

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON INSEASON
ADJUSTMENTS – FINAL ACTION

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) offers this update on the status of yelloweye rockfish catch in the California recreational groundfish fishery for 2018.

As discussed in CDFW Supplemental Report 1¹ encounters with yelloweye rockfish tracked higher than expected during May and July in 2018, and resulted in state action by CDFW to reduce allowed fishing depths north of Point Conception, effective August 25, 2018. The trend toward higher than projected catches continued in the month of August, based on the most recent counts of sampler-examined and angler-reported fish.

Current catch information now available through September 2, 2018 suggests that 3.79 mt of yelloweye rockfish have been taken (Table 3), against the 3.9 mt California recreational Harvest Guideline. Updated catch projections, including the expected reduction in take due to the August 25 inseason depth change, predict 4.71 mt of yelloweye rockfish mortality through the end of 2018, if no additional regulatory action is taken (status quo).

Regional analysis of yelloweye encounters by management area show that almost half (47 percent) of encounters in 2018 have been in the Northern Management Area (Table 1).

Table 1. Proportion of yelloweye encounters by management area in 2018. Data through September 2. Data are preliminary.

Management Area	Metric Tons Accrued	Percent of Total
Northern	1.77	47%
Mendocino	0.32	8%
San Francisco	0.69	18%
Central	0.67	18%
Southern	0.34	9%
Total	3.79	

CDFW notes that in 2017, the highest catches also occurred in the Northern Management Area (Table 2), likely in response to new depth regulations that allowed fishing to 30 fathoms through mid-October. Subsequently, inseason action took effect October 19, 2017, to reduce the allowable fishing depths for all management areas north of Point Conception by 10 fathoms.

¹ https://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/I10a_Supp_CDFW_Rpt1_SEPT2018BB.pdf

Table 2. Proportion of yelloweye encounters by management area in 2017. Data are from CDFW.

Management Area	Metric Tons Accrued	Percent of Total
Northern	1.47	33%
Mendocino	0.72	16%
San Francisco	1.17	26%
Central	0.95	21%
Southern	0.17	4%
Total	4.48	

Additional regulatory action is needed to keep yelloweye rockfish impacts from further exceeding the 2018 California recreational Harvest Guideline. In an effort to allow the Council and its advisors to consider available data and trends in formulating inseason recommendations, CDFW analyzed a number of alternative season structures listed below. The options range from status quo to complete closure of the boat-based recreational groundfish fishery for the remainder of 2018. CDFW will work with agencies and industry representatives during the Council week on other alternatives as requested, utilizing the most up to date inseason information.

Status quo (season/depth restrictions reflecting the August 25 inseason depth change). Projected YE impact: 4.71 mt

Management Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern	Closed				May 1 – Aug 24, <30fm				Aug 25 – Dec 31, <20 fm			
Mendocino	Closed				May 1 – Oct 31, <20 fm						<20 fm	
San Francisco	Closed				Apr 15 – Aug 24, <40 fm				Aug 25 – Dec 31, <30 fm			
Central	Closed			Apr 1 – Aug 24, <50 fm					Aug 25 – Dec 31, <40 fm			
Southern	Closed		Mar 1 – Dec 31, <60 fm									

Option 1: Closure of Northern Management Area for remainder of 2018, assuming an effective date of October 1. No proposed changes to other Management Areas. Changes from current seasons/depths are in bold. Projected YE impact: 4.49 mt

Management Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern	Closed				May 1 – Aug 24, <30fm				Aug 25 – Sept 30 , <20 fm		CLOSED	
Mendocino	Closed				May 1 – Oct 31, <20 fm						<20 fm	
San Francisco	Closed				Apr 15 – Aug 24, <40 fm				Aug 25 – Dec 31, <30 fm			
Central	Closed			Apr 1 – Aug 24, <50 fm					Aug 25 – Dec 31, <40 fm			
Southern	Closed		Mar 1 – Dec 31, <60 fm									

Option 2: Closure of Northern Management Area for remainder of 2018, and reduce allowed fishing depths to shallower than 20 fm in Central and San Francisco Management Areas. Assumed effective date of regulations is October 1. No changes to Southern or Mendocino Management Areas. Projected YE impact: 4.30 mt

Management Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern	Closed				May 1–Aug 24, <30fm				Aug 25 – Sept 30, <20 fm	CLOSED		
Mendocino	Closed				May 1–Oct 31, <20 fm						<20 fm	
San Francisco	Closed			Apr 15–Aug 24, <40 fm				Aug 25 – Sept 30, <30 fm		Oct 1–Dec 31, <20 fm		
Central	Closed			Apr 1–Aug 24, <50 fm				Aug 25 – Sept 30, <40 fm		Oct 1–Dec 31, <20 fm		
Southern	Closed		Mar 1–Dec 31, <60 fm									

Option 3: Closure of boat based groundfish fishery for remainder of 2018. Assumed effective date of regulations is October 1. Projected YE impact: 4.16 mt

Management Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern	Closed				May 1–Aug 24, <30fm				Aug 25 – Sept 30, <20 fm	CLOSED		
Mendocino	Closed				May 1–Sept 30, <20 fm						CLOSED	
San Francisco	Closed			Apr 15–Aug 24, <40 fm				Aug 25 – Sept 30, <30 fm		CLOSED		
Central	Closed			Apr 1–Aug 24, <50 fm				Aug 25 – Sept 30, <40 fm		CLOSED		
Southern	Closed		Mar 1–Sept 30, <60 fm						CLOSED			

Below, CDFW provides the projected 2018 monthly impacts based on catch accrued through September 2, combined with expected catches for the remaining months in 2018 under both the status quo and the three inseason options described above.

Table 3. Summary of projected impacts for yelloweye rockfish through September 2, 2018 and projected impacts through the end of 2018. Status quo is compared with three inseason action options. Data are preliminary.

	Catch to Date		Status Quo	Estimate Option 1	Estimate Option 2	Estimate Option 3
	ACV	Estimate				
January	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
February	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
March	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
April	0.05	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
May	0.70	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68
June	0.30	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36
July	1.12	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37
August	1.25		1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
September (through Sept 2)	0.03		0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40
October			0.25	0.15	0.06	0.00
November			0.15	0.09	0.04	0.00
December			0.15	0.09	0.04	0.00
Total Impacts		3.79	4.71	4.49	4.30	4.16