

-DRAFT-

California Recreational and Commercial Fixed Gear Rockfish and Lingcod Management Recommendations for 2003

(All 2002 regulations remain in effect for 2003 unless modified for 2003)

I. Northern Area (40° 10' to Oregon border) (Same as Oregon)

II. Southern Area (South of 40° 10')

1. Optimum Yields (South of 40° 10')

- Bocaccio – 0 to 6 metric ton range
- Nearshore rockfish sort group
 - Option one: partition minor nearshore into components. Shallow Group (B&Y, China, gopher, grass, kelp) 80 to 160 mt. CA scorpionfish (sculpin) 50 to 100 mt. Deeper group 402 to 532 mt. The total would not exceed the current 662 mt.
 - Option two: manage minor near shore as we do now but reduce it to the historic catch in the minor nearshore (shallow group: 80 to 160 mt, scorpionfish: 50 to 100 mt).
 - Option three: provide for the shallow group and scorpionfish in accordance with "Option one" estimates (80 to 160 mt, 50 to 100 mt) and then adjust (increase) the overall shallow OY to account for expected catch of the deeper nearshore group in shallow water (<20fm; <10 fm).
 - Fishing allowed within 20 fathoms: increase OY by 20-150 mt (see tasks, below)
 - Fishing allowed within 10 fathoms: increase OY by 10-100 mt (see tasks, below)

2. Nearshore rockfish set-aside for recreational fishery

- Option one: maintain a 16% commercial / 84% recreational apportionment of overall OY for minor nearshore group
- Option two: 50% commercial / 50% recreational apportionment

3. Depth restrictions

- Option one: no rockfish, lingcod, (or ocean whitefish)¹ may be taken in waters between 10 fathoms and 150 fathoms
- Option two: no rockfish, lingcod (or ocean whitefish)¹ may be taken in waters between 20 fathoms and 150 fathoms

4. Rockfish and lingcod fishing seasons

- Match commercial fixed gear season with recreational
 - Option one: year-round fishery
 - Option two: maintain 2002 season structure for nearshore rockfish
 - 40° 10' to Pt. Conception: Jan-Feb, May-Oct, Nov-Dec (maybe)
 - Pt. Conception to Mexico border: Mar-Oct

5. Rockfish and lingcod bag limits

- Rockfish
 - Option one: 5 rockfish; no more than 1 shelf rockfish; 0 overfished rockfish
 - Option two: 7 rockfish; no more than 2 shelf rockfish; 0 overfished rockfish
 - Option three: 10 rockfish; no more than 2 shelf rockfish; 0 overfished rockfish
- Lingcod
 - Option one: 2 lingcod with 24 inch size limit
 - Option two: 2 lingcod with 22 inch size limit
 - Option three: 3 lingcod with 22 inch size limit

- CA Scorpionfish (sculpin)
 - 5-10 fish scorpionfish bag limit separate from rockfish bag limit

6. Rockfish size limits

- Option 1: status quo; no recreational size limits for Shallow Group (B&Y, China, gopher, grass, kelp)
- Option 2: match recreational size limits to commercial size limits

Black and yellow	10 in.
China	12 in.
Gopher	10 in.
Grass	12 in.
Kelp	10 in.

7. Other Management Issues/Options

- Commercial
 - Gear restrictions – no stick gear
 - Gear closely attended
 - Limit hooks
 - Barbless hooks
 - Circle hooks
- Recreational
 - Barbless hooks
 - Circle hooks

Tasks to be completed prior to September meeting: Look at the proportion of blues/blacks, etc (the crossover species) that were caught in less than 10-20 fathoms. Look at ratio of the eight deeper species to the shallow five in less than 10-20 fathoms. This will help decide the reduction of OY in the minor nearshore.

Note: 1. Does not apply to commercial.

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