

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON 2021-2022 OREGON RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

During the fall of 2019, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) hosted a series of public meetings to get input from anglers on the 2021 and 2022 recreational groundfish seasons structure, bag limits, and other regulations. This report summarizes ODFW’s recommendations for management measures for the 2021-2022 Oregon recreational groundfish fisheries.

Harvest Guidelines

Under the final preferred alternative on annual catch limits (ACLs) the Council adopted in April, the Oregon recreational harvest guidelines (HGs), or presumed state-specified quotas are presented in Table 1 (with 2020 values for comparison). Based on these HG levels and recent effort levels and catch rates, black rockfish and the nearshore rockfish complex species (primarily China, copper, and quillback rockfish) are the drivers of the Oregon recreational fishery in terms of the season structure and bag limits.

Table 1. Oregon recreational allocations (federal or state harvest guidelines) under the FPA for harvest specifications in 2021-2022, with 2020 values for comparison (mt).

Stock	2020 HG	2021 HG ^{a/}	2022 HG ^{a/}
Black Rockfish	389.1	389.1	389.1
Blue/Deacon Rockfish	79.1	73.7	71.2
Canary Rockfish b/	66.7	65.1	63.5
Cabazon	16.8	19.4	18.6
Greenlings c/	39.2	35.8	34.4
Nearshore Rockfish North of 40°10' N. Lat.	11.6	10.8	10.5
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH (ACT/HG values)	7.2	6.9/8.8	7.1/9.0

^{a/} The state process in Oregon establishes the commercial and recreational quotas for black, blue, and deacon rockfish, cabazon, greenling, and nearshore rockfish. The values are the presumed recreational share based on the 2020 recreational and commercial sharing percentages in Oregon state regulations.

^{b/} Federal HGs are established for canary and yelloweye rockfish and should be included in Federal regulation.

^{c/} Includes kelp and other greenlings. Kelp greenling accounts for over 99 percent of the landings.

Season Structure

The season structure and bag limits recommended by ODFW in Figure 1 for 2021-2022 are designed to stay within the respective HGs for black rockfish and nearshore rockfish species as well as the yelloweye rockfish allocation. The yelloweye rockfish allocation will allow the opening of times and areas that have been closed since 2004, which makes modeling and projecting impacts very uncertain. Therefore, in order to be precautionary, the State of Oregon will likely adopt restrictive regulations (lower bag limit, fewer months at all-depth) via state regulations, as in recent years. Inseason action can be taken to further restrict fisheries, or to ease restrictions, through a timely state process.

	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 in federal regulation 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

Figure 1. ODFW-recommended Oregon recreational groundfish season structure and bag limits for 2021 and 2022.

ODFW also recommends allowing longleader gear fishing and all-depth Pacific halibut fishing on the same trip. The ODFW April report ([Agenda Item G.6.a, ODFW Report 1](#)) presents potential additional annual impacts to yelloweye rockfish (~0.2) mt, Chinook salmon (0.6 fish), and coho salmon (6 fish) that could result from allowing both of these activities to occur on the same trip. When added to expected impacts from the regular bottomfish and Pacific halibut recreational fisheries, total projected impacts remain well within the Oregon recreational allocations.

Recommendation

ODFW recommends the Council adopt the preliminary preferred alternative season structure for the Oregon recreational groundfish fishery shown in Figure 1 and allow fishing for groundfish with longleader gear and all-depth Pacific halibut fishing on the same trip.