

UPDATE
(9/13/02)
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
2003 ROCKFISH AND LINGCOD REGULATIONS

General

- 1) North of Cape Mendocino. Uniform regulations with Oregon.
- 2) South of Cape Mendocino. Adopt the following:

Recreational

- 3) Depth Restriction. Prohibit rockfish, cabezon, greenling, sculpin, ocean whitefish and lingcod fishing in waters 20 fms and greater in depth.
- 4) Bag Limits and Open Season Dates. See attached.
- 5) Lingcod. Retain current 2-fish bag limit and 24-inch minimum size limit.
- 6) Rockfish Minimum Size Limits. Do not implement these at this time.
- 7) DFG Authority to Close Rockfish and Lingcod Seasons. Give DFG authority same authority as it has for other nearshore fish stocks and shelf rockfish and lingcod.
- 8) Shore Fishing. Same regulations for shore and boat fisheries.

Commercial
(Fixed Gear)

- 9) Depth Restriction. Prohibit rockfish, sculpin, and lingcod fishing in waters 20-150 fms in depth.
- 10) Shelf Rockfish. 50% of shallow nearshore trip limits.
- 11) Stick Gear. Defer to Commission.

General

- 12) Overfished Rockfish. Prohibit retention of bocaccio, canary and yelloweye rockfish (cowcod already prohibited).
- 13) Nearshore Rockfish and Sculpin OY. Adopt Overall Nearshore OY with separate HGs for Shallow Water Rockfish, Sculpin and Deeper Nearshore Rockfish. DONE.
- 14) Cabezon. Retain current 15-inch minimum size limit in both fisheries.
- 15) Nearshore Rockfish and Sculpin Allocations (recreational/commercial):

Overall Nearshore OY: 80/20
Shallow Water HG: 63/37
Sculpin HG: 75/25
Deeper Nearshore HG: 86/14

- 16) Bocaccio. Set aside 57% of OY for recreational and 43% for commercial.
- 17) Lingcod. No set-asides.

SOUTHERN NEARSHORE ROCKFISH (south of 40⁰10' N. lat.)
RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2003

CDFG has considered the impacts of the significant changes that have been adopted for southern nearshore rockfish during 2003. The overall OY will be reduced from 662 mt during 2002 to 451-541 mt during 2003. The upper OY for 2003 (541 mt) would only be available if the fishery is concentrated during summer and autumn months, when nearshore rockfish stocks tend to be fully available within the 20 fathom line due to onshore seasonal migration patterns. In addition to the lower overall OY limits, the OY will be divided into 3 separate components, as described below:

- 1) A shallow HG group composed of kelp, grass, black-and-yellow, China, and gopher rockfishes. This sub-set-of nearshore species also forms the rockfish basis of the California nearshore live-fish fishery, and the commercial fishery for these rockfish species (along with California scorpionfish, cabezon, greenlings, and California sheephead) is restricted by a nearshore finfish permit required by the state of California.
- 2) A deeper nearshore rockfish HG group composed of treefish, olive, brown, copper, quillback, calico, black, and blue rockfish.
- 3) California scorpionfish is provided as a single-species HG.

It is clear that the lower OY range, new HG sub-groups, and new depth restrictions will require changes to the current regulations. In order to provide an expectation that the 2003 fishery will conform to Scenario #1B-revised (given in C.3.i, Supplemental CDFG Report 2), the CDFG recommends the following recreational and commercial management measures.

Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Measures

Nearshore Groundfish (0-20 fathoms)

Season: July-December

Bag limits:

10 fish nearshore groundfish bag limit, of which:

No more than 10 rockfish, of which:

No more than 2 shallow nearshore rockfish

No more than 2 greenlings

No more than 3 cabezon

California Scorpionfish

Season: January-February and July-December

Bag limit: 5 fish bag limit

Proposed Commercial Fishery Management

Fixed Gear						
Species/Groups	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Shallow NS Rockfish	200/2 mo		400/2 mo	500/2 mo	400/2 mo	200/2 mo
Deep NS Rockfish	200/2 mo		200/2 mo	400/2 mo	200/2 mo	200/2 mo
CA Scorpionfish			800/2 mo	800/2 mo		
Shelf Rockfish	100/2 mo		200/2 mo	250/2 mo	200/2 mo	100/2 mo

Trawl: Same as 2002.