

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT DETAILING THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE OREGON RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL GROUND FISH FISHERIES IN 2011 AND 2012**

This report details Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (ODFW) preferred management measures for the 2011 and 2012 recreational and commercial groundfish fisheries. ODFW recommends the Council adopt the following management measures:

**RECREATIONAL**

The preferred season structure (Table 1) for 2011 and 2012 produces a fishery that is open offshore year round, except from April 1 to September 30 when fishing is only allowed shoreward of 40 fathoms (fm). Estimated impacts for yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish associated with this preferred alternative are 2.1 mt for yelloweye rockfish and 2.4 mt for canary rockfish.

Table 1: ODFW preferred 2011-2012 Oregon recreational groundfish fishery management measures.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Projected Yelloweye Impacts (mt)	Projected Canary Impacts (mt)
<b>Bottomfish Season</b>	Open all depths			Open < 40 fm						Open all depths			2.1	2.4
<b>Marine Bag Limit</b> <sup>1</sup>	Ten (10)			1 Fish Cabezon Sub-Bag <sup>2</sup>						Ten (10)				
<b>Lingcod Bag Limit</b>	Three (3)													
<b>Flatfish Bag Limit</b> <sup>3</sup>	Twenty Five (25)													

<sup>1</sup> Marine bag limit includes all species other than lingcod, salmon, steelhead, Pacific halibut, flatfish, surfperch, sturgeon, striped bass, pelagic tuna and mackerel species, and bait fish such as herring, anchovy, sardine, and smelt

<sup>2</sup> From April 1 through September 30, the marine bag limit is Ten (10) fish per day, of which no more than one (1) may be cabezon.

<sup>3</sup> Flounders, soles, sanddabs, turbot and halibuts except Pacific halibut

*Marine Fish Daily Bag Limit*

**ODFW recommends adoption of a marine fish daily bag limit of 10 fish in aggregate (as defined above).** This will provide management flexibility to make necessary adjustments to the marine fish daily bag limit through the yearly state process, reflecting the progression of the current year’s fishery. The species most affected by adjustments in the marine fish daily bag limit are other

nearshore rockfish. The fishery will be managed within the minor nearshore rockfish harvest guideline.

*Lingcod Daily Bag Limit*

**ODFW recommends adoption of a lingcod daily bag limit of 3 fish.** This will provide management flexibility to make inseason adjustments to the lingcod daily bag limit through state rules if either the Pacific halibut catch limit is less than in 2010 or the marine bag limit is adjusted inseason.

*Flatfish Daily Bag Limit*

**ODFW recommends maintaining a flatfish daily bag limit of 25 fish in aggregate (excluding Pacific halibut).**

*Minimum Length Limits*

**ODFW recommends maintaining the existing length limits in place for 2011-2012;**

- Lingcod—22 inches
- Cabezon—16 inches
- Kelp Greenling—10 inches

*Stonewall Bank YRCA*

**ODFW recommends maintaining the existing Stonewall Bank YRCA prohibiting groundfish retention within a defined area** (Table 2), encompassing the high relief rocky habitat of Stonewall Bank, residing approximately 15 miles offshore from Newport, Oregon. This same area is closed to the retention of Pacific halibut. Targeting and retention of Pacific halibut and groundfish would be prohibited in the area year-round.

Table 2. Location of the Stonewall Bank YRCA

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		

*Groundfish retention in the all-depth Pacific halibut fishery*

**ODFW recommends maintaining status quo regulations on groundfish retention during the all-depth Pacific halibut fishery.** Currently only sablefish and Pacific (or gray) cod may be retained during the all-depth Pacific halibut fishery at any depth in the area north Humbug Mountain, Oregon. It is expected that groundfish retention in the all-depth Pacific halibut fishery will be similarly constrained in 2011 and 2012.

*Inseason Management*

The inseason actions that may be implemented if the 2011 or 2012 Oregon recreational groundfish fishery does not proceed as expected include: length limit adjustments, bag limit adjustments (including non retention), gear restrictions, and season, depth, days per week and area closures.

Depth management will be the main inseason tool for controlling yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish harvest, as retention is prohibited. Offshore closures may be implemented inseason at 30, 25, or 20 fathoms as the presence of these two species is reduced nearshore and release survival increases. ODFW will monitor inseason progress toward recreational harvest targets for yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish.

Adjustments to the daily marine fish bag limit may be implemented through state rules to achieve season duration goals in the event of accelerated or decelerated other nearshore rockfish harvest. The lingcod daily bag limits may be adjusted in the event the marine bag limit changes or the halibut catch limit is reduced from 2010 levels. Season and/or area closures may also be considered if harvest targets are projected to be attained. Non-retention and length restrictions are the likely inseason tools to use for greenling as release survival is very high. They may also be used to reduce impacts on nearshore species, such as black rockfish and other nearshore rockfish species. A cabezon sub-bag limit, April 1 through September 30, will be used as the main tool to reduce cabezon impacts from the ocean boat fishery.

Gear restrictions and/or release technique requirements may be implemented to reduce the impact of overfished rockfish species if successful techniques are developed, researched, reviewed, and accepted.

Directed yellowtail rockfish and/or flatfish fisheries may be implemented inseason, as were implemented in 2004, in the event of a closure of the recreational groundfish fishery due to attainment of target species harvest guidelines or state harvest caps. Specific gear restrictions may be implemented in the event that flatfish remains open during a groundfish closure. Fisheries will be monitored to ensure that impacts to yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish are not in excess of the harvest targets. In the event that the duration of total season is reduced from 12 months; the nearshore waters are closed to groundfish fishing due to management of nearshore species; or the Pacific halibut catch limit is reduced from 2010 levels, the fishery may be expanded to waters seaward of the RCA that is in effect at the time, promoting directed yellowtail rockfish and offshore lingcod opportunity. Fisheries will be monitored to ensure that impacts to yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish are not in excess of the harvest targets.

## COMMERCIAL

### *Limited Entry Daily Trip Limit (LEFG-DTL) Sablefish Bimonthly Cumulative Limits*

**ODFW recommends adopting the GMT-proposed bimonthly trip limits (see B.7 GMT Supplemental Report, June 2010) for the Limited Entry Fixed Gear Daily Trip Limit sablefish fishery (LEFG-DTL) beginning January 1, 2011. ODFW further recommends no daily limit, and a weekly cumulative limit of not less than 25% of the bimonthly limit.** The bimonthly cumulative trip limit structure recommended by the GMT was 6,500 lb (period 1), 7,500 lb (periods 2-5), and 6,000 lb (period 6). This trip-limit structure will allow the fishery the opportunity of achieving its annual allocation, provide for a year-around fishery, and provide highest opportunities during seasons associated with better weather. No daily limit is needed for this fishery because the number of permits are fixed (thereby limiting the potential of large increases in fishing effort) and the GMT model showed no relationship between daily limits and bimonthly landings. Finally, the cumulative-weekly limit should be high enough to allow these fishermen the opportunity to reach their bimonthly limit in four weeks (trips) or less to account for weather, breakdowns, or other unforeseen situations that limit the amount of at-sea time.

*Move Fixed Gear RCA between Cape Blanco and Cascade Head from 125 fm to 100 fm*

**ODFW recommends moving the fixed gear RCA between Cape Blanco (43° N latitude) and Cascade Head (45.06° N latitude) from the 125 fm line to the 100 fm line.** The GMT demonstrated that this RCA change results in an increase of 0.1 mt yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish, which would be within their allocation (Agenda Item B.3.b, Supplemental GMT Report 4, June 2010). Allowing fixed gear fishermen in this area to return to fishing grounds seaward of 100 fm will provide more opportunity for harvesting target species while reducing the increased expense and risk of traveling farther off shore.

*RCA Line Modifications*

**The ODFW recommends adopting three RCA-line modifications that were proposed in pages 65-68 of Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 1, June 2010 and in Agenda Item B.3.b, Supplemental ODFW Report 2, June 2010).** ODFW also recommends that if adopted, that these RCA modifications be further reviewed by NMFS enforcement to ensure that the proposed modifications meet required specifications (e.g., do not cross EFH lines). Modifications were minor and were acceptable to Oregon Enforcement. The purpose of the fixed gear RCA modifications at the southwest corner of Heceta Bank (Tables 3 and 4; Figures 1 and 2) was to offer further protection to yelloweye rockfish, whereas the purpose of the trawl-RCA modification (Table 5; Figure 3) was to provide more fishing area for DTS trawlers while not increasing impacts to overfished species. In fact, we feel that original points that were adjusted for this latter RCA line were erroneous, and this adjustment reduces the impact of that error.

**Table 3. ODFW-proposed changes to 100 fm RCA line off the southwest corner of Heceta Banks.**

Fathom Line	Point	Proposed Coordinates				Action	Long Change	Original Coordinates Published in the Federal Register			
		Lat Deg	Lat Min	Long Deg	Long Min			Lat Deg	Lat Min	Long Deg	Long Min
100-fm	117	44	12.92	124	56.28	Retain	None	44	12.92	124	56.28
100-fm	118					Delete		44	0.14	124	55.25
100-fm	119					Delete		43	57.68	124	55.48
100-fm	120					Delete		43	56.66	124	55.45
100-fm	A	44	2.340	124	55.455	Addition	Seaward				
100-fm	B	43	59.175	124	56.944	Addition	Seaward				
100-fm	C	43	56.738	124	56.738	Addition	Seaward				
100-fm	D	43	55.764	124	55.764	Addition	Seaward				
100-fm	E	43	55.406	124	52.205	Addition	Seaward				
100-fm	F	43	54.622	124	48.229	Addition	Seaward				
100-fm	G	43	55.901	124	41.112	Addition	Seaward				
100-fm	H	43	57.359	124	38.681	Addition	Seaward				
100-fm	121	43	56.47	124	34.61	Retain	None	43	56.47	124	34.61



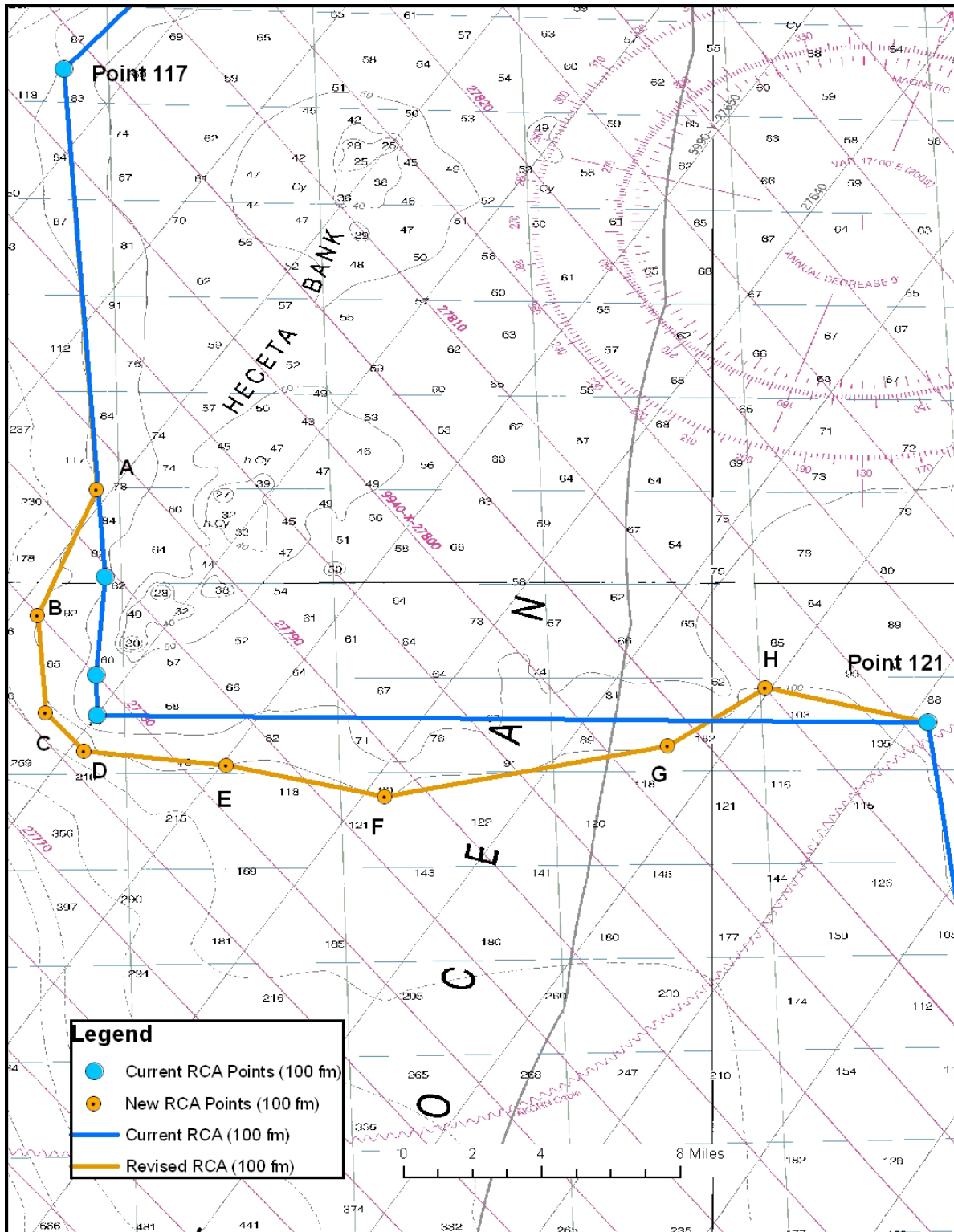


Figure 1. ODFW-proposed changes to 100-fm RCA line off the southwest corner of Heceta Banks. Blue line = original 100-fm RCA; Gold line = proposed 100-fm RCA and points; Gray line = 100-fm depth contour. Units are in fathoms

**Table 4. ODFW-proposed changes to 125 fm RCA lines off the southwest corner of Heceta Banks.**

Fathom Line	Point	Proposed Coordinates				Action	Long Change	Original Coordinates Published in the Federal Register			
		Lat		Long				Lat		Long	
		Deg	Min	Deg	Min			Deg	Min	Deg	Min
125-fm	133	44	1.14	124	56.07	Retain	None	44	1.14	124	56.07
125-fm	134					<b>Delete</b>		43	57.49	124	56.78
125-fm	A	43	59.431	124	57.217	Addition	Seaward				
125-fm	B	43	57.491	124	57.313	Addition	Seaward				
125-fm	C	43	55.728	124	55.407	Addition	Seaward				
125-fm	D	43	54.74	124	53.145	Addition	Seaward	43	57.49	124	56.78
125 fm	135	43	55.74	124	55.34	Retain		43	55.74	124	55.34

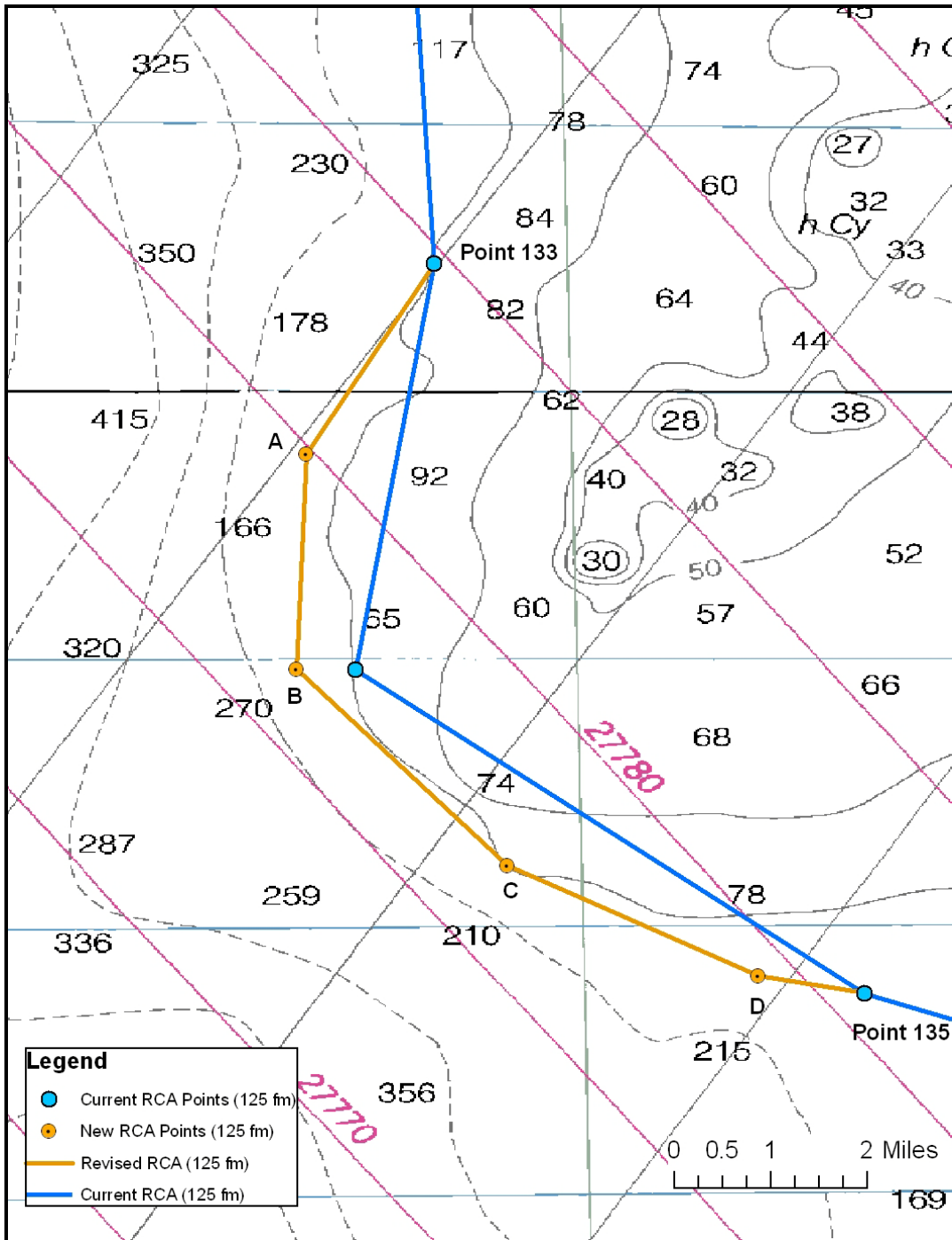


Figure 2. ODFW-proposed changes to 125-fm RCA line off the southwest corner of Heceta Banks. Blue line = original 125-fm RCA; Gold line = proposed 125-fm RCA and points; Gray line = 100-fm depth contour. Units are in fathoms.

Table 5. ODFW-proposed changes to the 200-fm petrale RCA near Heceta Bank.

Fathom Line	Proposed Coordinates					Action	Long Change	Original Coordinates Published in the Federal Register			
	Point	Lat		Long				Lat		Long	
		Deg	Min	Deg	Min			Deg	Min	Deg	Min
200-fm petrale	83	44	13.19	124	58.66	Retain	None	44	13.19	124	58.66
200-fm petrale	84					Delete		44	8.3	124	58.72
200-fm petrale	85					Delete		43	57.37	124	58.71
200-fm petrale	A	43	57.88	124	58.25	Addition	Shoreward				
200-fm petrale	B	43	56.89	124	57.33	Addition	Shoreward				
200-fm petrale	86	43	52.32	124	49.43	Retain	None	43	52.32	124	49.43

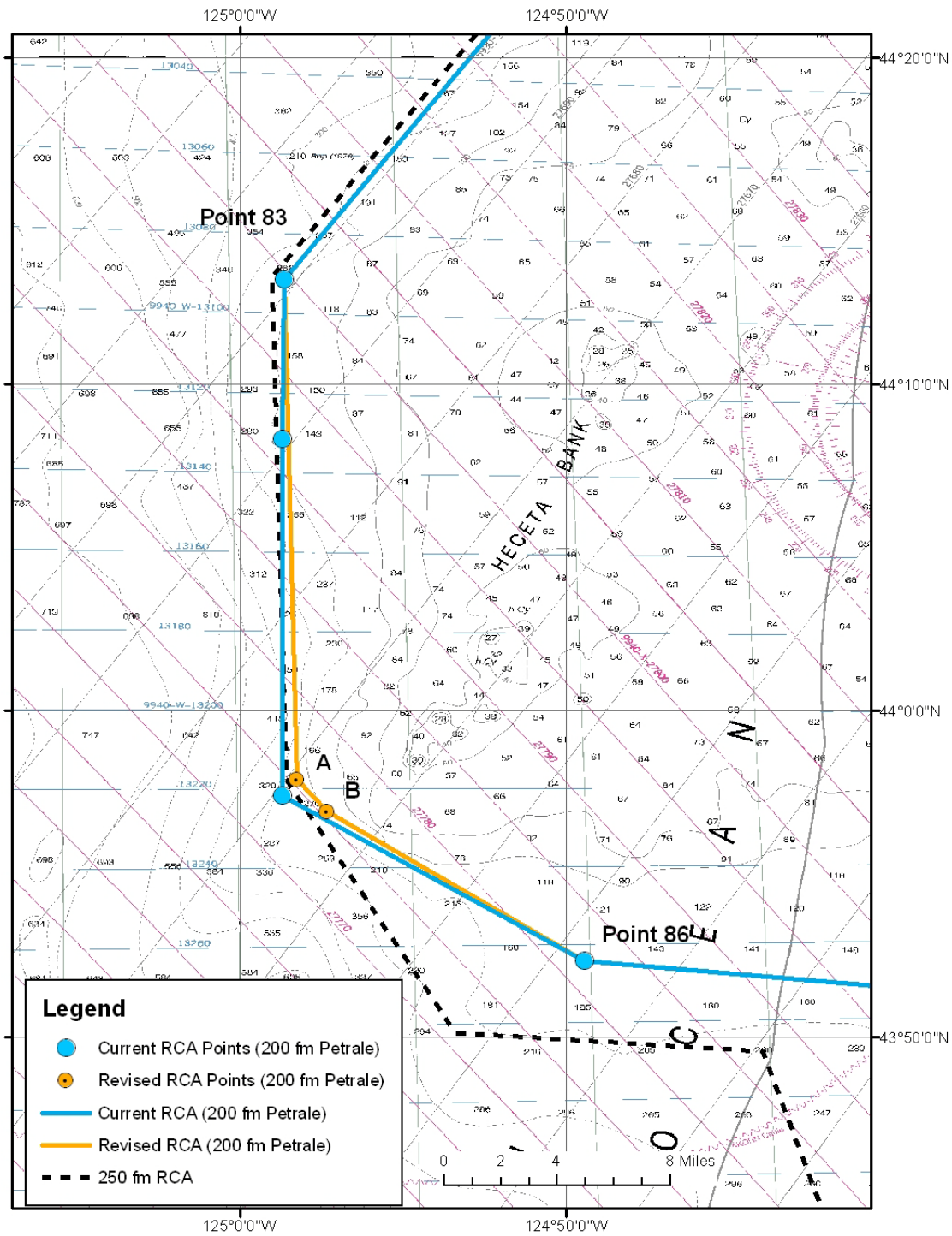


Figure 1. ODFW-proposed changes to 200-fm petrale RCA near Heceta Bank. Blue Line = current 200-fm petrale RCA; Gold Line = proposed 200-fm petrale RCA; Dashed Line = 250-fm RCA.

## **ODFW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2011-2012**

### **Oregon Recreational Groundfish Fishery**

1. **Adopt the status quo season structure, bag limits, and length limits as shown.**
2. **Adopt the seasonal sub-bag limit for cabezon as shown.**
3. **Adopt the status quo Stonewall Bank yelloweye rockfish conservation area.**
4. **Adopt groundfish retention prohibition in the Pacific halibut all-depth fishery North of Humbug Mountain, except for sablefish (black cod) and Pacific (true or gray) cod.**
5. **Adopt the inseason management tools as shown.**

### **Oregon Commercial Fisheries**

1. **Adopt bimonthly trip limits for the Limited Entry Fixed Gear Daily Trip Limit sablefish fishery (LEFG-DTL) beginning January 1, 2011. ODFW further recommends no daily limit, and a weekly cumulative limit of not less than 25% of the bimonthly limit. The bimonthly cumulative limits are 6,500 lbs (period 1), 7,500 lb (periods 2-5), and 6,000 lb (period 6)**
2. **Move the fixed gear RCA between Cape Blanco (Columbia/Eureka INPFC border at 43° N latitude) and Cascade Head (45.06° N latitude) from the 125 fm line to the 100 fm line.**
3. **Adopt three RCA-line modifications that are shown above. If adopted, these RCA modifications are further reviewed by NMFS enforcement to ensure that the proposed modifications meet required specifications (e.g., do not cross EFH lines).**