

PROPOSALS FOR 2001 RECREATIONAL LINGCOD AND ROCKFISH REGULATIONS OFF WASHINGTON

Lingcod

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposes the following options for the 2001 Washington recreational lingcod fishery:

Option 1 (Status Quo)

A one fish daily bag limit and 24-inch minimum length restriction. The fishery would be closed from October 31 through March 31.

Option 2

A two fish daily bag limit and a 24-inch minimum length restriction. The fishery would be closed from October 31 through March 31.

Justification:

Inseason projections of Washington recreational landings for 2000 indicate a 24% reduction in catch (which is primarily the result of the reduction in the daily bag limit from 2 fish in 1999 to 1 fish in 2000).

The lingcod OY is likely to be increased from 47% to 62% (378 mt to 555 - 611 mt). If this increase is to be distributed equitably, consistent with the the goal of equitable distribution of impacts, then the 2 fish bag limit (24% increase) seems reasonable.

Rockfish

WDFW proposes the following options for the 2001 Washington recreational rockfish fishery:

Option 1 (Status Quo)

A daily bag limit of 10 rockfish with sublimits of 2 canary rockfish and 2 yelloweye rockfish. The fishery would be open year-round.

Option 2

A daily bag limit of 10 rockfish, no more than 2 of which may be canary or yelloweye rockfish. The fishery would be open year-round.