

Draft SSC Report June 2022



C1 CGOA Rockfish EA

C1 CGOA Rockfish Program EA (1 of 3)

- SSC reviewed RIR in April 2022 and found it sufficient for Council decision-making at final action
- This review was only on EA
 - SSC raised concerns about whether EA was needed due to potential interactions between harvest and timing of rockfish larval release under an April 1 start date
- The SSC *finds* the EA to be sufficient for Council decision making

C1 CGOA Rockfish Program EA (2 of 3)

- The SSC ***agrees*** with the findings of the EA that minimal effects are expected on target species, unallocated species (including prohibited species), and EFH. No significant effects are expected on ecosystem component species, marine mammals, seabirds, or the ecosystem
- The SSC ***recommends*** the following:
 - Inclusion of the POP monthly harvest tables and stock assessment author input into the Secretarial review draft of the EA
 - The Secretarial review version of the EA clearly indicate that market conditions and fishing behavior could change from those observed in 2021 given the unusual events of COVID-19 and the loss of flatfish markets.

C1 CGOA Rockfish Program EA (3 of 3)

- The SSC *recommends* the following (con't):
 - Continued monitoring of harvest patterns (groundfish and PSC), particularly during the months of April and May, which correspond to larval release for primary rockfish species (Dusky, Northerns, POP)
 - Monitoring of potential habitat impacts related to changes in the footprint of the fishery due to the additional flexibility under Alt 2.