

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON
RANGE OF MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CALIFORNIA'S
2021-2022 COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL GROUND FISH FISHERIES

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provides the following potential changes to management measures for commercial and recreational groundfish fisheries for 2021-2022 that are based in part on public input received to date. The intent for this list is to solicit public input prior to the November Council meeting in Costa Mesa, CA. The measures described below should be considered a preliminary range and may be refined, amended or additional measures could be added as a result of the public scoping process. Additional discussions with other agencies and the public will inform which measures are a priority for stakeholders and to evaluate the associated workload.

Proposed 2021-22 Measures

Harvest Specifications and Allocation Adjustments

1. Adjust 2-year trawl/non-trawl allocations
 - a. Cowcod south of 40° 10' N. lat
2. Adjust Amendment 21 trawl/non-trawl allocation
 - a. Lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat
3. Remove Amendment 21 trawl/non-trawl allocations
 - a. Slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat, specifically for Blackgill rockfish
4. Remove non-trawl harvest guidelines
 - i. Canary rockfish coastwide

Catch Controls

Commercial

1. Adjust bimonthly limits to implement 2021-22 harvest specifications and to be consistent through all periods, including but not limited to:
 - i. Sub-limit for Vermilion rockfish south of 40° 10' N lat.
2. Remove fishing closure and replace with bimonthly limits consistent through all periods for:
 - i. Open access Shortspine Thornyheads and Longspine Thornyheads 40° 10' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat.
3. Remove March/April closure for:
 - i. Limited entry minor shelf rockfish, Shortbelly rockfish, Widow rockfish south of 34° 27' N. lat.
 - ii. Open access minor shelf rockfish, Shortbelly rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.
 - iii. Open access Widow rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.
 - iv. Open access Chilipepper rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.
 - v. Limited entry Canary rockfish south of 34° 27' N. lat.
 - vi. Open access Canary rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.
 - vii. Limited entry Bocaccio rockfish south of 34° 27' N. lat.
 - viii. Open access Bocaccio rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.

- ix. Limited entry and open access shallow nearshore rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.
- x. Limited entry and open access deeper nearshore rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.
- xi. Limited entry and open access California scorpionfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.
- xii. Limited entry and open access Lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat.
- 4. Remove shelf species with individual ACLs (i.e., Widow, Yellowtail, Chilipepper rockfish) from the minor shelf rockfish trip limit and create individual trip limits or a midwater rockfish trip limit:
 - i. Limited entry and open access minor shelf rockfish, Shortbelly, & Widow rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.
 - ii. Limited entry minor shelf rockfish, Shortbelly rockfish, Widow rockfish (including Chilipepper between 40° 10' - 34° 27' N. lat.) south of 40° 10' N. lat.
- 5. Remove daily and weekly trip limits for:
 - iii. Limited entry Sablefish south of 36° N lat.
- 6. Remove 34° 27' N. lat. management line for:
 - a. Limited entry minor shelf rockfish, Shortbelly, Widow rockfish (including Chilipepper between 40° 10' - 34° 27' N. lat)
 - b. Limited entry Chilipepper south of 40° 10' N. lat.
 - i. remove text: “this opportunity only available seaward of the non-trawl RCA.”
 - c. Open access minor shelf rockfish, Shortbelly, Widow rockfish and Chilipepper
- 7. Remove gear restriction language for:
 - i. Limited entry and open access Dover sole, Arrowtooth flounder, Petrale sole, English sole, Starry flounder, other flatfish south of 42° N. lat.

Recreational

- 1. Evaluate recreational season structure, bag (and sub-bag) limit changes in management areas depending on new stock assessment results and harvest specifications. Changes may include but are not limited to:
 - a. Add a Vermilion rockfish sub-bag limit
 - b. Remove the Cabezon sub-bag limit
 - c. Modify Black rockfish sub-bag limit
 - d. Modify Canary rockfish sub-bag limit

Changes to Closed Areas

In previous years, the Harvest Specification and Management Measure process has been utilized to make waypoint adjustments and boundary modifications to Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCA) in both commercial and recreational management areas. CDFW understands that RCA modifications will not be considered under the 2021-2022 Harvest Specification and Management Measure process, but in a separate process entitled “Non-trawl RCA Modifications.” That package is currently under the Workload Prioritization and Planning agenda item ([Agenda Item H.2, Situation Summary, September 2019](#)) and scoping is slated on the Year-at-a-glance to begin in March 2020 ([Agenda Item C.5., Attachment 1, September 2019](#)). Although the Non-trawl RCA Modifications rulemaking package is anticipated to be implemented concurrently with the 2021-2022 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures rulemaking package, it is currently not itemized on the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report on Groundfish Rulemakings and Other Activities ([Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 3, September 2019](#)).

CDFW has already received several proposals related to RCA modifications ([Agenda Item B.1.c, Public Comment, April 2019](#); [Agenda Item B.1.b, Public Comment, September 2019](#); [Agenda Item H.8., Public Comment, September 2019](#)) and expects that more will be submitted over the next several meetings as public scoping continues. In prior regulation cycles, RCA changes have provided additional access to fishing grounds resulting in more harvest opportunities. CDFW strongly supports the Non-trawl RCA Modification package remain prioritized and be added to the NMFS Report on Groundfish Rulemakings and Other Activities with a target implementation date as close to January 1, 2021 as possible.