California Department of Fish and Game  
Practical Range of Management Specifications for California’s 2011-2012  
Commercial and Recreational Groundfish Fisheries  

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) developed a draft range of management options for the 2011-2012 commercial and recreational fishing seasons. These may include time/area management measures, trip limits, bag limits, size limits, depth constraints, seasons, gear restrictions, closed areas, fillet/cleaning or transit provisions for both the commercial or recreational fishery. The CDFG is presently considering the following possible changes to existing management measures with the intent of remaining within harvest guidelines (HGs), particularly for species under rebuilding plans.

**COMMERCIAL**

The management options below are the proposed possible changes to the current commercial management measures to be considered and analyzed for inclusion in the 2011-2012 Management Specifications:

- **Range of trip limits for cabezon with higher limits than 2009-10 EIS.**
- **Elimination of gear restrictions for “Other flatfish” and sanddabs to align commercial and recreational regulations.**
- **Examine changes to the seasonal shelf closure south of 34° 27’ N lat. to align commercial and recreational regulations.**
- **Revise RCA lines to more closely approximate depth contours.**
- **Revise the lingcod size limits to align the commercial and recreational regulations.**
- **Modification of the Cowcod Conservation Area boundaries for the non-trawl commercial fishery.**

**RECREATIONAL**

The proposed management options below represent possible changes to the current recreational management measures to be considered and analyzed for inclusion in the 2011-2012 Management Specifications:

- **Changes in Management Area season lengths and/or depth restrictions.**
- **Changes to Management Area boundaries including, but not limited to, the elimination of the division between the South-Central Monterey and South-Central Morro Bay Management Areas.**
- **Renaming of Rockfish and Lingcod Management Areas.**
- **Inclusion of additional recreational management lines within Management Areas for use inseason.**
- **Incorporate additional, or eliminate existing, groundfish closed areas (“hot spots”, Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas, or other).**
- **Change species retention regulations in the Cowcod Conservation Area to allow retention of other groundfish in addition to nearshore species as in other management areas, while maintaining the 20 fm depth restriction.**
- Make the timing of the lingcod closure period consistent with Rockfish Cabezon Greenling (RCG) season closure in the Rockfish and Lingcod Management Areas.
- Modify the total RCG bag limit or sublimits for some species in the RCG bag limit and allow retention of prohibited rebuilding species when the projected catches will remain within existing HGs.
- Inclusion of a lingcod bag limit as a sublimit within the 10-fish RCG bag limit.
- Increase lingcod bag limits.
- Reduce or eliminate lingcod size limits.
- Change regulations regarding filleting at sea and fillet lengths for federal groundfish.
- Exempt some or all of the Federally Managed Flatfish from groundfish depth and season closures to provide additional fishing opportunity.
- Place a bag limit on petrale sole and starry flounder.
- Modify gear restrictions for federally managed groundfish and associated species.
- Eliminate the groundfish closure within 10 fm around the Farallon Islands.