

Range of Management Measures for California's 2015-2016 Commercial and Recreational Groundfish Fisheries

COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is proposing changes to the 2015-2016 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 2013-2014.

Changes to Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) lines

Proposals from Industry to modify RCA lines to more closely approximate depth contours are being reviewed by CDFW Biological and Enforcement staff.

COMMERCIAL

CDFW is proposing the following option for the 2015-2016 commercial groundfish management cycle:

Changes to the Flatfish Gear Restriction in the Non-Trawl RCA

- Status quo: The current commercial gear restriction for flatfish in the non-trawl RCA is “no more than 12 #2 hooks, up to 2-11b weights, not subject to the RCA”.
- Option: Remove gear restrictions for flatfish in the non-trawl RCAs.

Proposed changes to other federal commercial groundfish fisheries are included in the Groundfish Management Team Report on Management Measures for 2015-2016 Biennial Harvest Specifications (Agenda Item H.10.b, GMT Report).

RECREATIONAL

CDFW is proposing the following options for the 2015-2016 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.

Lingcod Bag Limit (statewide)

- Status quo: 2 fish
- Option: 3 fish