

Summary of 2016 Groundfish Mortality in California

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provides the following informational report on mortality of select groundfish species for 2016. The following tables provide estimated mortality of select species by month for the recreational sector through September (Table 1), estimated mortality of select species by month for the commercial sector through October (Table 2), and estimated harvest compared to federally designated harvest specifications (Table 3). Mortality is reported in metric tons and includes landings plus discards for the recreational fishery and landings for the commercial fishery without discard mortality estimates. These 2016 data are preliminary.

Similar to 2015, canary rockfish mortality in the recreational fishery was higher than projected. Projected mortality through the remainder of the year is estimated to be 27.0 mt and will exceed state the harvest guideline (HG) by 2.0 mt. The Department is not recommending any inseason action at this time since the HG is expected to increase starting in 2017 now that the stock was declared rebuilt.

Table 1. Estimated mortality (mt) of select groundfish species in the California recreational sector by month through September, 2016.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Total
BOCACCIO	-	0.0	3.8	7.7	11.8	6.7	1.8	8.7	9.1	49.6
CANARY ROCKFISH	-	-	0.7	1.2	3.9	3.6	2.9	5.0	3.6	20.9
COWCOD	-	-	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-	0.1	0.7
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	-	-	-	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	1.0
Black Rockfish	0.0	0.0	0.1	4.4	15.7	26.4	37.4	41.2	23.2	148.4
Blackgill Rockfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
Blue Rockfish	0.1	0.0	3.6	11.5	8.1	13.1	18.3	22.0	23.4	100.1
Cabazon	1.0	0.9	1.6	2.0	5.0	5.4	7.9	8.4	7.5	39.6
CA Scorpionfish	2.0	4.5	3.6	5.6	14.0	13.7	15.4	12.8	0.1	71.6
Greenlings	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.6	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.6	8.1
Lingcod S 40°10' N lat.	0.4	0.3	3.8	29.2	66.8	65.6	61.2	111.5	79.8	418.6
Nearshore RF N 40°10' N lat	-	-	-	0.0	0.5	1.4	1.5	4.4	2.0	9.8
Nearshore RF S 40°10' N lat.	0.4	0.4	14.3	48.1	52.7	65.0	77.9	77.9	74.1	410.8

Note: The recreational estimates for August are preliminary.
 California scorpionfish closed on September 1.

Table 2. Estimated mortality (mt) of select groundfish species in the California commercial sector by month through October, 2016.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
BOCACCIO	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	3.4
CANARY ROCKFISH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
COWCOD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black Rockfish	0.5	2.2	3.7	9.0	5.7	9.3	10.3	12.3	7.0	3.8	63.8
Blackgill Rockfish	1.7	1.9	3.7	2.6	2.3	1.6	2.4	3.0	3.0	4.0	26.0
Blue Rockfish	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.8	1.2	0.9	0.7	6.5
Cabezon	1.8	2.1	0.0	0.0	4.9	2.6	4.6	4.9	4.1	1.7	26.8
CA Scorpionfish	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.0	2.0
Greenlings	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.3	4.2
Lingcod S of 40°10' N lat.	1.2	1.3	0.2	0.3	4.2	1.9	3.7	3.5	1.9	0.5	18.3
Nearshore RF N 40°10' N lat.	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.0	1.5
Nearshore RF S 40°10' N lat.	5.6	7.3	0.0	0.0	8.2	6.7	9.4	12.4	9.9	5.4	65.0

Note: Landings include non-trawl, non-IFQ fixed-gears for limited entry and open access sectors. Data are preliminary and mortality estimates do not include discard mortality.

Blackgill rockfish landings include both IFQ and non-IFQ sectors south of 40°10' N. lat.

Table 3. Estimated mortality (mt) of select groundfish species in California during 2016 compared to corresponding 2016 harvest specifications.

	Reference point description	Estimated mortality (mt)	Management reference points	
			ACL/HG (mt)	% of ACL/HG
Overfished Stocks				
Bocaccio	HG (rec)	49.6	185.6	26.7%
Canary rockfish ^a	HG (rec)	20.9	25.0	83.6%
Cowcod	Non-Trawl Alloc.	0.7	2.6	26.9%
Yelloweye rockfish	HG (rec)	1.0	3.7	27.0%
Non-Overfished Stocks				
Black rockfish	HG (statewide)	212.2	420	50.5%
Blackgill rockfish S 40°10' N lat. ^b	HG	26.0	117	22.2%
Blue rockfish	HG (statewide)	106.6	198.3	53.9%
Cabazon	ACL	66.4	151	43.9%
California scorpionfish ^c	ACL	73.6	111	66.3%
Greenlings	HG (statewide)	12.3	55.3	22.2%
Lingcod S 40° 10' N lat.	Non-Trawl Alloc.	436.9	515.3	84.7%
Nearshore rockfish N 40°10' N lat. ^d	HG	11.3	23.7	47.5%
Nearshore rockfish S 40°10' N lat.	ACL	476.8	1,002	47.6%

a) Projected mortality through December 31 is estimated to be 27.0 mt.

b) Includes IFQ landings

c) The recreational fishery for California scorpionfish closed on September 1.

d) Applies only between 40°10' N lat. and 42° N lat.