

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE PRELIMINARY PREFERRED  
MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2009-2010 RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) held public meetings on December 14, 2007, February 14, 2008, March 18, 2008 and April 22, 2008 to develop and discuss recreational bottomfish proposals for 2009 and 2010. Based on these discussions, WDFW developed the preliminary preferred alternative for 2009 and 2010 described below. The intent of the preferred alternative is to reduce incidental catch of overfished rockfish, primarily yelloweye, while anglers are targeting halibut and lingcod. Depth restrictions are used to keep the fishery focused in shallower water (i.e., 20 fathoms or less), which is expected to increase survivability of released rockfish based on research by Albin and Karpov (1995). There is also expected to be a reduced encounter rate of yelloweye rockfish in shallower depths (i.e., 30 fathoms or less).

**2009-2010**

Lingcod

Marine Areas 1-3, open Saturday closest to March 15 through the Saturday closest to October 15  
Marine Area 4, open April 16 through the Saturday closest to October 15, or October 15<sup>th</sup> if the Saturday closest to October 15<sup>th</sup> falls later than October 15<sup>th</sup>

Bottomfish

For all areas in 2009-2010 continue to prohibit the retention of yelloweye and canary rockfish. Prohibit fishing for, retention or possession of bottomfish and halibut in the C-shaped yelloweye rockfish conservation area in the north coast and the two offshore rockfish conservation areas in the south coast area.

Bag Limits

For both 2009 and 2010, the aggregate bottomfish bag limit is 15, which includes a sub-limit of 10-rockfish and 2-lingcod but does not include halibut.

**2009**

North Coast (Marine Areas 3 and 4)

Prohibit the retention of bottomfish seaward of a line approximating 20 fathoms from May 21-September 30, except on days that halibut fishing is open.

South Coast (Marine Area 2)

Prohibit the retention of bottomfish seaward of a line approximating 30 fathoms from March 15-April 30.

Prohibit the retention of bottomfish, except sablefish and Pacific cod seaward of a line approximating 30 fathoms from May 1-June 15.

Prohibit the retention of lingcod south of 46°58 on Fridays and Saturdays from July 1 through August 31

Columbia River (Marine Area 1)

Prohibit the retention of bottomfish, except sablefish and Pacific cod, with halibut onboard from May 1 through September 30.

**2010**

North Coast (Marine Areas 3 and 4)

Prohibit the retention of bottomfish seaward of a line approximating 20 fathoms from (the start of the halibut season) May 12- September 30, except on days that halibut fishing is open.

South Coast (Marine Area 2)

Prohibit the retention of bottomfish seaward of a line approximating 30 fathoms from March 15- April 30.

Prohibit the retention of bottomfish, except sablefish and Pacific cod seaward of a line approximating 30 fathoms from May 1-June 15.

Prohibit the retention of lingcod seaward of 30 fathoms south of 46°58 July 1 through August 31

Columbia River (Marine Area 1)

Prohibit the retention of bottomfish, except sablefish and Pacific cod, with halibut onboard from May 1 through September 30.

Based on the Washington recreational impact model, the estimated mortalities for canary and yelloweye rockfish are projected to be:

	Yelloweye mt	Canary mt
2009	2.5	1.2
2010	1.9	0.7

As these projected impacts are less than the proposed Washington recreational harvest targets for canary and yelloweye, WDFW believes these management measures will provide recreational harvest opportunity while achieving rebuilding targets. WDFW will track the Washington recreational catch inseason and will take action as appropriate, to ensure these targets are not exceeded.