

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON INSEASON
ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2013

Every two years, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) considers proposed changes to sport fishing regulations. Proposals are submitted by agency staff and members of the public. The WDFW sport rule process includes significant analysis and input from agency staff and opportunities for the public to review and provide comments on the proposals. The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission considered several proposals that affect sport fishing regulations for coastal Washington management areas during the most recent sport rule proposal cycle which concluded with final action on March 1, 2013. The changes approved by the Fish and Wildlife Commission will be adopted into state regulations and effective May 1, 2013. All of the regulations adopted by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission in coastal waters are more restrictive than current federal regulations. State regulations that conform to regulations implemented into federal regulation by the National Marine Fisheries Service provide consistency for stakeholders and strengthen WDFW's ability to enforce regulations pertaining to recreational groundfish fishing in coastal waters. To provide this consistency, WDFW is recommending that the following regulations be approved by the Council and adopted into federal regulations through inseason action.

Between the U.S./Canada border and 48°10' N. lat. (Cape Alava) (Washington Marine Area 4):

- 1) Adopt a minimum size of 18 inches for cabezon and reduce the daily bag limit from two per angler per day to one per angler per day.
- 2) Reduce the minimum size for lingcod from 24 inches to 22 inches.