

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON BIENNIAL
MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2021-2022

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) proposes items to be added to the preliminary range of management measures adopted by the Council in September 2019.

Minor Line Adjustments to Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCA) In Priority Order

1. Mendocino Management Area for the Recreational Fishery (Figure 1); From Cape Mendocino to Point Arena: During 2019 and 2020, take is prohibited seaward of 20 fathoms in depth during the open season (May through October). In November and December, fishing is allowed in all depths.
 - Proposed change: Increase the allowable depth during the open season from May through October to 30 fathoms.
 - Rationale: This will allow the recreational fishery more access to fishing grounds already used for non-trawl commercial groundfish fisheries in this area, which are authorized to 40 fathoms. Additionally, the recreational fishery in this area already operates in this depth and deeper during the 2-month 'All Depth' fishery. Moving the depth boundary to 30 fathoms would also allow use of waypoints already in federal regulations defining the 30 fathom RCA line, instead of the general contour line that is used in state regulation to define the 20 fathom RCA line. CDFW enforcement prefers federal RCA lines defined by connecting waypoints over the use of general contour lines, and the change would eliminate the last use of the 20 fathom contour line in California's groundfish regulations. The change would also align the Mendocino Management Area RCA depth with the existing RCA depth for recreational fisheries in the adjacent Northern Management Area (Figure 1). The Northern Management Area has been utilizing the 30 fathom line since 2017. Minor increases to yelloweye impacts are expected to be easily absorbed within the California recreational annual catch target (ACT).

2. Southern California Recreational and Commercial Non-Trawl Fisheries (Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access Gears – see Attachment 1 and 2) From Point Conception to the U.S.-Mexico border: During 2019 and 2020, the RCA for these commercial fisheries is defined as an area closed to fishing between the 75 fathom line and the 150 fathom line. For the recreational fishery, take is prohibited seaward of the 75 fathom RCA line.
 - Proposed change: Increase the allowable shoreward RCA depth for commercial fisheries to 100 fathoms. For recreational fisheries, prohibit take seaward of the 100 fathom RCA line.
 - Rationale: Cowcod is rebuilt, and allowable yields are expected to be high enough in these non-trawl fisheries to more than account for what could be significant increases to cowcod impacts above status quo levels although retention of this species is not proposed. Federal RCA regulations currently apply to open access state-managed trawl fisheries operating in this area (California halibut, ridgeback prawn and sea cucumber), allowing bottom trawl activities from the mainland coast out to the shoreward 100 fathom RCA line. Additional impacts to yelloweye rockfish are expected to be negligible, as this area represents the extreme southern extent of the population range. Any increases to yelloweye impacts are expected to be easily absorbed within the 2021-

- 2022 California recreational annual catch targets (ACT), or the ACTs issued to non-trawl commercial fisheries.
3. Central California Commercial Non-Trawl Fisheries (Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access Gears – see Attachment 1 and 2); From Pigeon Point to Point Conception: During 2019 and 2020, the RCA in this region is defined as an area closed to fishing between the 40 fathom line and the 125 fathom line.
- Proposed change: Set the shoreward RCA line at 50 fathoms for this region, rather than 40 fathoms.
 - Rationale: This change would offer a modest increase of access into areas already utilized by other fisheries. Currently, the recreational groundfish fishery in this area (Central Management Area; Figure 1) is authorized to fish out to 50 fathoms. Adding an additional management line at Pigeon Point to partition this area for the commercial fisheries would allow for different depths and trip limits north and south of the line, allowing for regulatory refinements and incremental increases in opportunity. Notably, federal RCA regulations also apply to open access state-managed trawl fisheries operating in this area (California halibut, ridgeback prawn and sea cucumber), allowing bottom trawl activities from the mainland coast out to the shoreward 100 fathom RCA line. Minor increases to yelloweye impacts might be expected, and would hit against 2021-2022 annual catch targets (ACT) issued to non-trawl commercial fisheries.
4. San Francisco Management Area Recreational and Commercial Non-Trawl Fisheries (Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access Gears – see Attachment 1 and 2) from Point Arena to Pigeon Point: During 2019 and 2020, the RCA for these commercial fisheries is defined as an area closed to fishing between the 40 fathom line and the 125 fathom line. For the recreational fishery, take is prohibited seaward of the 40 fathom RCA line.
- Proposed change: Increase the allowable shoreward RCA depth for commercial fisheries to 50 fathoms. Increase the allowable recreational depth during the open season to 50 fathoms.
 - Rationale: This change would align the depth limit in this area with the 50 fathom limit available to the recreational fishery in the adjacent Central Management Area to the south. Adding additional management lines at Pigeon Point and Point Arena to partition this area for the commercial fisheries would allow for different depths and trip limits, allowing for regulatory refinements and incremental increases in opportunity. Notably, federal RCA regulations also apply to open access state-managed trawl fisheries operating in this area (California halibut, ridgeback prawn and sea cucumber), allowing bottom trawl activities from the mainland coast out to the shoreward 100 fathom RCA line. Increases to commercial yelloweye impacts might be expected, and would hit against 2021-2022 annual catch targets (ACT) issued to non-trawl commercial fisheries. Increases to recreational yelloweye impacts are expected to be easily absorbed within the California recreational annual catch target (ACT).

California Groundfish Management Area Map



CDFW Marine Region GIS Lab - 12/2015

Figure 1. Map of California Groundfish Management areas.

Attachment 1. Current trip limit tables for non-trawl RCA Limited Entry Fixed Gear south of 40°10'N latitude.

TABLE 2 (SOUTH) TO PART 660, SUBPART E—NON-TRAWL ROCKFISH CONSERVATION AREAS AND TRIP LIMITS FOR LIMITED ENTRY FIXED GEAR SOUTH OF 40°10' N LAT.

Table 2 (South) to Part 660, Subpart E -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 40°10' N. lat.						
Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table						10/14/2019
	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:						
1	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.		40 fm line ^{1/} - 125 fm line ^{1/}			
2	South of 34°27' N. lat.		75 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} (also applies around islands)			
See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).						
State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.						
3	Minor Slope rockfish^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish	40,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,375 lb may be blackgill rockfish		40,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 4,000 lb may be blackgill rockfish		
4	Splitnose rockfish	40,000 lb/ 2 months				
5	Sablefish					
6	40°10' N. lat. - 36°00' N. lat.	1,700 lb/week, not to exceed 5,100 lb/ 2 months				
7	South of 36°00' N. lat.	2,000 lb/ week				
8	Longspine thornyhead	10,000 lb/ 2 months				
9	Shortspine thornyhead					
10	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	2,000 lb/ 2 months		2,500 lb/ 2 months		
11	South of 34°27' N. lat.	3,000 lb/ 2 months				
12		5,000 lb/ month				
13	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish^{3/}	South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line, are not subject to the RCAs.				
14						
15						
16						
17						
18	Whiting	10,000 lb/ trip				
19	Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}, Shortbelly rockfish, Widow rockfish (including Chilipepper between 40°10' - 34°27' N. lat.)					
20	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	Minor shelf rockfish, shortbelly, widow rockfish, & chilipepper: 2,500 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 500 lb may be any species other than chilipepper.				
21	South of 34°27' N. lat.	4,000 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	4,000 lb/ 2 months		
22	Chilipepper	Chilipepper included under minor shelf rockfish, shortbelly and widow rockfish limits -- See above				
23	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	2,000 lb/ 2 months, this opportunity only available seaward of the non-trawl RCA				
24	South of 34°27' N. lat.					
25	Canary rockfish					
26	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	300 lb/ 2 months				
27	South of 34°27' N. lat.	300 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	300 lb/ 2 months		
28	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED				
29	Cowcod	CLOSED				
30	Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED				
31	Bocaccio					
32	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	1,000 lb/ 2 months		1,500 lb/ 2 months		
33	South of 34°27' N. lat.	1,500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lb/ 2 months		
34	Minor Nearshore Rockfish, California Black rockfish, & Oregon Black/Blue/Dracon rockfish					
35	Shallow nearshore ^{4/}	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,200 lb/ 2 months		
36	Deeper nearshore ^{5/}	1,000 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,200 lb/ 2 months		
37	California Scorpionfish	1,500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lb/ 2 months		
38	Lingcod^{6/}	200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,200 lb/ 2 months		
39	Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months				
40	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months	
41	Longnose skate	Unlimited				
42	Other Fish^{7/} & Cabezon in California	Unlimited				
43	Big Skate	Unlimited				

TABLE 2 (South)

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ POP is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish. Blackgill rockfish have a species specific trip sub-limit within the Minor Slope Rockfish cumulative limit. Yellowtail rockfish are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.

3/ "Other Flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ "Shallow Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(1).

5/ "Deeper Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(2).

6/ The commercial minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.

7/ "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Attachment 2. Current trip limit tables for non-trawl RCAs and OA Gears south of 40°10'N latitude.

TABLE 3 (SOUTH) TO PART 660, SUBPART F—NON-TRAWL ROCKFISH CONSERVATION AREAS AND TRIP LIMITS FOR OPEN ACCESS GEARS SOUTH OF 40°10' N. LAT.

Table 3 (South) to Part 660, Subpart F -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears South of 40°10' N. lat.							10/14/2019
Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table							
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) ¹⁾ :	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC	
1 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	40 fm line ¹⁾ - 125 fm line ¹⁾						
2 South of 34°27' N. lat.	75 fm line ¹⁾ - 150 fm line ¹⁾ (also applies around islands)						
See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).							
State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.							
3 Minor Slope Rockfish ²⁾ & Darkblotched rockfish	10,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 475 lb may be blackgill rockfish		10,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 800 lb may be blackgill rockfish				
4 Splitnose rockfish	200 lb/ month						
5 Sablefish							
6 40°10' N. lat. - 36°00' N. lat.	300 lb/ day; or one landing per week up to 1,200 lb, not to exceed 2,400 lb/ 2 months			300 lb/ day; or one landing per week up to 1,400 lb, not to exceed 2,800 lb/ 2 months	300 lb/ day; or one landing per week up to 1,500 lb, not to exceed 3,000 lb/ 2 months		
7 South of 36°00' N. lat.	300 lb/ day; or one landing per week of up to 1,600 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months			300 lb/ day; or one landing per week of up to 1,600 lb, not to exceed 4,800 lb/ 2 months			
8 Shortpine thornyheads and longspine thornyheads							
9 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	CLOSED						
10 South of 34°27' N. lat.	50 lb/ day, no more than 1,000 lb/ 2 months						
11	3,000 lb/ month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs.						
12 Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish ³⁾	South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line are not subject to the RCAs.						
13							
14							
15							
16							
17 Whiting	300 lb/ month						
18 Minor Shelf Rockfish ²⁾ , Shortbelly, Widow rockfish and Chilipepper							
19 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	400 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	400 lb/ 2 months				
20 South of 34°27' N. lat.	1,500 lb/ 2 months		1,500 lb/ 2 months				
21 Canary rockfish	300 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	300 lb/ 2 months				
22 Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED						
23 Cowcod	CLOSED						
24 Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED						
25 Bocaccio	500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	500 lb/ 2 months				
26 Minor Nearshore Rockfish, California Black rockfish, & Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon rockfish							
27 Shallow nearshore ⁴⁾	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,200 lb/ 2 months				
28 Deeper nearshore ⁵⁾	1,000 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,200 lb/ 2 months				
29 California scorpionfish	1,500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lb/ 2 months				
30 Lingcod ⁶⁾	300 lb/ month	CLOSED	500 lb/ month				
31 Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months						
32 Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months			
33 Longnose skate	Unlimited						
34 Big skate	Unlimited						
35 Other Fish ⁷⁾ & Cabezon in California	Unlimited						

TABLE 3 (South)

Table 3 (South). Continued

10/14/2019

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
36	RIDGEBACK PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF 38°57.50' N. LAT., CA HALIBUT AND SEA CUCUMBER NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL						
37	NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) for CA Halibut, Sea Cucumber & Ridgeback Prawn:						
38	40° 10' N. lat. - 38° 00' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 200 fm line ^{1/}	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}				100 fm line ^{1/} - 200 fm line ^{1/}
39	38° 00' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}					
40	South of 34° 27' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm line ^{1/} around islands					
41		Groundfish: 300 lb/trip. Species-specific limits described in the table above also apply and are counted toward the 300 lb groundfish per trip limit. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of the target species landed, except that the amount of spiny dogfish landed may exceed the amount of target species landed. Spiny dogfish are limited by the 300 lb/trip overall groundfish limit. The daily trip limits for sablefish coastwide and thomyheads south of Pt. Conception and the overall groundfish "per trip" limit may not be multiplied by the number of days of the trip. Vessels participating in the California halibut fishery south of 38°57.50' N. lat. are allowed to (1) land up to 100 lb/day of groundfish without the ratio requirement, provided that at least one California halibut is landed and (2) land up to 3,000 lb/month of flatfish, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs, sand sole, starry flounder, rock sole, curffin sole, or California scorpionfish (California scorpionfish is also subject to the trip limits and closures in line 29).					
42	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL GEAR (not subject to RCAs)						
43	South	Effective April 1 - October 31: Groundfish: 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/ month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/ month; canary rockfish, thomyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of all groundfish species count toward the per day, per trip or other species-specific sublimits described here and the species-specific limits described in the table above do not apply. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.					
1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.							
2/ POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish. Blackgill rockfish have a species specific trip sub-limit within the minor slope rockfish cumulative limits. Yellowtail rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.							
3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curffin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.							
4/ "Shallow Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(1).							
5/ "Deeper Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(2).							
6/ The commercial minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.							
7/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and includes kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.							
To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.							

TABLE 3 (South) cont'd