

RECOMMENDED REGULATIONS FOR THE 2002 OREGON RECREATIONAL BOTTOMFISH FISHERY

At the September 2001 meeting, the Pacific Fisheries Management Council adopted two options for public review for the 2002 Oregon recreational bottomfish fishery:

Option 1: Open April 1 through October 31. During May and June, rockfish would be open only inside of the 20-fathom curve. The period of time that June is restricted to nearshore waters depends on the necessary reduction to achieve yelloweye rockfish constraints. The rockfish bag limit would be 10 fish with no more than 1 canary rockfish and no more than 1 yelloweye rockfish. The lingcod limit would be 2 fish with a 24-inch minimum length. Time closures include all bottomfish species for ocean boat anglers (i.e., rockfish, greenling, cabezon, lingcod, flat fish). Angling from shore would remain open year round, as would angling from boats in inside estuary waters.

Option 2: Open January 1 through December 31. During May and August, rockfish would be open only inside of the 20-fathom curve. The period of time that August is restricted to nearshore waters depends on the necessary reduction to achieve yelloweye rockfish constraints. The rockfish bag limit would be 10 fish with no more than 1 canary rockfish and no more than 1 yelloweye rockfish. The lingcod limit would be 1 fish with a 24-inch minimum length.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife conducted public meetings in North Bend, Newport, and Tillamook to discuss the options. In addition, a web survey was utilized to gather public opinion. At the public meetings a third option, similar to one under consideration for Washington, was identified as the preferred option. The results of the survey and meetings were presented to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission at their October 19, 2001 meeting.

Recommended Option

Option 3. Open January 1 through December 31. The lingcod bag limit would be 1 fish with a 24-inch minimum length. The rockfish bag limit would be 10 fish with no more than 1 canary rockfish and 1 yelloweye rockfish, except yelloweye rockfish prohibited during all-depth halibut open days if Pacific halibut have been retained. If the yelloweye harvest guideline is projected to be exceeded, inseason action will be taken to prohibit recreational groundfish fishing outside of the 25-fathom curve.