

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON MANAGEMENT
MEASURES FOR 2007-2008

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) recommends a the range of management measures for public review that are contained in Agenda Item F.5.b, Supplemental ODFW Report (titled “Proposed Management Measures for the 2007-08 Oregon Recreational Groundfish Fishery”) contained in the briefing book materials, and include the adjustments contained in this report. These alternatives address management measures that affect the recreational groundfish fishery in waters off Oregon, and include bag limits (marine fish*, lingcod, sanddab, and flatfish), size limits (lingcod, cabezon, and kelp greenling), season adjustments/time closures, depth restrictions, and implementation of closures in areas of high groundfish concentration, primarily depleted species. ODFW believes that these alternatives form a rational range of management measures, given the reduced harvest levels that will be in place for yelloweye rockfish and black rockfish, and offers the following adjustments (adjustments highlighted) as described below.

* marine bag includes rockfish, greenling, cabezon and other species excluding lingcod, sanddab, Pacific halibut, salmon species, perch species, sturgeon, striped bass, offshore pelagic species, and bait fish (herring, smelt anchovies and sardines). No retention of yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish.

Stonewall Banks

ODFW proposes implementation of a Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA) specific to an area off the coast of Newport, Oregon, referred to as Stonewall Banks. The range for analysis is comprised of two options for analysis and public review.

Option A: There currently is a closure of the high relief areas of Stonewall Banks that is limited to the Pacific halibut fishery during the all-depth Pacific halibut season. Targeting and retention of Pacific halibut is prohibited in the area, and vessels that have retained Pacific halibut while fishing another area, are then prohibited from targeting any species within the closed area.

The coordinates for the current Stonewall Banks closure implemented in the Pacific halibut fishery, and proposed for analysis for application in the recreational groundfish fishery are as follows:

Current Stonewall Banks Closure

ID	Longitude	Latitude
1	124 24.92	44 37.46
2	124 23.63	44 37.46
3	124 21.80	44 28.71
4	124 24.10	44 28.71
5	124 25.47	44 31.42

Returning to the first point

Option B: ODFW proposes an area surrounding Stonewall Banks for the purpose of developing and analyzing a more defined Stonewall Banks YRCA within that analysis area. The analysis area is larger than the anticipated closed area to provide a sufficient amount of coverage for analysis purposes only. Coordinates for the actual area to be implemented will be provided to the Council at its June meeting after the Oregon public comment and review process.

ODFW recommends the following coordinates for the proposed analysis area:

Proposed YRCA Analysis Area				
ID	Longitude		Latitude	
1	124	29.99	44	41.71
2	124	21.60	44	41.68
3	124	17.01	44	27.66
4	124	17.01	44	25.22
5	124	30.11	44	25.27
Returning to the first point				

Additional Area Closures

To address the range of optimum yield (OY) for yelloweye rockfish, ODFW anticipates the consideration of even more restrictive management measures for 2008. Therefore, ODFW would like the flexibility to implement additional YRCAs in 2008. These YRCAs will be identified absent specific coordinate at the June 2006 Council meeting. In the event that one or more of these areas will be closed to the retention of groundfish, ODFW will provide the Council with relevant coordinates and impact analysis as an inseason action. The proposed area, following Council approval, would be implemented through federal rule making procedures.

Lingcod

ODFW recommends the Council adopt an additional alternative for the minimum length limit for lingcod of 20 inches. This adjustment is included in the amended Option 2.

Amended Options

Amended options include Option 2 of the Agenda Item F.5.b, Supplemental ODFW Report (titled “Proposed Management Measures for the 2007-08 Oregon Recreational Groundfish Fishery”) contained in the briefing book. ODFW recommends replacing this option, with the amended option as follows:

Amended Option 2

Season: Open all year but open only shoreward of 40-fathom line. **Additional area closures to be identified by name at the June Council meeting.**

Daily Bag Limit:

Marine fish (all flat fish species excluded)**: 5
 Lingcod: 3
 Flat fish spp: 25

Minimum length limits:

Lingcod: 20-inches
 Cabezon: 16-inches
 Greenling spp: 10-inches

**marine bag includes rockfish, greenling, cabezon and other species excluding lingcod, flat fish, Pacific halibut, salmon species, perch species, sturgeon, striped bass, offshore pelagic species, and bait fish (herring, smelt anchovies and sardines). No retention of yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish.

Additional Options

In response to the overfished species OYs that were selected by the Council on Wednesday of this week, ODFW recommends the following additional option for analysis:

Option 6

Season: Open April through September shoreward of the 20-fathom line

Daily Bag Limit:

Marine fish*: 6

Lingcod: 2

Sanddab: 25

Minimum length limits:

Lingcod: 24-inches

Cabazon: 16-inches

Greenling spp: 10-inches

Impacts associated with Option 6.

Option	Month												Yelloweye	Canary
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	LDay	S	O	N	D	EST OR Rec (mt)
6	CLOSED			GF open <20 fm*						CLOSED			1.6	2.3

*This option has associated fishery impacts of a 14% decrease in groundfish effort and a 55% reduction in yelloweye rockfish impacts in the Pacific halibut fishery, resulting in lost opportunity, reducing either allowable Pacific halibut catch or time on the water.

Directed Yellowtail Rockfish and/or Sanddab (Flatfish) Fisheries

Directed yellowtail rockfish and/or sanddab (flatfish) fisheries may be implemented inseason, in the event of a closure of the recreational groundfish fishery due to attainment of target species harvest guidelines or state harvest caps, as were conducted in 2004. Fisheries will be monitored to ensure that impacts to yelloweye and canary rockfish are not in excess of the harvest guidelines.

ODFW Recommendations:

1. Adopt Oregon recreational management measure options 1, 3, 4, and 5 contained in the Agenda Item F.5.b, Supplemental ODFW Report (titled “Proposed Management Measures for the 2007-08 Oregon Recreational Groundfish Fishery”) contained in the briefing book materials for public review.
2. Adopt amended Option 2 contained in this report for public review.
3. Adopt additional Option 6 contained in this report for public review.
4. Adopt the proposed coordinates for the Stonewall Banks YRCA Analysis Area.
5. Provide the flexibility needed to implement additional area closures in 2008.
6. Adopt the inseason flexibility to implement directed yellowtail rockfish and/or sanddab (flatfish) fisheries in the event of a recreational groundfish closure due to attainment of target species harvest guidelines.