

Supplemental CDFG Report on Corrections to California Recreational Alternatives in
Chapter 2.0 of the 2007-2008 Groundfish Management Specifications Draft EIS

Corrected text is submitted by CDFG on sections of Chapter 2.0 "Alternatives Including the Proposed Action" related to California recreational fishery alternatives. Underlined statements are additions and deleted items are in ~~strikeout~~.

2.2.3.1 The No Action Alternative

2.2.3.1.8 California Recreational Fisheries

For management of California's nearshore recreational groundfish fishery in 2005 and 2006, the California Fish and Game Department (CDFG) divided the coastline into five regional areas, although some regions had the same management measures and were therefore managed as a larger combined region. The five management areas, termed Rockfish/Lingcod Management Areas (RLMAs), are as follows: 1) Southern RLMA (U.S./Mexico Border to Point Conception at 34°27' N latitude), 2) Southern South-Central RLMA (Point Conception to Lopez Point at 36° N latitude), 3) Northern South-Central RLMA (Lopez Point to Pigeon Point at 37°11' N latitude), 4) Northern Central RLMA (Pigeon Point to Cape Mendocino at 40°10' N latitude), and 5) Northern RLMA (Cape Mendocino to the California/Oregon Border at 42° N latitude). The RLMAs between Lopez Point and Cape Mendocino were combined in 2005-2006 management with the intent to specify separate management measures in each of these RLMAs as needed to stay within state and federal harvest guidelines.

The Council and NMFS adopted 2005-2006 California recreational management measures as follows:

- Regulations apply to groundfish (with sanddab fishery exception) and associated state-managed species (rock greenling, California sheephead, and ocean whitefish).
- The sport fishery for sanddabs, using gear specified in federal and state regulations (size #2 hooks or smaller), is exempt from the season closures and depth restrictions placed on other federally-managed groundfish.
- Retention of species in the Other Flatfish complex is allowed when fishing with size #2 hooks or smaller (≤ 11 mm from point to shank) for Pacific sanddabs.
- Lingcod size limit of 24 inches with a daily bag limit of two fish.
- Within a general bag limit of 20 fish, a combined rockfish + cabezon + greenling (RCG) complex daily bag limit of 10 fish of which one can be a cabezon and one can be a greenling of the genus *Hexagrammos*¹.
- A two-fish bag limit for bocaccio in the northern RLMA (north of 40°10' N latitude to the Oregon/California border at 42° N latitude) and a one-fish bag limit south of 40°10' N latitude to the U.S./Mexico border within the 10-fish RCG daily bag limit.
- No retention of cowcod, canary, or yelloweye rockfish.
- Notwithstanding other fishing opportunities for groundfish, lingcod may not be retained during January, February, March, and December.

1 The cabezon daily bag sublimit was changed from three fish to one fish and the greenling daily bag sublimit was changed from 2 fish to 1 fish in a California Fish and Game Commission action in October 2004 subsequent to the Council's final decision in June 2004. The Council and NMFS adopted conforming federal regulations that were implemented on April 1, 2005.

- All divers (use of boats is permitted while diving for rockfish or other closed species during closed periods provided no hook and line gear on board or in possession while diving to catch rockfish) and shore-based anglers would be exempt from the seasonal closures and depth restrictions for rockfish, greenlings, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, and ocean whitefish.

The California recreational fishery was managed with federal and state harvest guideline for various groundfish species. Federal annual harvest guidelines were specified for canary rockfish (9.3 mt), yelloweye rockfish (3.7 mt), black rockfish (316 mt for recreational and nearshore commercial fisheries combined in 2005, of which 175 mt were allocated to the recreational fishery by CDFG; in 2006, the combined harvest guideline was 309 mt and the recreational harvest guideline was 170 mt), and lingcod (422 mt) (Table 2-11). State harvest guidelines were specified by CDFG for cabezon, greenlings, and minor nearshore rockfish (both shallow and deeper nearshore rockfish species; see section 2.1.4.1 for the list of species in these complexes). If the recreational harvest guideline for canary rockfish, yelloweye rockfish, or lingcod specified for California was projected to be exceeded, or if the state harvest guideline for black rockfish was projected to be exceeded when combining recreational harvest projections and annual commercial projections, CDFG and/or the Council and NMFS would take action to close all or part of the recreational fishery in all or part of the state regions in all or part of the remainder of the year. Any closure may pertain to closure of specific groundfish species or specific depths in different regions to achieve catch limitation. In the northern RLMA (north of 40° 10' N latitude to the Oregon/California border at 42° N latitude), CDFG would take action to close all or part of the recreational fishery deeper than the 30 fm management line if the canary or yelloweye rockfish harvest guideline was attained early in the season.

The 2005 and 2006 adopted management measures included depth bands where fishing for rockfish and associated species was allowed only between 20 and 40 fm (Southern South-Central RLMA) or 30 to 60 fm (Southern RLMA). California took inseason action in 2005 to remove the shoreward boundaries of these depth bands and allow boat-based fishing inside the seaward boundaries originally adopted in the Southern and Southern South-Central RLMAs. These actions were initiated to address concerns related to the ability to enforce fishing restrictions shoreward of adopted depth bands. In addition, final 2004 recreational CRFS projections of impacts showed that additional opportunity could be allowed shoreward of the adopted boundaries, as well as in additional months in the North, North-Central and Northern South-Central RLMAs that would not be likely to exceed harvest guidelines for overfished species targets.

The 2005-2006 seasons and depth restrictions by California management region (Table 2-13) were as follows:

Table 2-13. Summary of 2006 California recreational groundfish seasons and depth restrictions by region under the No Action Alternative.

RCG SEASON BY REGION

Region	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
North region	---	---	---	---	> 30fm Closed							
North Central	---	---	---	---	---	---	> 20fm Closed					
South Central - Monterey	---	---	---	---	---	---	> 20fm Closed					
South Central - Morro Bay	---	---	---	---	> 40fm Closed					---	---	---
South Region	---	---	> 60fm Closed						>30 fm Closed		> 60fm Closed	

NOTES AND KEY:

Shore fishing allowed in all waters in all months

RCG = Rockfish, cabezon, greenlings

--- = Closed to boat-based fishing for RCG

LINGCOD SEASON IS OPEN **ONLY** WHEN RCG IS OPEN, EXCEPT CLOSED DEC, JAN, FEB, MAR FOR SPAWNING

Southern RLMA (U.S./Mexico Border to Point Conception at 34°27' N latitude)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations south of Point Conception under the No Action Alternative were the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish other than California scorpionfish, but including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish) open March through August and November through December shoreward of 60 fm; open September through October shoreward of 30 fm; and closed January and February.
- California scorpionfish can only be retained during October and November shoreward of 40 fm and December shoreward of 20 fm (closed January through September).
- Fishing is allowed within the Cowcod Conservation Areas (Figure 2-3) shoreward of the 20 fm line when fishing is open for groundfish other than California scorpionfish, but including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish).

Southern South-Central RLMA (Point Conception to Lopez Point at 36° N latitude)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations for the area between Point Conception and Lopez Point under the No Action Alternative would be the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish) open May through September shoreward of 40 fm (closed January through April and October through December).

Northern South-Central RLMA (Lopez Point to Pigeon Point at 37°11' N latitude)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations for the area between Lopez Point and Cape Mendocino under the No Action Alternative would be the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish) open July through December shoreward of 20 fm (closed January through June).

Northern Central RLMA (Pigeon Point to Cape Mendocino at 40°10' N latitude)

Same regulations as in the Northern South-Central RLMA, except:

- Recreational fishing for groundfish prohibited between the shoreline and the 10 fm (18 m) depth contour around the Farallon Islands and Nooday Rock.
- Waters of Cordell Bank less than 100 fm in depth are closed to fishing at all times.

Northern RLMA (Cape Mendocino to the California/Oregon Border at 42° N latitude)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations for the area between Cape Mendocino and the California/Oregon border under the No Action Alternative would be the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish and ocean whitefish open in May through December shoreward of 40 fm (closed January through June through April).

2.2.3.2 Action Alternative 1

2.2.3.2.8 California Recreational Fisheries

Under Action Alternative 1, the five RLMAs described under the No Action Alternative will be used to manage 2007-2008 California recreational groundfish fisheries. The status quo (No Action) California recreational management measures under Action Alternative 1 include the following:

- Regulations apply to groundfish (with sanddab fishery exception) and associated state-managed species (rock greenling, California sheephead, and ocean whitefish).
- The sport fishery for sanddabs, using gear specified in federal and state regulations (size #2 hooks or smaller), is exempt from the season closures and depth restrictions placed on other federally-managed groundfish.
- Retention of species in the Other Flatfish complex is allowed when fishing with size #2 hooks or smaller (≤ 11 mm from point to shank) for Pacific sanddabs.
- Within a general bag limit of 20 fish, a combined rockfish + cabezon + greenling (RCG) complex daily bag limit of 10 fish, of which one can be a cabezon and one can be a greenling of the genus *Hexagrammos*.
- No retention of cowcod, canary, or yelloweye rockfish.
- Notwithstanding other fishing opportunities for groundfish, lingcod may not be retained during January, February, March, and December.
- Waters of Cordell Bank less than 100 fm in depth are closed to fishing at all times.
- Recreational fishing for groundfish prohibited between the shoreline and the 10 fm (18 m) depth contour around the Farallon Islands and Nooday Rock.
- All divers (boats permitted while diving for rockfish or other closed species during closed periods provided no hook and line gear on board or in possession while diving to catch rockfish) and

shore-based anglers would be exempt from the seasonal closures and depth restrictions for rockfish, greenlings, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, and ocean whitefish.

- Fishing is allowed within the Cowcod Conservation Areas shoreward of the 20 fm line when fishing is open for groundfish other than California scorpionfish, but including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish).

California recreational groundfish management measures that differ from status quo under Action Alternative 1 include the following:

- A statewide one-fish bocaccio sublimit is included in the 10-fish RCG daily bag limit.
 - Lingcod daily bag limit of 1 fish, but with a minimum size limit of 22 inches.
- Additionally, seasons and depth restrictions by RLMA under Action Alternative 1 are described below and summarized in Table 2-17.

- ~~Fishing is allowed within the Cowcod Conservation Areas shoreward of the 20 fm line when fishing is open for groundfish other than California scorpionfish, but including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish).~~

Table 2-17. Summary of 2007-2008 California recreational groundfish seasons and depth restrictions by region under Action Alternative 1.

RCG SEASON BY REGION:

Region	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
North region	---	---	---	---	> 20fm Closed							
North Central	---	---	---	---	---	---	> 20fm Closed			---	> 20fm Closed	
South Central - Monterey	---	---	---	---	---	---	> 20fm Closed					
South Central - Morro Bay	---	---	---	---	> 20fm Closed					---	---	---
South Region*	---	---	> 30fm Closed									

NOTES AND KEY:

Shore fishing allowed in all waters in all months

RCG = Rockfish, cabezon, greenlings

--- = Closed to boat-based fishing for RCG

LINGCOD SEASON IS OPEN **ONLY** WHEN RCG IS OPEN, EXCEPT CLOSED DEC, JAN, FEB, MAR FOR SPAWNING

*In the South Region, CA scorpionfish is open 12 months: 0-40 fm in January-February and 0-30 fm March-December.

Southern RLMA (U.S./Mexico Border to Point Conception)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations south of Point Conception under Action Alternative 1 are the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish other than California scorpionfish, but including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish) open March through December shoreward of the 30 fm line and otherwise closed.
- California scorpionfish is open year-round, but restricted to depths shoreward of 40 fm during January and February, and shoreward of 30 fm during March through December.

Southern South-Central RLMA (Point Conception to Lopez Point)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations for the area between Point Conception and Lopez Point under Action Alternative 1 would be the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish) open May through September shoreward of the 20 fm line and otherwise closed.

Northern South--Central RLMA (Lopez Point to Pigeon Point)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations for the area between Lopez Point and Pigeon Point under the Action Alternative 1 would be the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish) open July through December shoreward of 20 fm and otherwise closed.

Northern Central RLMA (Pigeon Point to Cape Mendocino)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations for the area between Pigeon Point and Cape Mendocino under the Action Alternative 1 would be the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish) open July through September and November through December shoreward of 20 fm and otherwise closed.

Northern RLMA (Cape Mendocino to the California/Oregon Border)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations for the area between Cape Mendocino and the California/Oregon border under the Action Alternative 1 would be the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish and ocean whitefish open in May through December shoreward of 20 fm and otherwise closed.

2.2.3.3.8 California Recreational Fisheries

Under Action Alternative 2, the five RLMAs described under the No Action Alternative will be used to manage 2007-2008 California recreational groundfish fisheries. The status quo (No Action) California recreational management measures under Action Alternative 2 include the following:

- Regulations apply to groundfish (with sanddab fishery exception) and associated state-managed species (rock greenling, California sheephead, and ocean whitefish).
- The sport fishery for sanddabs, using gear specified in federal and state regulations (size #2 hooks or smaller), is exempt from the season closures and depth restrictions placed on other federally-managed groundfish.
- Retention of species in the Other Flatfish complex is allowed when fishing with size #2 hooks or smaller (≤ 11 mm from point to shank) for Pacific sanddabs.
- Combined rockfish + cabezon + greenling (RCG) complex daily bag limit of 10 fish.
- No retention of cowcod, canary, or yelloweye rockfish.
- Lingcod size limit of 24 inches with a daily bag limit of two fish.
- ~~A two-fish bocaccio sublimit included in the 10-fish RCG daily bag limit.~~
- A two-fish bag limit for bocaccio in the northern RLMA (north of 40° 10' N latitude to the Oregon/California border at 42° N latitude) and a one-fish bag limit south of 40° 10' N latitude to the U.S./Mexico border within the 10-fish RCG daily bag limit.

- Notwithstanding other fishing opportunities for groundfish, lingcod may not be retained during January, February, March, and December.
- Waters of Cordell Bank less than 100 fm in depth are closed to fishing at all times.
- Recreational fishing for groundfish prohibited between the shoreline and the 10 fm (18 m) depth contour around the Farallon Islands and Noonday Rock.
- All divers (boats permitted while diving for rockfish or other closed species during closed periods provided no hook and line gear on board or in possession while diving to catch rockfish) and shore-based anglers would be exempt from the seasonal closures and depth restrictions for rockfish, greenlings, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, and ocean whitefish.
- Fishing is allowed within the Cowcod Conservation Areas shoreward of the 20 fm line when fishing is open for groundfish other than California scorpionfish, but including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish).

California recreational groundfish management measures that differ from status quo under Action Alternative 2 include the following:

- ~~Two~~ One cabezon and two greenling of the genus *Hexagrammos* sublimit is included in the 10-fish RCG daily bag limit.

Additionally, seasons and depth restrictions by RLMA under Action Alternative 2 are described below and summarized in Table 2-20.

Table 2-20. Summary of 2007-2008 California recreational groundfish seasons and depth restrictions by region under Action Alternative 2.

RCG SEASON BY REGION												
Region	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
North region	---	---	---	---	>30fm Closed							
North Central	---	---	---	---	---	---	> 20fm Closed					
South Central - Monterey	---	---	---	---	---	---	> 20fm Closed					
South Central - Morro Bay	---	---	---	> 20fm Closed					---	---	---	
South Region*	---	---	> 40fm Closed					> 30fm Closed			> 60fm Closed	

NOTES AND KEY:

Shore fishing allowed in all waters in all months

RCG = Rockfish, cabezon, greenlings

--- = Closed to boat-based fishing for RCG

LINGCOD SEASON IS OPEN **ONLY** WHEN RCG IS OPEN, EXCEPT CLOSED DEC, JAN, FEB, MAR FOR SPAWNING

*In the South Region, CA scorpionfish is open 12 months: 0-40 fm in January-August, 0-30 fm September-October and 0-60 fm November-December.

Southern RLMA (U.S./Mexico Border to Point Conception)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations south of Point Conception under Action Alternative 2 are the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish other than California scorpionfish, but including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish) open March through August shoreward of the 40 fm line, September through October shoreward of the 30 fm line, November and December shoreward of the 60 fm line, and otherwise closed.

- California scorpionfish is open year-round, but restricted to depths shoreward of 40 fm during January-August, shoreward of 30 fm during September and October, and shoreward of 60 fm during November and December.

Southern South-Central RLMA (Point Conception to Lopez Point)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations for the area between Point Conception and Lopez Point under Action Alternative 2 would be the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish) open April through September shoreward of the 20 fm line and otherwise closed.

Northern South--Central RLMA (Lopez Point to Pigeon Point)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations for the area between Lopez Point and Cape Mendocino under the Action Alternative 2 would be the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish) open July through December shoreward of 20 fm and otherwise closed.

Northern Central RLMA (Pigeon Point to Cape Mendocino)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations for the area between Pigeon Point and Cape Mendocino under the Action Alternative 2 would be the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish) open July through December shoreward of 20 fm and otherwise closed.

Northern RLMA (Cape Mendocino to the California/Oregon Border)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations for the area between Cape Mendocino and the California/Oregon border under the Action Alternative 2 would be the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish and ocean whitefish open in May through December shoreward of 30 fm and otherwise closed.

2.2.3.4 Action Alternative 3

2.2.3.4.8 California Recreational Fisheries

Under Action Alternative 3, the five RLMAs described under the No Action Alternative will be used to manage 2007-2008 California recreational groundfish fisheries. The status quo (No Action) California recreational management measures under Action Alternative 3 include the following:

- Regulations apply to groundfish (with sanddab fishery exception) and associated state-managed species (rock greenling, California sheephead, and ocean whitefish).
- The sport fishery for sanddabs, using gear specified in federal and state regulations (size #2 hooks or smaller), is exempt from the season closures and depth restrictions placed on other federally-managed groundfish.

- Retention of species in the Other Flatfish complex is allowed when fishing with size #2 hooks or smaller (≤ 11 mm from point to shank) for Pacific sanddabs.
- ~~A two-fish bocaccio sublimit is included in the 10-fish RCG daily bag limit.~~
- No retention of cowcod, canary, or yelloweye rockfish.
- Lingcod size limit of 24 inches with a daily bag limit of two fish.
- ~~Notwithstanding other fishing opportunities for groundfish, lingcod may not be retained during January, February, March, and December.~~
- Waters of Cordell Bank less than 100 fm in depth are closed to fishing at all times.
- Recreational fishing for groundfish prohibited between the shoreline and the 10 fm (18 m) depth contour around the Farallon Islands and Noonday Rock.
- All divers (boats permitted while diving for rockfish or other closed species during closed periods provided no hook and line gear on board or in possession while diving to catch rockfish) and shore-based anglers would be exempt from the seasonal closures and depth restrictions for rockfish, greenlings, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, and ocean whitefish.
- Fishing is allowed within the Cowcod Conservation Areas shoreward of the 20 fm line when fishing is open for groundfish other than California scorpionfish, but including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish).

California recreational groundfish management measures that differ from status quo under Action Alternative 3 include the following:

- Combined rockfish + cabezon + greenling (RCG) complex daily bag limit of 10 fish, of which ~~two~~ one can be a cabezon and two can be a greenling of the genus *Hexagrammos*.
- A two-fish bocaccio sublimit is included in the 10-fish RCG daily bag limit.
- Notwithstanding other fishing opportunities for groundfish, lingcod may not be retained during January, February, and March.
- ~~Lingcod daily bag limit of 3 fish, but with a minimum size limit of 22 inches.~~

Additionally, seasons and depth restrictions by RLMA under Action Alternative 3 are described below and summarized in Table 2-23.

Table 2-23. Summary of 2007-2008 California recreational groundfish seasons and depth restrictions by region under Action Alternative 3.

RCG SEASON BY REGION

Region	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
North region	---	---	---	---	> 40fm Closed							
North Central	---	---	---	---	---	▨	> 40fm Closed					
South Central - Monterey	---	---	---	---	> 40fm Closed							
South Central - Morro Bay	---	---	---	> 40fm Closed						▨	---	---
South Region*	---	---	> 60fm Closed									

NOTES AND KEY:

Shore fishing allowed in all waters in all months

RCG = Rockfish, cabezon, greenlings

--- = Closed to boat-based fishing for RCG

Only half of month is open



*In the South Region, CA scorpionfish is open 12 months: 0-40 fm in January-February and 0-60 fm March-December.

Southern RLMA (U.S./Mexico Border to Point Conception)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations south of Point Conception under Action Alternative 3 are the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish other than California scorpionfish, but including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish) open March through December shoreward of the 60 fm line and otherwise closed.
- California scorpionfish open year-round, but restricted to depths shoreward of 40 fm in January and February, and shoreward of 60 fm during March through December.

Southern South-Central RLMA (Point Conception to Lopez Point)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations for the area between Point Conception and Lopez Point under Action Alternative 3 would be the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish) open April through mid-October shoreward of the 40 fm line and otherwise closed.

Northern South-Central RLMA (Lopez Point to Pigeon Point)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations for the area between Lopez Point and Pigeon Point under the Action Alternative 3 would be the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish) open May through December shoreward of 40 fm and otherwise closed.

Northern Central RLMA (Pigeon Point to Cape Mendocino)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations for the area between Pigeon Point and Cape Mendocino under the Action Alternative 3 would be the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish including select nongroundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish) open mid-June through December shoreward of 40 fm and otherwise closed.

Northern RLMA (Cape Mendocino to the California/Oregon Border)

The California recreational groundfish fishery regulations for the area between Cape Mendocino and the California/Oregon border under the Action Alternative 3 would be the same as described above except for the following changes:

- Groundfish and ocean whitefish open in May through December shoreward of 40 fm and otherwise closed.