

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON INSEASON
 ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2021**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) held a call on October 29, 2020 with interested California stakeholders to discuss inseason requests for 2021 received to date, including extending the recreational season lengths. CDFW prepared the data provided in this report to facilitate discussions that will aid CDFW in developing the state’s recommendations.

Recreational Season Length Extension for 2021

The proposed 2021-2022 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures include several changes to California’s recreational groundfish fishery regulations, reflecting the Council’s final recommendations from June 2020. Overall, the 2021-2022 regulations are expected to offer somewhat more opportunity than prior recent specifications cycles. However, while a number of recommendations were made to change depth and bag limits, the Council did not propose changes to season lengths (Table 1).

Table 1. California recreational groundfish season structures by management area as adopted through the 2021-22 Biennial Specifications process. Management measures are expected to be effective on or around January 1, 2021.

Management Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern	Closed				May 1 – Oct 31 <30fm						All Depth	
Mendocino	Closed				May 1 – Oct 31 <30fm						All Depth	
San Francisco	Closed			April 1 – Dec 31 <50fm								
Central	Closed			April 1 – Dec 31 <50fm								
Southern	Closed		Mar 1 – Dec 31 <100 fm									

CDFW modeled projected recreational impacts for select groundfish species under several season structure options (Table 2), including the projected impacts associated with the season structure and bag limits adopted for 2021-22 in the biennial specifications process (No Action), an alternative considered during the Biennial Specifications process that would have allowed for year-round fisheries open at all depths (Option 1), and an alternative that would extend the boat-based fishing opening date to March 1 statewide (Option 2).

There are limitations to the projected impacts provided, including:

1. Changing dynamics of the fishery due to the impacts of the ongoing COVID pandemic
2. Reduced scope of California Recreational Fisheries Survey data collected during the ongoing pandemic
3. May not accurately predict catch of certain species or species groups as restrictions to the fishery are lessened (especially into deeper depths in combination with changes to sub-bag limits).

Table 2. Projected 2021 recreational impacts (mt) for each option. Harvest limits provided represent federal recreational fishery ACTs and HGs, non-trawl (NT) sector allocations, informal California or recreational fishery allocations, or species contributions to complex limits. Data from CDFW.

Stock	No Action*	Option 1 Year-round/All-Depth*	Option 2 Mar. 1 open	California Harvest Limit
YELLOWEYE	8.5	23.0	10.3	8.9 (CA rec ACT)/ 11.4(CA rec HG)
Bocaccio S 40°10'	179.9	464.1	188.2	716.2 (CA rec HG)
Canary Rockfish	117.4	193.6	122.4	116.8 (CA rec HG)
Cowcod S 40°10'	4.1	7.7	4.2	16 (CA rec ACT)
Black Rockfish	197.8	257	203.8	345.7 (CA HG)
CA Scorpionfish	157.1	157.1	157.1	287.1 (NT-alloc)
Lingcod N 40°10'	48.9	63.3	56.2	2,799.8 (NT-alloc)
Lingcod S 40°10'	419.5	573.2	444	653.4 (NT-alloc)
Widow RF	30.2	144.1	35.5	400 (WOC NT-alloc)
Nearshore N 40°10'	20	30	23	36.6 (CA NT-share)
Nearshore S 40°10'	548.3	731.3	568	1,011.6 (NT-alloc)
Shelf N 40°10'	9.6	20.6	10	572.6 (WOC NT-alloc)
Shelf S 40°10'	555	800	565	1,146 (NT-alloc)
Vermilion S 40°10'	430	600	435	209.5 (ACL contribution)
Chilipepper S 40°10'	15	50	16.5	565.1 (NT-alloc)

* Impacts under No Action and Option 1 are the “Preferred Alternative/Option 2” on page 4-67 and “Option 3” on page 4-212, respectively, from the June 2020 [Draft Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery 2021-2022 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Analytical Document](#).

Commercial trip limit requests to date (modeling in progress):

1. Lingcod south of 40°10' N lat
2. Shortspine thornyhead south 34° 27' N lat
3. Sablefish south of 36° N lat.