

MARINE, UNCATEGORIZED

# CDFW to Host Public Meetings Regarding Groundfish Management for 2017-2018

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**Media Contacts:**

Caroline McKnight, CDFW Marine Region, (831) 649-7192

Carrie Wilson, CDFW Communications, (831) 649-7191



Vermilion rockfish

(CDFW photo by Athena Maguire).

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will hold five public workshops to discuss groundfish management in California. Attendees will hear an overview of recent groundfish management and science developments and then participate in focused stakeholder discussions on potential changes to recreational and commercial fishery management measures for 2017 and 2018. Several new groundfish stock assessments conducted in 2015 show some previously overfished stocks have been restored, possibly allowing for increased fishing opportunities.

The meetings are scheduled from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at the following dates/locations:

- Eureka: Dec. 2, 2015  
Eureka Public Marina, Wharfinger Building, Bay Room  
1 Marina Way, Eureka, CA 95501
- Fort Bragg: Dec. 3, 2015  
California Fish and Wildlife Office  
32330 North Harbor Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437
- Sausalito: Dec. 9, 2015  
Bay Model Visitor Center  
2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito, CA 94965
- Monterey: Jan. 6, 2016  
California Fish and Wildlife Office  
20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 100, Monterey, CA 93940
- Los Alamitos: Jan. 7, 2016  
California Fish and Wildlife Office  
4665 Lampson Avenue, Suite C, Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Staff will interact with participants about their preferences for various management measures, including season dates, potential changes to Rockfish Conservation Areas and bag limits – including the possibility of retaining canary rockfish. CDFW is also seeking input on strategies to best minimize interactions with cowcod and yelloweye rockfish, which remain overfished. The public is encouraged to provide input to managers and representatives based on their own personal experience that will assist in the development of groundfish management.

Groundfish fishing regulations are developed through a collaborative regulatory process involving the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), the National Marine Fisheries Service, CDFW, other West Coast states, and the California Fish and Game Commission.

Please visit the CDFW website for more details regarding these scheduled public meetings and groundfish management at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Groundfish/2017-2018](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Groundfish/2017-2018).

Please visit the PFMC website for more information about the federal regulatory process at [www.pcouncil.org/groundfish/current-season-management/](http://www.pcouncil.org/groundfish/current-season-management/).