



# BSAI Blackspotted Roughey rockfish Accountability Measures

Diana Stram, NPFMC  
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Brief overview of:

- BSAI Accountability Measures
- Council request for discussion paper (for 2025 specifications cycle)
- Revised list of potential AMs for BSRE rockfish for consideration moving forward



## BSAI Groundfish FMP Accountability Measures

- FMP Section 3.2.4 references measures that are used to enumerate and manage catch:
  - Observer Program
  - Catch Accounting System
  - In-season management to the TAC level
  - Harvest specifications process that can account for a TAC overage

**NS1 Guidelines require reevaluation of AMs (and potential modification) if an ACL is exceeding > 1 in 4 years**

**BSAI BSRE ACL exceeded 3 of last 4 years**

## Council discussion paper request for 2025 specifications cycle

1. A review of the current AMs, including the reasons the AMs have not prevented catch from exceeding the ACL for the BSAI blackspotted and rougheye rockfish complex in recent years.
2. Spatial information on blackspotted and rougheye rockfish catch in the BS, AI, and AI subareas.
3. Information on which fisheries caught blackspotted and rougheye rockfish and in what amounts over the time period from 2015-2024.
4. Current stock status information and an evaluation of the biological consequences, if any, from the recent ACL overages.
5. Discussion of limitations in assessment information available for evaluating stock status.
6. Evaluation of potential AMs that may be effective for this stock complex including:
  - a. Spatial closures;
  - b. Seasonal closures;
  - c. Modified inseason management authority;
  - d. Reducing Total Allowable Catch in fisheries catching blackspotted and rougheye rockfish; and
  - e. Any other AMs that may be relevant and useful



## June review by Council to focus development of appropriate AMs for Fall 2025 specifications cycle:

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5. Discussion of limitations in assessment information available for evaluating stock status.
6. **Evaluation of potential AMs that may be effective for this stock complex including:**
  - a. **Spatial closures;**
  - b. **Seasonal closures;**
  - c. **Modified inseason management authority;**
  - d. **Reducing Total Allowable Catch in fisheries catching blackspotted and rougheye rockfish; and**
  - e. **Any other AMs that may be relevant and useful**



## June motion by Council to focus development of appropriate AMs for Fall 2025 specifications cycle:

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6. **Evaluation of potential AMs that may be effective for this stock complex including:**
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# Accountability Measures under consideration:

- Modified in-season management authority
  - Consider expanded in-season management authority→ allow NMFS to close a fishery or an area as an ACL is approached (currently only OFL)
    - Analysis: FMP amendment and Rulemaking (EA/RIR)
  - Considerations:
    - Council would need to articulate the specific situations in which this authority could be invoked (e.g. not supplanting OFL authority)
    - Examples could be defining only for specific fisheries, articulating how many years an ACL would have been exceeded to invoke this authority etc.
- Reduced TAC in fisheries that catch BSRE incidentally
  - POP fishery
  - Analysis: none required but staff could provide a table of potential TAC reductions and resulting bycatch reduction



## Council decision on timing/intent for modified in-season management authority (pg 14)

For example, the Council may consider articulating one of the following options as their intent:

- 1) If a stock's ACL is exceeded more than once in a four-year rolling time frame, then NMFS may use their inseason authority to close fisheries that are catching that stock as the ACL is approached *for the following year*.
- 2) If a stock's ACL is exceeded more than once in a four-year rolling time frame, then NMFS may use their inseason authority to close fisheries that are catching that stock as the ACL is approached *for the next three years*.
- 3) If a stock's ACL is exceeded more than twice in a four-year rolling time frame, then NMFS may use their inseason authority to close fisheries that are catching that stock as the ACL is approached *for the following year*.
- 4) If a stock's ACL is exceeded more than twice in a four-year rolling time frame, then NMFS may use their inseason authority to close fisheries that are catching that stock as the ACL is approached *for the next three years*.

## Draft reductions in POP TAC to reduce non-target catch of BSRE for Council consideration (pg 15)

**Table 7      Reductions in POP catch required to Reduce BSRE by 85 tons Based Upon 2024 and 2021-2024 Average Incidental Catch Rates in the POP Fisheries**

<b>Rate Years</b>	<b>BS</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>BS/EAI</b>	<b>CAI/WAI</b>	<b>BSAI</b>
2024	22,406	6,339	2,655	4,546	14,067	3,816	5,952
2021-2024 Average	10,214	9,303	3,503	7,604	10,244	5,558	7,200

