

D4: BSAI Blackspotted Roughey rockfish Accountability Measures

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Brief overview of:

- BSAI Accountability Measures
- Council request for discussion paper (for 2025 specifications cycle)
- 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



To focus development of appropriate AMs for Fall 2025 specifications cycle:

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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.
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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**



Accountability Measures under consideration: spatial/seasonal closures (Sec 2.1-2.2)

Spatial Closures

- Analysis required: FMP/Regulatory Amendment package
- Issues:
 - confidentiality of spatial catch information → could aggregate across years to identify candidate areas but may not be indicative of consistent areas of catch
 - Incidentally caught species therefore spatial closures may have limited effect

Seasonal Closures

- NMFS Regional Office does not have authority to seasonally close other target fisheries until OFL is approached (see modified in-season management authority)
- Closed to directed fishing at start of year; could put on PSC status at start of year but this does not prohibit catch



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



Accountability Measures under consideration: other ideas?

- Directed fishery allocations
 - Potential for small allocations, equity and restricted fishing opportunities (choke species)
- Sideboards
 - Hard-capped sideboard, not an allocation but would limit catch

Both of these ideas would require substantial Council consideration and staff analyses



Council action at this meeting

- Larger discussion paper for October meeting:
 - Stock status
 - Data on fisheries catch
 - Potential biological implication of overages on stock
- At this meeting the Council may streamline AMs considered for October in order to
 - Initiate an analysis at that time of any AMs the Council wishes to pursue
 - Timeline for implementation of anything but TAC reduction would likely be 2027 specifications cycle

