



## D4 Blackspotted/roughey rockfish accountability measures

June 2025 Council Meeting

### Action Memo

Council Staff: Diana Stram  
Other Presenters: Steve Whitney (NMFS)  
Action Required: Review preliminary summary of potential accountability measures;  
consider whether all should continue to be explored in the next review

### BACKGROUND

The stock-wide annual catch limit (ACL), which is equal to the acceptable biological catch (ABC), for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) blackspotted and roughey rockfish (BSRE) complex has been exceeded for three of the past four years. The overfishing limit (OFL) has not been exceeded in any of these years. While accountability measures (AMs) are specified in the BSAI Fishery Management Plan, they have not prevented catch from exceeding the ACL. The National Standard 1 guidelines require that the system of ACLs and AMs be reevaluated and modified if necessary when an ACL is exceeded more than once in a four-year period.

In accordance with the National Standard 1 guidelines, the Council [requested](#) that staff develop a discussion paper to evaluate the effectiveness of the current AMs for the BSAI blackspotted and roughey rockfish complex (BSRE complex) and explore additional or modified AMs to prevent catch from exceeding the ACL. This more comprehensive discussion paper will be prepared in time for the Fall 2025 groundfish harvest specifications cycle. However, in order to better focus the development of appropriate AMs for the Fall of 2025, staff have provided this paper briefly summarizing the potential AMs that could be explored, preliminary information on their applicability, and the timing required for their development.

At this meeting, the Council has the opportunity to streamline which of these measures should be further explored and brought forward for consideration in the Fall.