

Status of 2015 Groundfish Mortality in California

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provides the following informational report on mortality of select species accrued through March of 2015. The following tables and figures provide estimated mortality of select species by month for the recreational sector (Table 1), estimated mortality of select species by month for the commercial sector (Table 2), estimated mortality of select species by month for the combined recreational and commercial sectors (Table 3), California harvest specifications for 2015 (Table 4), cumulative catch of cowcod in the recreational fishery (Figure 1) and cumulative catch of California scorpionfish in 2015 (Figure 2). Mortality is reported in metric tons and includes landings for the commercial fishery and landings plus discards for the recreational fishery. The 2015 commercial landings are preliminary. CDFW will continue to provide updates on the status of the 2015 fishing season as it progresses.

Per discussions last fall with industry and GAP representatives, CDFW offers this inseason information to assist the industry in planning its upcoming fishing activities, recognizing the need to stay within established California limits (e.g., HGs).

Table 1. Estimated mortality (mt) of select groundfish species in the California recreational sector by month, through March 2015.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
BOCACCIO	0.1	0.0	34.3	34.4
CANARY ROCKFISH	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4
COWCOD	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black Rockfish	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.3
Blackgill Rockfish	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Blue Rockfish	0.4	0.1	2.6	3.1
Cabezon	0.7	0.5	0.6	1.8
CA Scorpionfish	2.9	1.7	4.0	8.6
Greenlings	2.2	0.2	0.4	2.8
Lingcod	0.1	0.6	3.4	4.1
Nearshore RF North	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Nearshore RF South	2.3	0.6	16.8	19.7

Table 2. Estimated mortality (mt) of select groundfish species in the California commercial sector by month, through March 2015.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
BOCACCIO	0.7	0.4	-	1.1
CANARY ROCKFISH	-	-	-	-
COWCOD	-	-	-	-
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	-	-	-	-
Black Rockfish	6.6	6.2	10.4	23.2
Blackgill Rockfish	0.8	0.2	0.3	1.3
Blue Rockfish	0.7	0.4	-	1.1
Cabazon	3.4	0.9	-	4.3
CA Scorpionfish	0.1	0.1	-	0.2
Greenlings	0.6	0.2	-	0.8
Lingcod	0	0.1	-	0.1
Nearshore RF North	0.3	0	-	0.3
Nearshore RF South	10.4	4.1	-	14.5

Note: For the commercial sector, landings include non-trawl, non-IFQ fixed-gears for limited entry and open access sectors. Data are preliminary and mortality estimates do not include discard mortality.
 Blackgill rockfish landings include both IFQ and non-IFQ sectors.
 A blank cell (-) indicates no recorded landings for that species/month.
 A cell with 0.0 indicates a trace amount of landing
 For black rockfish, landings are from the PacFIN QSM data weekly uploads combined with CFIS landings.

Table 3. Estimated mortality (mt) of select groundfish species in the California combined recreational and commercial sectors by month, through March 2015.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
BOCACCIO	0.8	0.4	34.3	35.5
CANARY ROCKFISH	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4
COWCOD	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black Rockfish	7.4	6.1	10.5	24.0
Blackgill Rockfish	0.8	0.2	0.3	1.3
Blue Rockfish	1.1	0.5	2.6	4.2
Cabazon	4.1	1.4	0.6	6.1
CA Scorpionfish	3.0	1.8	4.0	8.8
Greenlings	2.8	0.4	0.4	3.6
Lingcod	0.1	0.7	3.4	4.2
Nearshore RF North	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.4
Nearshore RF South	12.7	4.7	16.8	34.2

Table 4. California harvest specifications for 2015.

Reference point description	ACL/HG (mt)

Overfished Stocks		
Bocaccio	HG (rec)	178.8
Canary rockfish	HG (rec)	24.3
Cowcod	Non-Trawl Allocation	2.5
Yelloweye rockfish	HG (rec)	3.4
Non-Overfished Stocks		
Black rockfish	HG (statewide)	420
Blackgill rockfish	HG (S 40°10')	114
Blue rockfish	HG (statewide)	236
Cabezon	ACL	154
California scorpionfish	ACL	114
Lingcod	ACL	1004
Nearshore rockfish North	HG (42° to 40°10')	23.7
Nearshore rockfish South	ACL (S 40°10')	1114

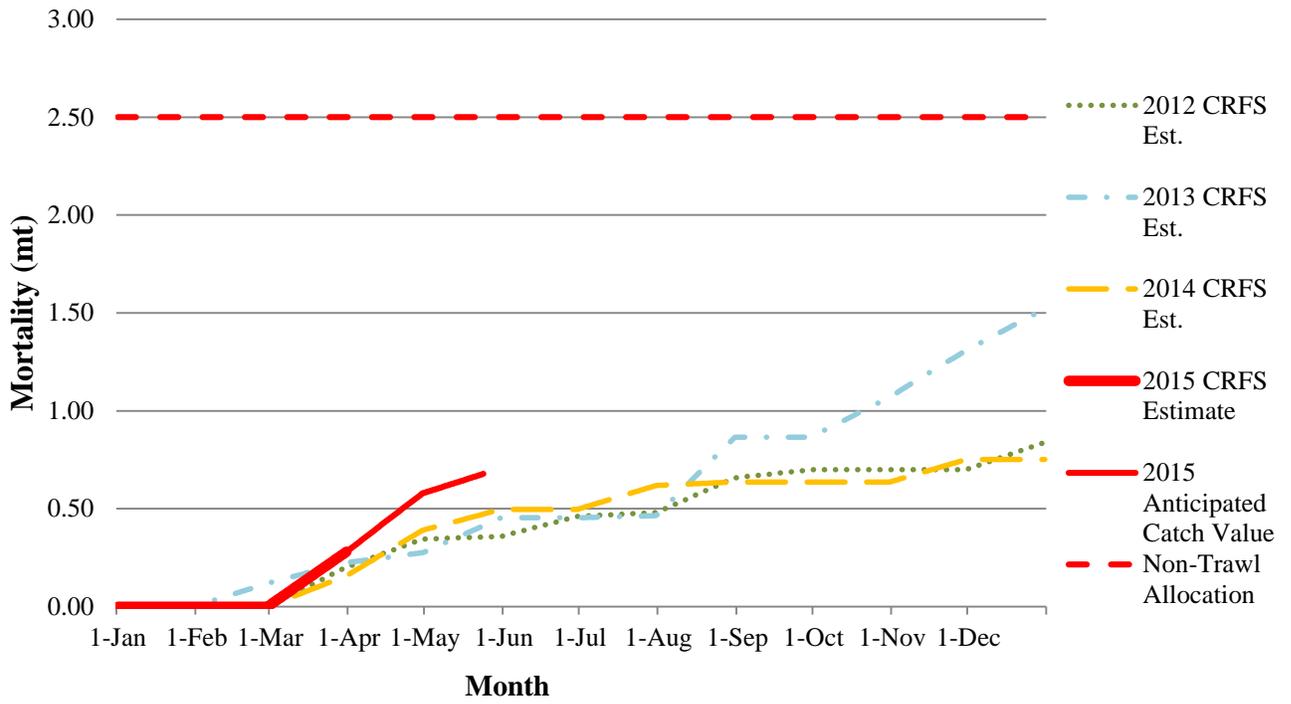


Figure 1. Cumulative mortality of cowcod in the California recreational fishery through March 2015 and anticipated catch values¹ from weekly tracking from April 1 through May 24, 2015 compared to catches in 2012-2014.

¹ ACVs are an estimate of expected catch based on weekly CRFS field reports.

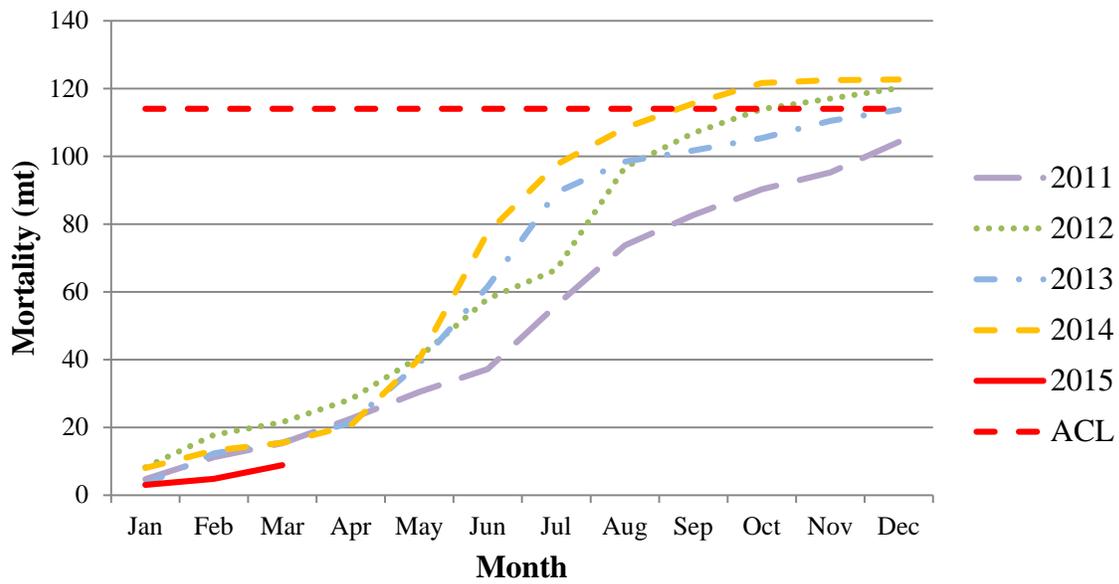


Figure 2. Cumulative mortality of California scorpionfish through March 2015 compared to mortality in 2012-2014. Note: The ACL provided reflects the value in 2015, while higher ACLs were in place in preceding years.