DRAFT statements to be used for messaging of the 2021 stock assessment on quillback rockfish in California

My intent with these statements is to

1. Discuss general purpose of assessments

2. Discuss quillback, with points to explain why an overfished criteria is not entirely a surprise

3. Discuss results of this assessment

4. Describe data needs that would improve our science

* Stock assessments combine multiple data elements within a modeling framework to answer questions such as “how many fish are there?” and “how many fish can be caught?”.
* Quillback rockfish are long-lived species that is vulnerable to the effects of fishing, and are managed collectively along with other nearshore rockfish species. The ACL contributions of quillback rockfish have been exceeded in recent years.
* Based on available catch and length data from the fishery, and growth data from fishery dependent and fishery independent data sources, as allowed within the assessment process agreed upon prior to the assessment, and after extensive review of model assumptions and available data, the stock assessment suggested the stock is below management thresholds.
* Current information on the contributions of closed areas to the population are unknown, as are regionally specific growth rates. Further data to address these uncertainties would enhance our knowledge of quillback populations.