Preliminary Range of Management Measures for California’s 2013-2014 Commercial and Recreational Groundfish Fisheries

COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL
The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is proposing changes to the 2013-2014 groundfish regulations with the intent of remaining within harvest limits, particularly for overfished species. Regulations not specifically referenced in this report are anticipated to remain status quo from 2011-2012.

Changes to Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) lines
Proposals from Industry to modify RCA lines to more closely approximate depth contours are being reviewed by CDFG Biological and Enforcement staff.

COMMERCIAL
CDFG is not proposing any changes to the commercial nearshore fishery. Proposed changes to federal commercial groundfish fisheries are included in the Groundfish Management Team Report on Preliminary Management Measures for 2013-14 (Agenda Item E.9.b, GMT Report 2).

RECREATIONAL
CDFG is proposing the following options for the 2013-2014 recreational groundfish management cycle:

Changes in Season Lengths and Depth Restrictions in Groundfish Management Areas
Season lengths and depth restrictions may be changed within each Management Area as needed to remain within the harvest guidelines, while providing as much fishing opportunity as possible.

2013-2014 Rockfish, Cabezon and Greenlings (RCG) Sub- Bag Limits Under Consideration
Bocaccio (statewide)
- Status quo: 2 fish
- Option: 3 fish

Greenling (statewide):
- Status quo: 2 fish
- Option: 3-10 fish

Revision to Size Limits and Fillet Length Restriction
Pending the results of the bocaccio STAR panel, we may consider elimination of the 10 inch size limit and removal of the fillet length restriction, for consistency with regulations for other rockfish species.

Revision of Species Retention Restrictions in the Cowcod Conservation Area (CCA)
- Status quo: Currently, only nearshore rockfish and a few associated groundfish species may be retained in the open depths (<20 fm) during the open season within the CCA
- Option: Allow retention of shelf rockfish while fishing at open depths (<20 fm) within the CCA when fishing for rockfish is open.