

## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON THE 2020 OREGON GROUNDFISH FISHERIES

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) provides the following informational report on the progress of 2020 recreational and commercial fisheries. ODFW is not requesting concurrent federal action on the recreational inseason changes.

### Recreational Fishery

ODFW monitors and manages the Oregon recreational bottomfish (groundfish) fishery inseason via data from the [Ocean Recreational Boat Survey](#) (ORBS) program. Effort, catch, and discard estimates are available monthly, on a one month lag; however, preliminary estimates are available approximately one week after the end of a statistical month.

### Initial Fishery Structure and Regulations

For 2020, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) adopted a one-fish sub-bag limit for China, copper, and quillback rockfish. This was in response to the Oregon recreational fishery exceeding its share of the Oregon harvest guideline (HG) for Nearshore Rockfish Complex north of 40° 10' N. lat. by mid-August in 2019. Even with the one-fish sub-bag limit modeling conducted by ODFW staff projected that the Oregon recreational share would be met in 2020 prior to the end of the season, and inseason action would likely be necessary.

The OFWC also adopted a one-fish sub-bag limit for cabezon, as has been done in recent years, with the season beginning July 1. Inseason action was anticipated to be necessary for cabezon as well to prevent exceeding the Oregon recreational share of the Oregon annual catch limit (ACL), similar to the last few years.

### Inseason Season Tracking and Progress

2020 started off with a month of strong winds and poor ocean conditions which prevented any ocean fishing effort (and impacts) to occur out of any Oregon ports. Then on March 23, 2020 Oregon Governor Brown issued the “Stay Home, Save Lives” executive order in response to COVID-19. Oregon ports from Florence north closed public port facilities and charter operations ceased. Oregon ports from Winchester Bay south implemented some restrictions, however the port facilities and charter operations mostly remained open. Beginning May 14, 2020 the northern port facilities and charter operations began to re-open. Effort and impacts to groundfish species were reduced in the northern ports from recent years during that time period. Effort, especially from private vessels, and impacts to some groundfish species (particularly nearshore rockfish species) was similar or slightly higher than recent years in the southern ports during that time period.

ODFW reviewed preliminary data through June in early July. That data indicated that the Oregon recreational share of the Nearshore Rockfish Complex north of 40° 10' N. lat. harvest guideline would be met in late July. Therefore, to stay within the recreational share, ODFW prohibited retention of China, copper, and quillback rockfish starting on July 20, 2020. Only those three

species were prohibited as they account for 98-99% of the landings of nearshore rockfish complex in the Oregon recreational fishery, and they are relatively easy for anglers to identify.

Also at that time, catches of key species (black, blue, deacon, and canary rockfish) were projected to be 75% or less of the harvest guidelines at the end of the year. Impacts to yelloweye rockfish were projected to be approximately 65% of the Oregon recreational HG. After consultation with ODFW’s marine Sportfishing Advisory Committee, ODFW increased the daily general marine fish bag limit from 5 to 7 fish per angler per day in state regulations (currently 10 fish in federal regulations). The increased bag limit was intended to allow anglers additional opportunity to harvest underutilized species.

ODFW again reviewed preliminary data through July on August 10<sup>th</sup>. The data indicated that the Oregon recreational share of the Oregon cabezon ACL would be met in mid-August. Therefore, ODFW prohibited retention of cabezon beginning on August 14, 2020. The prohibition date was within 2 days of the closure date in recent years.

ODFW is not requesting concurrent federal regulation changes. ODFW will continue to monitor progress of the 2020 recreational groundfish fishery, and may take additional inseason action through state regulatory process, if necessary, to stay within shares, HGs, and/or ACLs.

## Commercial Fisheries

ODFW provides the following information on commercial fishery participation, landed pounds and ex-vessel revenue for species harvested from different commercial fishing sectors in Oregon. The following tables display a broad look at how Oregon fisheries in 2020 compare to recent years (2015-2019). All data presented below is through the month of July for each year.

### Fixed Gear Fisheries

#### Oregon nearshore fishery

The nearshore fishery (Table 1) is tracking lower than in 2019. Total pounds landed (7%), ex-vessel revenue (8%), and total number of vessels (13%) were down. However, the fishery in 2020 is tracking above the previous five-year average in ex-vessel revenue (\$287,788) and total number of vessels (127).

**Table 1. Total landings, ex-vessel revenue, and vessel count in Oregon’s nearshore fishery through the month of July for each year (2015-2020).**

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	<b>2020</b>
Round Weight Pounds	294,670	230,535	281,228	323,547	308,961	<b>287,179</b>
Ex-Vessel Revenue	\$747,652	\$582,524	\$756,215	\$910,170	\$881,782	<b>\$808,191</b>
Number of Vessels	126	115	126	133	134	<b>132</b>

### Non-nearshore sablefish fishery off Oregon

The total number of vessels, total pounds landed, and ex-vessel revenue are significantly down for 2020 (Table 2). The ex-vessel revenue is down 76% when compared to 2019, and down 85% when compared to the previous five-year average (\$2,510,351).

**Table 2. Total landings, ex-vessel revenue, and vessel count in the fixed gear non-nearshore sablefish fishery landed into Oregon ports through the month of July for each year (2015-2020). Both Open Access and Limited Entry are included.**

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Round Weight Pounds	1,059,980	976,019	937,578	610,414	690,137	<b>269,143</b>
Ex-Vessel Revenue	\$3,074,420	\$3,150,621	\$3,200,509	\$1,552,820	\$1,573,383	<b>\$381,315</b>
Number of Vessels	57	91	77	81	80	<b>57</b>

### Non-nearshore, non-sablefish, fishery off Oregon

This fishery targets lingcod, slope rockfish, and shelf rockfish. The total number of vessels, total pounds landed, and ex-vessel revenue are up for 2020 compared to the previous five years (Table 3). The ex-vessel revenue is up 25% when compared to 2019, through the month of July.

**Table 3. Total landings, ex-vessel revenue, and vessel count in the fixed gear non-nearshore, non-sablefish fishery landed into Oregon ports through the month of July for each year (2015-2020). Both Open Access and Limited Entry are included.**

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Round Weight Pounds	30,844	27,201	36,461	33,496	34,485	<b>45,149</b>
Ex-Vessel Revenue	\$74,850	\$72,796	\$92,554	\$92,170	\$95,995	<b>\$120,457</b>
Number of Vessels	70	70	73	74	53	<b>72</b>

## Trawl Fisheries

### Oregon shoreside non-whiting trawl IFQ fishery

The shoreside non-whiting trawl IFQ fishery is also tracking low in 2020, compared to 2019. Landings, revenue, and participation in this fishery by gear type (bottom trawl, mid-water trawl, selective flatfish trawl, and fixed gear (gear-switching)) are shown in Table 4. The mid-water fishery has seen a significant increase in these metrics over the past few years, as trawlers look to harvest the prolific mid-water rockfish stocks. Landings and revenue in 2020 are down for each gear type, compared to 2019.

**Table 4. Total landings, ex-vessel revenue, and vessel count in the shoreside non-whiting trawl fishery landed into Oregon ports through the month of July for each year (2015-2020).**

Year		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bottom Trawl*	Round Weight Pounds	13,210,661	13,160,220	14,516,272	8,839,358	10,875,334	<b>9,038,948</b>
	Ex-Vessel Revenue	\$8,515,177	\$7,818,560	\$8,891,946	\$5,102,422	\$5,978,370	<b>\$4,533,706</b>
	Number of Vessels	32	31	44	32	38	<b>31</b>
Mid-Water Trawl	Round Weight Pounds	**	252,733	2,327,634	8,364,063	9,401,351	<b>7,681,972</b>
	Ex-Vessel Revenue	**	\$108,584	\$659,790	\$2,470,060	\$2,786,853	<b>\$1,891,215</b>
	Number of Vessels	**	3	8	13	16	<b>17</b>
Selective Flatfish Trawl	Round Weight Pounds	4,119,921	4,567,027	3,241,379	2,321,960	1,812,268	<b>1,490,132</b>
	Ex-Vessel Revenue	\$2,819,963	\$3,010,967	\$2,232,406	\$1,660,003	\$1,277,211	<b>\$948,945</b>
	Number of Vessels	12	15	15	15	13	<b>12</b>
Trawl IFQ Fixed Gear (gear-switched)	Round Weight Pounds	416,254	482,132	306,387	557,769	337,137	**
	Ex-Vessel Revenue	\$1,098,601	\$1,427,463	\$998,380	\$1,436,713	\$705,053	**
	Number of Vessels	4	6	3	4	6	**

\*Bottom trawl includes mud (sole) gear and roller gear

\*\*Less than three boats; pounds and ex-vessel revenue not displayed for confidentiality

### Oregon shoreside whiting fishery

The whiting fishery doubled in total vessels, pounds landed and ex-vessel revenue in 2017 from 2016, and has remained high (Table 5). Total pounds landed increased again in 2020 from the 2017-2019 levels; however, the number of vessels and ex-vessel revenue is more similar to 2018.

**Table 5. Total landings, ex-vessel revenue, and vessel count in the shoreside whiting trawl fishery landed into Oregon ports through the month of July for each year (2015-2020).**

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	<b>2020</b>
Round Weight Pounds	43,161,190	47,127,857	93,852,569	92,007,067	105,051,547	<b>115,922,315</b>
Ex-Vessel Revenue	\$3,376,682	\$3,236,540	\$8,070,513	\$8,260,436	\$10,162,710	<b>\$7,983,637</b>
Number of Vessels	14	16	18	18	19	<b>21</b>