

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON FINAL ACTION TO
 ADOPT MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE 2019-2020 FISHERIES**

Since the April Council meeting, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has met with advisors to obtain input on the 2019-20 recreational fisheries, and has identified preferred season structures, depending on the final yelloweye rockfish annual catch limit (ACL) decision.

Under all yelloweye rockfish ACL alternatives the season is structured to balance impacts to black rockfish with yelloweye rockfish, while allowing as much opportunity as possible. Under Alternatives 1 black rockfish is as limiting as yelloweye rockfish and under Alternative 2 black rockfish is more limiting than yelloweye rockfish. Additionally, under all alternatives the state of Oregon will likely put more restrictive regulations in place through State regulation to ensure that impacts stay within both federal and state harvest guidelines (HGs: Table 1).

Table 1. Oregon recreational harvest guidelines for 2019.

Stock	2018 HG	2019 HG		
		No Action	Alternative 1 (PPA)	Alternative 2
Black Rockfish	382.9	376.9		
Cabazon	16.8	16.8		
Canary Rockfish	75.0	70.9		
Greenlings	56.3	46.5		
Nearshore Rockfish	32.8	92.4		
Yelloweye Rockfish	3.0	4.9	7.1	9

No Action yelloweye rockfish ACL alternative

Under the No Action yelloweye rockfish ACL alternative, the Oregon recreational HG is 4.9 mt. This will allow easing some of the seasonal depth restrictions. Currently through state regulation, the fishery is restricted to shoreward of the 30 fathom regulatory line, 40 fathoms in federal regulations. Under No Action yelloweye rockfish ACL alternative, the state depth restriction could be changed to match the federal restriction (40 fathoms), and the months with restrictions could be reduced to May through August (Table 2).

Table 2. Oregon recreational season structure under the No Action yelloweye rockfish ACL alternative.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bottomfish Season	Open all depths				< 40 fm			Open all depths				
Marine Bag Limit ^{a/}	Ten (10)											
Lingcod Bag Limit	Three (3)											
Flatfish Bag Limit ^{b/}	Twenty Five (25)											

a/ Marine bag limit is 10 fish per day and includes all species other than lingcod, salmon, steelhead, Pacific halibut, flatfish, surfperch, sturgeon, striped bass, pelagic tuna and mackerel species, and bait fish such as herring, anchovy, sardine, and smelt; of which no more than one may be cabezon.

b/ Flounders, soles, sanddabs, turbot and halibuts except Pacific halibut

Under the No Action yelloweye rockfish ACL alternative, ODFW recommends the Oregon recreational fishery be restricted to shoreward of the 40 fathom regulatory line May through August. The state of Oregon, through state process and to be precautionary, may adopt a more conservative season structure for 2019 (e.g. 40 fathom depth restriction April through September). Additionally, the state of Oregon will adjust bag limits, and/or sub-bag limits, in state rule for the 2019 and 2020 seasons through state processes to stay within other species specific HGs.

Alternative 1 Council PPA yelloweye rockfish ACL

Under the Council’s PPA yelloweye rockfish ACL, the Oregon recreational HG is 7.1 mt. This will allow the easing of some of the seasonal depth restrictions. In April, ODFW indicated that the PPA season structure would have seasonal depth restrictions (shoreward of the 40-fathom regulatory line) May through August. After the consultation with advisors, **under yelloweye rockfish ACL alternative 1 ODFW recommends final preferred alternative (FPA) season structure reduces the seasonal depth restriction to June through August** (Table 3).

Table 3. Oregon FPA season structure under yelloweye rockfish ACL Alternative 1.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bottomfish Season	Open all depths					< 40 fm			Open all depths			
Marine Bag Limit ^{a/}	Ten (10)											
Lingcod Bag Limit	Three (3)											
Flatfish Bag Limit ^{b/}	Twenty Five (25)											

a/ Marine bag limit is 10 fish per day and includes all species other than lingcod, salmon, steelhead, Pacific halibut, flatfish, surfperch, sturgeon, striped bass, pelagic tuna and mackerel species, and bait fish such as herring, anchovy, sardine, and smelt; of which no more than one may be cabezon.

b/ Flounders, soles, sanddabs, turbot and halibuts except Pacific halibut

The state of Oregon, through state process and to be precautionary, may adopt a more conservative season structure for 2019 (e.g. 40 fathom depth restriction April through September). The FPA structured allows for the potential for incremental changes for 2020 (e.g. 40 fathom depth restriction Memorial Day through Labor Day), depending on how 2019 progresses. Additionally, the state of Oregon will adjust bag limits, and/or sub-bag limits, in state rule for the 2019 and 2020 seasons through state processes to stay within other species specific HGs.

Alternative 2 Council PPA yelloweye rockfish ACL

Under Alternative 2 yelloweye rockfish ACL, the Oregon recreational HG is 9.0 mt. Modeling indicates that the seasonal depth restriction would be able to be eliminated (Table 4). **ODFW recommends removing seasonal depth restrictions for the Oregon recreational fishery under yelloweye rockfish ACL alternative 2.**

Table 4. Oregon recreational season structure under yelloweye rockfish ACL Alternative 2.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bottomfish Season	Open all depths											
Marine Bag Limit ^{a/}	Ten (10)											
Lingcod Bag Limit	Three (3)											
Flatfish Bag Limit ^{b/}	Twenty Five (25)											

a/ Marine bag limit is 10 fish per day and includes all species other than lingcod, salmon, steelhead, Pacific halibut, flatfish, surfperch, sturgeon, striped bass, pelagic tuna and mackerel species, and bait fish such as herring, anchovy, sardine, and smelt; of which no more than one may be cabezon.

b/ Flounders, soles, sanddabs, turbot and halibuts except Pacific halibut

However, the state of Oregon, through state processes, will likely be more conservative in setting the 2019 and 2020 seasons, such as maintaining depth restrictions during high effort and impact months. Additionally, the state of Oregon will adjust bag limits, and/or sub-bag limits, in state

rule for the 2019 and 2020 seasons through state processes to stay within other species specific HGs.

Summary of Recommendations

ODFW recommendations for the Oregon recreational fishery season structure by yelloweye rockfish ACL alternative.

Alternative	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No Action	Open all depths				< 40 fm				Open all depths			
Alternative 1	Open all depths				< 40 fm				Open all depths			
Alternative 2	Open all depths											