

REPORT ON CATCH OF UNIDENTIFIED ROCKFISH SPECIES
IN THE RECREATIONAL FISHERY

In October of 2008, Recreational Fishery Information Network (RecFIN) staff reported occurrences of unidentified rockfish in the recreational fishery that have not been accounted for in historical estimates of recreational impacts. This catch appears to be comprised of recreational discards or retained catch that cannot be identified by a sampler. The Council considered this matter at the March 2009 Council meeting. During this meeting, the Council directed RecFIN committees, appropriate state staff, and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Council staff to meet and discuss the risks associated with the unidentified rockfish issue. The Council requested that a report be brought back at the September meeting where the Council would provide further guidance on working to resolve the issue.

In June of 2009, state, NMFS, PSMFC, and Council staff held a teleconference to discuss the unidentified rockfish issue and how to respond to the Council guidance received in June. Participants concluded that staff at each of the state agencies should provide a report to the Council for the September meeting. These reports would address the Council's request by identifying the magnitude of the issue in each state, the conservation risks posed by having unidentified rockfish, the reasons for the presence of unidentified rockfish, potential ways of resolving the issue, and a stated preference on how to move forward. These reports are included under Agenda Item E.8.b.

The Council task under this agenda item is to consider the information provided by each of the three west coast states and to provide direction on how to continue moving forward. Such direction may include a time line for resolution and implementation, an identification of resources to be devoted toward that task, and guidance on alternative means for identifying any unidentified rockfish.

Council Action:

1. Consider recommendations for resolving this issue.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.8.b, ODFW Report: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Unidentified Rockfish from the Recreational Fishery

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Provide Guidance on Further Process
- Merrick Burden