

DEFINITIONS OF FISHING GEAR

The Council's March options do not require any changes to the annual definitions of fishing gear. Hook restrictions, such as the California proposal for circle hooks with no offset between the point and shank, can be implemented in the annual regulations (Tables 1 and 2) under the areas in which they apply. Unless new information or a new proposal emerges during public review, Council staff recommends the gear definition used from 1996-2002, as provided below, be adopted for 2003 regulations.

Commercial Troll Fishing Gear

1996-2002 Regulation

(Allows trolling or mooching off California.)

Troll fishing gear for the fishery management area (FMA) is defined as one or more lines that drag hooks behind a moving fishing vessel.

In that portion of the FMA off Oregon and Washington, the line or lines must be affixed to the vessel and must not be intentionally disengaged from the vessel at any time during the fishing operation.

Recreational Fishing Gear

1996-2002 Regulation

(Allows trolling or mooching and only one rod and line north of Point Conception when fishing for or possessing salmon.)

Recreational fishing gear for the FMA is defined as angling tackle consisting of a line with no more than one artificial lure or natural bait attached.

In that portion of the FMA off Oregon and Washington, the line must be attached to a rod and reel held by hand or closely attended; the rod and reel must be held by hand while playing a hooked fish. No person may use more than one rod and line while fishing off Oregon or Washington.

In that portion of the FMA off California, the line must be attached to a rod and reel held by hand or closely attended. Weights directly attached to a line may not exceed four pounds (1.8 kg). While fishing off California north of Point Conception, no person fishing for salmon, and no person fishing from a boat with salmon on board, may use more than one rod and line.

Fishing includes any activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish.

PFMC
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