rex sole	<i>Glyptocephalus zachirus</i>
Rock sole	<i>Lepidopsetta bilineata</i>
Sand sole	<i>Psettichthys melanostictus</i>
Starry flounder	<i>Platichthys stellatus</i>

Geographical Reach of the FMP

International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (INPFC) statistical areas in the U.S. exclusive economic zone seaward of Washington, Oregon, and California.

