

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME REPORT ON
 CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS**

2008 California Recreational Groundfish Inseason Management Measures

In 2007 the recreational fishery exceeded the harvest guideline of yelloweye and canary rockfish (see Table 1).

Table 1. 2008 Projected Rebuilding Species Impacts in the California Recreational Fishery with Status Quo Regulations.

Species		2008 Projected Impacts Status Quo (mt)	Harvest Guideline
Rebuilding Species	Bocaccio	49.5	66.3
	Canary	11.5	9
	Cowcod	0.1	0.3
	Darkblotched	NA	NA
	Lingcod	229	422
	POP	NA	NA
	Widow	6.1	8.0
	Yelloweye	8.5	2.1

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) has developed management measures to reduce the projected catch of these species to conform with the harvest guidelines in the 2008 recreational groundfish season (see figure 1). The necessary changes will be relegated to the Northern Management Area (NMA) encompassing Cape Mendocino (40-10) to the Oregon Border and the North-Central Management Area (CNMA) encompassing Pigeon Pt. to Cape Mendocino (40-10) as the vast majority of the catch of yelloweye and canary rockfish originated from these management areas. The proposed management actions to be implemented in the 2008 recreational groundfish fishery to address the harvest guideline overages (see table 2) include:

- 120 ft. Depth Restriction in the Northern and North-Central Management Areas.
- Implementation of five Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas (YRCAs) north of Point Arena to the Oregon/California border.
- Use of the Pt. Arena Management Line to provide for more refined management measures such as season or depth restrictions in the southern portion of the North-Central Management Area where yelloweye rockfish are less common.
- Improved inseason monitoring and tracking of catch.

(No management changes will apply to shore-based anglers or divers.)

Table 2. 2008 Projected Impacts on Rebuilding Species in the California Recreational Fishery with Proposed Management Actions.

Species		2008 Projected Impacts (mt) with Management Actions
Rebuilding Species	Bocaccio	66.3
	Canary	9
	Cowcod	0.3
	Darkblotched	NA
	Lingcod	422
	POP	NA
	Widow	8.0
	Yelloweye	2.1

Use of the 120 ft. Depth Restriction

Catch reductions resulting from the 120 ft depth restriction were estimated using the RecFISH catch projection model with adjustments for depth distribution of catch and timing of catch described at the January 2008 GMT meeting.

Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area Analysis

The 2007 CRFS effort and yelloweye catch data (both sampler examined and reported) with latitude and longitude of catch data from the Northern California (Pt. Conception to the OR/CA Border) were used to identify one square nautical mile blocks with high yelloweye rockfish catch per unit effort (CPUE, average number of yelloweye caught per angler day fished). Five areas of high yelloweye catch were identified including 2 proposed YRCAs in the Northern Management Area and 3 YRCAs in the North-Central Management Area (See Figure 1). The YRCAs are in the vicinity of Crescent City, Shelter Cove and Fort Bragg from which over 75% of the yelloweye rockfish catch for California originated in 2007. Thus the effect is well directed requiring the ports directly responsible for the catch to bear the burden of catch reduction rather than closing entire management areas. The proportion of yelloweye catch from private and rental boat anglers within the proposed YRCAs in 2007 was used as a multiplicative catch reduction factor to approximate the potential reduction in catch resulting from YRCA's in each management area. The vast majority of the yelloweye catch originated from private vessels thus only catch from this mode was used.

Figure 1: Proposed California Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas

2008 Proposed In-Season Recreational Groundfish Regulations Changes Overview



Use of the Pt. Arena Management Area

Catch projections for the North-Central Management Area north and south of Pt. Arena were modeled separately in the RecFISH projection model.

Improved Inseason Monitoring and Tracking of Yelloweye and Canary Rockfish Catch

Given the higher abundance of yelloweye rockfish in the recreational fishery north of Pt. Arena and the variable geographic distribution of fishing effort in the recreational fishery depending, the ability to track catch inseason is critical to keeping the catch below the HG. The following actions will be taken to improve the tracking of catch inseason:

Weekly Reporting by CRFS Samplers (1 week lag):

CRFS Samplers North of Pt. Conception will be providing weekly tallies with the number of yelloweye and canary rockfish reported and examined at each port sampled in the previous week of sampling. The catch data will be used in the following 3 ways:

- *Comparison to Tracking of Sampled Catch from Previous Years:* The rate of accrual of the catch of yelloweye and canary rockfish sampler examined and reported released catch can be compared to the rate in previous years (2005, 2006, and 2007) as an early warning of above or below average rates of yelloweye and canary rockfish catch accrual.
- *Direction of Enforcement Efforts:* Enforcement will be informed of ports at which prohibited species (yelloweye and canary rockfish) are being retained to address catch accruing due to non compliance with restrictions on retention.
- *Direction of Outreach and Education Efforts:* The weekly tallies will be used to identify ports with high interaction rates and direct outreach efforts and restocking of the yelloweye, canary and vermilion rockfish identification flyers.

CRFS Preliminary Catch Estimates (1 month lag):

The CRFS program provides preliminary catch estimates on a 1 month lag. The catch estimates will be tracked inseason and compared with the projected catch by month from the RecFISH model. The CRFS catch estimates will be combined with the projected catch for the remainder of the season and when the projected catch estimate is projected to exceed the HG, immediate action can be taken to reduce catch rates or close Management Areas to keep the catch within the HG.

Failsafe Management Actions

If the projected catch estimates for yelloweye and canary rockfish are projected to exceed the harvest guideline before the scheduled season ending date, either the Northern or North-Central Management Areas (North and/or South of Pt. Arena) or a combination of these areas can be closed within state waters 10 days after a press release has been issued by CDFG. With a 120 ft. depth restriction the majority of the fishable area resides within state waters and such action would result in nearly complete closure of a management area to Rockfish, Cabezon and Kelp Greenling and Lingcod catch until conforming actions can be taken in Federal waters.

Conforming Actions in Federal Waters

CDFG will seek conforming actions in Federal waters for the 120 ft. depth restriction and use of the Pt. Arena management line. The proposed YRCA's reside in state waters and will not require conforming actions in Federal waters in 2008.

PFMC
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