

## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

At the June Council meeting, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) informed the Council that yelloweye rockfish in the Oregon recreational fishery was tracking higher than projected, due to higher than anticipated effort and yelloweye rockfish encounters during the initial all-depth opening for Pacific halibut in May, higher than anticipated bottomfish effort, and lower than anticipated descending device usage rates ([Agenda Item G.7.a. Supplemental ODFW Report, June 2016](#)).

ODFW reviewed data in early July (final through May and preliminary through June), and determined that it was necessary to take action, through state regulations, to reduce impacts to yelloweye rockfish. Beginning on July 15, 2016 the Oregon recreational bottomfish fishery was restricted to shoreward of a line approximating 20 fathoms, as defined by waypoints<sup>1</sup>.

Additionally, ODFW ramped up outreach and education efforts on descending devices and why it is important for anglers to use them. This included developing new rockfish recompression webpages (<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/recompression/index.asp>), videos ([https://youtu.be/WiCztoyo1iA?list=PLLeHsPDijGaNPKPDp8kc4Djro\\_aRs6gx](https://youtu.be/WiCztoyo1iA?list=PLLeHsPDijGaNPKPDp8kc4Djro_aRs6gx)) demonstrating how to use different types of devices, working with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to update, print, and distribute a flyer on rockfish barotrauma and recompression, and ODFW staff spending time at the Newport boat launch early in the mornings of summer all-depth halibut openings distributing information and descending devices. ODFW additionally promoted rockfish recompression through various social media platforms, having approximately 20,000 views in the first week.

In early September, ODFW reviewed data final through July and preliminary for August. A combination of the depth restriction and recompression outreach and subsequent increased usage rate (Figures 1) reduced impacts for July and August from what was projected in early July. Current projections indicate that allowing the fishery to go back out to all depths in October through December as planned pre-season will result in estimated year-end impacts of 2.7 mt, just under the 2.8 mt harvest guideline. Based on this data and projection, on September 13, 2016 ODFW announced that this fishery would be open to all-depths beginning on October 1, through the remainder of the year<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2016/07\\_July/071216.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2016/07_July/071216.asp)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2016/09\\_sept/091416.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2016/09_sept/091416.asp)

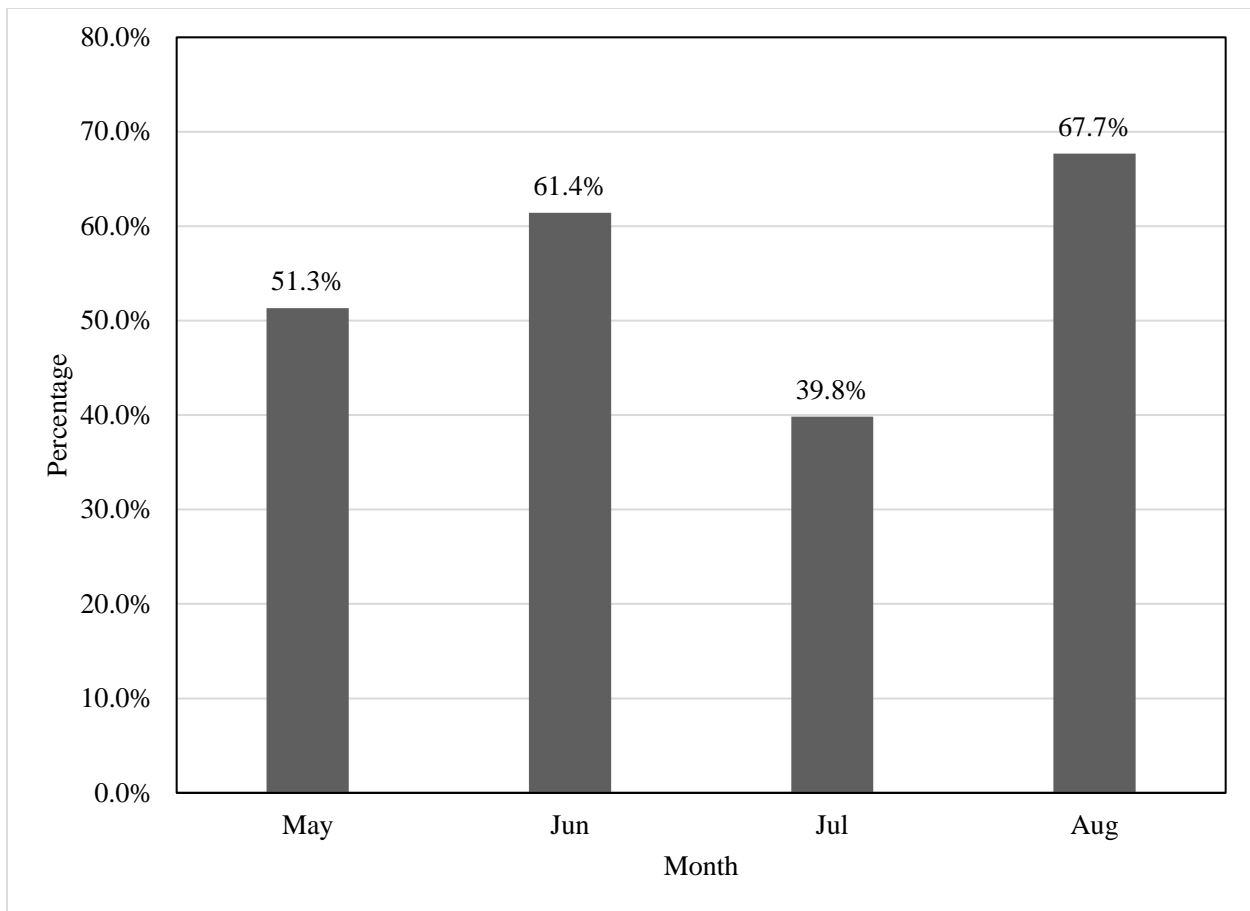


Figure 1. Percentage of yelloweye rockfish released using descending devices in Oregon recreational fisheries in 2016. (July has a small sample size due to no all-depth halibut openings, and bottomfish being restricted to inside of 30 fathoms July 1-14 and 20 fathoms July 15-31)