

**Recreational Harvest Projections for 2002**

TABLE 1. Projected recreational groundfish fishery catches (mts) by stock or stock complex, state, and recreational fishery management preferred options.

State/Area	Option	Bocaccio	Canary	Yelloweye	Yellowtail	Widow	Minor nearshore	Minor shelf	Lingcod
WA	a/	NA	3	3	6	0	150	1	50
OR	b/	NA	14	4	8	2	428	5	76
CA north	OR option c/	NA	6	0.6	NA	NA	85	NA	20
CA central	d/	14	16	1.5	NA	NA	461	NA	172
CA south	e/	27	0.5	0	NA	NA	75	NA	8
Coastwide		41	34.5	9.1	14 +	2 +	1,119	6 +	326
Harvest Guideline f/		48	44	10	NA	NA	1,200	NA	320

a/ WA preferred option: Open year round with a daily bag limit of 10 rockfish with a sublimit of either 2 canary OR 1 canary and 1 yelloweye with no yelloweye retention with halibut on board. WDFW will track catches inseason and close the fishery outside of a line approximating the 25 fm contour if the harvest guideline is projected to be exceeded; Lingcod open March-Oct 15; 2 fish with a 24 inch minimum size.

b/ OR preferred option: Open year round with a daily bag limit of 10 rockfish with a sublimit of no more than 1 canary and 1 yelloweye with no yelloweye retention with halibut on board during all-depth halibut fisheries. ODFW will track catches inseason and close the fishery outside the 25 fathom curve if the harvest guideline is projected to be exceeded; Lingcod open year round; 1 fish with a 24 inch minimum size.

c/ CA preferred option for the area north of 40°10' N. Lat. to the CA/OR border: Same as OR except 2 bocaccio per angler sublimit, and only 2 yelloweye per vessel; 2 lingcod with a 24 inch minimum size.

d/ CA preferred option for the area south of 40°10' N. Lat. to Point Conception: Shelf and nearshore open Jan-Feb, Jul-Aug; nearshore open May-June, Sept-Oct. (nearshore = waters 25 fathoms or shallower; when only nearshore is open, sublimit of 2 shelf rockfish in daily bag limit, retention of bocaccio, canary, cowcod, or yelloweye prohibited); all other periods closed; 10 rockfish with sublimits of 2 bocaccio, 1 canary, 1 yelloweye (2 per vessel); 2 lingcod with a 24 inch minimum size.

e/ CA preferred option for the area north of U.S./Mexico border to Point Conception: open March-Oct; all other periods closed; 10 rockfish with sublimits of 2 bocaccio, 1 canary, 1 yelloweye (2 per vessel); 2 lingcod with a 24 inch minimum size.

f/ Recreational harvest guidelines were recommended by the Council's Ad Hoc Allocation Committee in August 2001. The Council adopted these recommendations in September as preliminary options.

**Description of Harvest Projection Methodology**

Washington has a directed ocean sampling program. The canary rockfish catch in 2001 is projected to be 2.4 mt with a 2 canary limit. The 3 mt projection for canary rockfish in 2002 is therefore thought to be adequately conservative. Yelloweye catch in 2001 is projected to be about 16 mt. The 2002 yelloweye rockfish projection of 3 mt is based on savings from the proposed regulation of "no retention when halibut are on board", which accounts for 77% of Washington's yelloweye catch. An additional 16% reduction in projected catch results from a bag limit reduction. Projections for the remaining stocks and complexes are based on inseason catch projections in 2001 and assuming the same catch distribution as 2001. Washington is planning an outreach program to educate anglers on the need to minimize take of canary and yelloweye rockfish. During the past fishing season, the WDFW Ocean Sampling Program included interviews in which anglers were asked whether they released any yelloweye or canary rockfish. These data have not been finalized, but indicate the number of discarded fish is small. The interviews will be continued in 2002, ground-truthed by some level of ride-along observations on charter vessels, in order to provide an estimate of total mortality to be applied to the Washington recreational harvest guideline.

Projections of 2002 recreational groundfish catches in Oregon are also based on a directed ocean sampling program. The projected catch of canary rockfish in 2002 of 14 mt is the same as that for 2001 since no regulation changes are proposed for canary rockfish. The yelloweye rockfish catch in 2001 is projected to be 5.3 mt. The 2002 projected catch of 4 mt is based on a 17% reduction due to disallowing

yelloweye retention during the all-depth halibut fishery, and an educational program similar to Washington's, which is expected to make up a total reduction of 25% from 2001 levels. Projections for the remaining stocks and complexes are based on inseason catch projections in 2001 and assuming the same catch distribution as 2001. Discard mortality is not factored into the Oregon projections; however, it appears from limited observation data that total mortality of yelloweye rockfish (landed + discard) in Oregon will remain within the harvest guideline share for 2002.

California recreational harvest projections were derived as follows. Constraints imposed on the methodological approach included the two waves (four months) of closures described in Exhibit C.4, Supplemental Tentative CDFG Proposal, a recreational impact to the southern minor nearshore rockfish complex of less than 646 mt, a bocaccio impact of less than 70 mt, and a canary rockfish impact of less than 22 mt. For all calculations, the 2002 impacts were based on recent MRFSS data for total catch (A+B1; landed and dead discards), and calculated separately for the northern area (Oregon-Cape Mendocino; 40°10'), central area (Cape Mendocino-Point Conception), and southern area (Point Conception-US/Mexico border). For rockfish calculations, the base year was 2000, expanded to account for closures during wave 2 (Mar-Apr).

Assumptions made included:

- 1) a 50% increase in the bocaccio base in the southern area to account for growth of the 1999 year class
- 2) a 13% reduction in bocaccio base harvest due to the Cowcod Closure Area
- 3) the northern area rockfish catch will equal 16% of the combined northern and central area estimate
- 4) the southern area base harvest during nearshore-only waves will be reduced by 30% to account for lower California scorpionfish catches due to foregone shelf opportunity
- 5) a projected effort shift calculated from shelf to nearshore (by wave/area) when shelf closed of 25% of base shelf effort.

For lingcod, the base year was calculated as the average of 2000 and 2001. Wave 5 in 2001 was set equal to wave 5 in 2000. Projections were based on a 2 fish bag limit with a 24 inch minimum size. The effect of lowering the lingcod minimum size was calculated using the 1999 size distribution when a 24 inch minimum and 2-fish bag limit was in effect. Lingcod projections are likely high because no adjustment was made for lower catch rates that would be expected when only nearshore fishing is allowed.

### **GMT Statement**

The GMT addressed the lack of estimated discard mortality for yelloweye rockfish in the Washington and Oregon recreational harvest projections. Washington and Oregon have some limited data from their ocean sampling programs that may help address discard rates. The GMT expects that these data will be available in time for shaping in-season management strategies early next year. The GMT also recognizes the willingness of the states to collectively manage for the yelloweye rockfish recreational harvest guideline of 10 mt coastwide. The GMT urges that in-season management decisions factor in the best estimates of total yelloweye rockfish mortality to achieve the landed catch OY harvest guideline. The GMT is concerned with the reliance of MRFSS data to track California recreational harvest in 2002. The GMT is hopeful that the inclusion of California CPFV skipper interview data will tighten MRFSS estimates of California recreational catch. However, the GMT is ultimately concerned with the ability of all recreational sampling programs to accurately track such a low harvest guideline coastwide.

The GMT also addressed the problem of the coastwide lingcod harvest projection being 6 mt above the recreational harvest guideline. The GMT agreed that the California lingcod harvest projection is likely high. Furthermore, the GMT noted that the commercial fishery was unlikely to attain the commercial guideline this year and, to the extent that the 2002 commercial season structure will have a similar pattern of lingcod attainment in 2002, the overall landed catch OY of lingcod should not be difficult to manage. This is despite the GMT recommendation to allow an 800 lb/ 2 month year round landing limit for small footrope trawl which is expected to result in only a slight incremental increase in commercial lingcod harvest.