

California Department of Fish and Game Preferred Recreational and Commercial Fishery Management Measures for the 2009-2010 Season

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) will continue recreational management measures described under the status quo alternative (Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 1, Ch. 2 Section 2.2.4.1, pgs. 72, 87) regarding area closures, bag limits, etc with the following exceptions to the season and depth changes described below and other measures. In all management areas, under California laws, divers and shore-based anglers would continue to be exempt from the seasonal closures and depth restrictions. Additionally, California would continue to provide an exemption to allow year-round fishing for leopard sharks in specified enclosed bays and estuaries. California would also continue to provide for retention and possession of sanddabs and “other flatfishes” during the seasonal and depth closures that generally apply to all federal groundfish. The state would also continue with the prohibition on recreational groundfish fishing inside 10 fathoms at the Farallon Islands and other previously identified areas.

Exceptions to the Status Quo 2007-2008 regulations include:

Preliminary Preferred Alternative for Season Length and Depth Restrictions for the 2009-2010 California Recreational Fishery by Management Area

The season and depth restrictions in Figure 1 are the result of efforts to minimize impacts on constraining species while maximizing fishing opportunity in each management area. Yelloweye rockfish is the most constraining species in the Northern and North-Central North of Point Arena Management Areas. In the Morro Bay South-Central Management Area, Monterey South-Central Management Area and North-Central South of Pt. Arena Management Area blue rockfish is the most constraining species. In the Southern Management Area, cowcod and bocaccio are the most constraining species. The impacts resulting from the preferred alternative are provided in Table 1.

Management Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
North	CLOSED					Open <20 fm, May 15 - Sept 15			CLOSED			
North-Central N. of Pt. Arena	CLOSED					Open <20 fm, May 15 - Aug 15		CLOSED				
North-Central S. of Pt. Arena	CLOSED					Open <30 fm, June 13 - Oct 31				CLOSED		
Monterey South-Central	CLOSED					Open <40 fm, May 1 - Nov 15						CLOSED
Morro Bay South-Central	CLOSED					Open <40 fm, May 1 - Nov 15						CLOSED
South	CLOSED		Open <60 fm									

Figure 1. Preferred Season and Depth Restrictions for the California Recreational Fishery for 2009-2010

Table 1. Projected Impacts for the California Recreational Fishery under the Preferred Alternative in Figure 1.

Species	Projected Catch (mt)	2010 Harvest Guideline (mt)	% of Harvest Guideline
Yelloweye	2.6	2.8	90.7%
Canary	6.9	24.4	28.3%
Bocaccio	67.3	87.6*	76.8%
Widow	6.21	10.3*	60.3%
Cowcod	0.1	0.3	33.3%
Blue	183	183**	100%

*Harvest Guideline calculated assuming the same proportions of the OY from the 2007-2008 specifications using the Council preferred OY alternatives.

**The recreational blue rockfish harvest guideline is the result of a recreational and commercial catch sharing agreement and does not reflect a permanent allocation between the sectors. The sum of the two modes will not exceed the 220 mt.

Subdivision of the North-Central Management Area: As described on page 107 of Agenda Item F.4.a, Supplemental Attachment 2, the CDFG proposes subdivision of the North-Central Management Area at Point Arena into what will be referred to as the North-Central North of Point Arena and North-Central South of Point Arena Management Areas (depicted in Figure 1). This action has been taken to minimize the spatial extent of restrictions to season and depth restrictions to reduce yelloweye rockfish impacts.

Increase Statewide Bag Limit for Cabezon from 1 to 2 Fish

The statewide bag limit for cabezon was 1 fish in the 2007-2008 season. CDFG analyzed the possibility of increasing the cabezon bag limit from 1 to 2 fish using the methods described in Agenda Item F.4.a, Supplemental Attachment 2. The statewide projected catch with the increase in the bag limit is 28 mt out of the 42 mt statewide recreational allocation.

Increase Bag Limit for Bocaccio from 1 to 2 Fish

The bag limit for bocaccio in the Northern Management Area was 2 fish in the 2007-2008 season and the Department recommends that this status quo bag limit remain in place. CDFG analyzed the possibility of increasing the bocaccio bag limit from 1 to 2 fish in the balance of the state using the methods described in Agenda Item F.4.a, Supplemental Attachment 2. Assuming a proportional increase in the recreational harvest guideline, with a 278 mt OY, the amount of bocaccio available to the recreational fishery would be 87.6 mt. The impacts projected for the recreational fishery with a 2 fish bag limit statewide is 67.3 mt, providing a buffer between the projected impacts and potential harvest guidelines. The Department proposes increasing the bag limit to 2 fish south of Cape Mendocino. Bocaccio are primarily encountered in depths deeper than 180 fms and the depth dependent mortality rates developed by the GMT ascribe a 100% mortality rate to fish discarded in depths greater than 30 fms. The proposed action would reduce impacts on other fish that would be caught to replace discarded fish and decrease wastage of discarded dead bocaccio.

Eliminate Gear Restrictions when Fishing for Sanddabs and Other Flatfish: CDFG has analyzed the efficacy of the gear restrictions implemented in 2004 in reducing impacts on overfished species while recreationally fishing for sanddabs and other flatfish. The analysis revealed that there has been no appreciable change to impact rates on overfished species and species of the genus *Sebastes* before and after gear restrictions were implemented and that impacts are presently negligible. The methods and results of this analysis are found in Agenda Item F.4.a, Supplemental Attachment 2 on page 109.

Adopt Modifications to Commercial Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) Lines

CDFG provided adjustments to trawl and non-trawl RCA lines based on requests from industry and to correct errors in previous lines. These changes are provided in Agenda Item F.4.b, Supplemental CDFG Report 4, June 2008.