

**PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY
2021 EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP)**

Enhanced Yelloweye Recreational Fishery Biological Sampling
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

2021 Preliminary Report of Results

Submitted by
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This preliminary report summarizes initial results of the Enhanced Yelloweye Recreational Fishery Biological Sampling project conducted under the exempted fishing permit (EFP) issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in 2021. This summary of data collected in 2021 is intended to fulfill the interim reporting requirements of this EFP.

The goal of this project is to better inform the biological characterization of Yelloweye Rockfish bycatch which is deficient due to regulations prohibiting the retention of this species in Washington's recreational fisheries. To this end, the EFP allowed WDFW selected vessels to retain Yelloweye Rockfish incidentally caught in Washington's 2021 coastal recreational fisheries for delivery to the WDFW in port. Vessels were subject to all other seasonal, gear, bag limit or other regulations that apply to the recreational fishery.

Twelve recreational vessels participated in the project following the terms and conditions detailed under the EFP. Of the participating recreational vessels, four charter vessels and one private vessel encountered and retained Yelloweye Rockfish over multiple trips in Washington's recreational fisheries from April through September of 2021. Charter vessels were responsible for a majority of the delivered catch (Table 2) from all Washington coastal marine areas (Figure 1).

Ninety-seven Yelloweye Rockfish were captured (Table 1) and delivered to the WDFW for biological sampling. Biological data (length, weight, sex, otoliths) were collected on all delivered fish. Ninety-three individuals were assessed macroscopically for maturity in the field and 30 ovary samples were collected for histological maturity analysis to be conducted by the North West Fisheries Science Center. Genetic fin clip samples were collected and archived from 96 individuals. Additionally, 95 Yelloweye Rockfish were scanned for internal Passive Integrated Transponder tags to facilitate WDFW tag and release research studies, however, no tags were recovered. All biological data, except ages, have been entered into the WDFW Biological Database System and is awaiting final quality control before upload to RecFIN. Ageing will be conducted by WDFW and will be uploaded to the BDS.

The 97 individuals collected and sampled over the 2021 reporting period significantly increased the available biological information describing Yelloweye Rockfish bycatch from Washington's recreational fisheries. The WDFW intends to continue this project into the second year of this management cycle (2022) to attain the project's sampling goal of biologically detailing 200 individual Yelloweye Rockfish.

Table 1. Total Yelloweye Rockfish retained for each EFP trip in 2021.

Trip Date	Vessel Number	Yelloweye Rockfish Count	Total Weight (kg)
4/16/2021	WN6689NT	1	0.28
4/17/2021	WN6689NT	2	2.11
4/19/2021	WN6689NT	1	0.57
4/20/2021	WN6689NT	1	3.52
4/21/2021	WN6689NT	1	1.11
5/3/2021	WN6689NT	1	0.59
5/10/2021	WN9183NN	1	0.86
5/12/2021	WN6689NT	1	2.47
5/16/2021	520056	1	2.34
5/16/2021	580506	2	4.20
5/20/2021	520056	2	4.32
5/21/2021	WN6689NT	1	1.37
5/22/2021	WN6689NT	1	1.31
5/23/2021	520056	4	9.25
5/23/2021	580506	1	2.21
5/30/2021	580506	2	1.82
5/30/2021	WN9183NN	2	4.76
5/31/2021	WN6689NT	1	2.93
6/10/2021	WN9183NN	3	4.48
6/12/2021	520056	1	2.32
6/14/2021	580506	1	1.66
6/17/2021	520056	1	3.33
6/17/2021	580506	1	3.11
6/17/2021	WN9183NN	1	2.93
6/21/2021	WN6689NT	1	1.01
6/24/2021	WN6689NT	1	0.90
6/25/2021	520056	2	3.66
6/28/2021	520056	1	1.80
7/3/2021	520056	1	1.02
7/3/2021	580506	1	1.61
7/9/2021	520056	3	8.07
7/10/2021	520056	1	1.49
7/10/2021	580506	1	1.67
7/11/2021	520056	1	3.84
7/13/2021	520056	3	12.46
7/17/2021	520056	4	9.98
7/17/2021	580506	1	1.55
7/19/2021	WN6689NT	1	0.75
7/21/2021	580506	1	0.51
7/22/2021	WN9183NN	2	2.65
7/23/2021	WN6689NT	1	3.06
7/25/2021	WN9183NN	1	1.47
7/26/2021	520056	1	2.82
7/28/2021	520056	2	2.89
8/1/2021	520056	2	8.26
8/5/2021	WN9183NN	5	19.87
8/7/2021	WN9183NN	3	11.25
8/10/2021	WN6689NT	3	4.30
8/11/2021	580506	1	2.27
8/12/2021	520056	4	7.96
8/15/2021	WN6689NT	1	0.96
8/16/2021	580506	2	1.33
8/21/2021	WN6689NT	1	1.74
8/26/2021	WN9183NN	1	2.58
8/29/2021	WN6689NT	1	0.86
9/3/2021	WN6689NT	2	6.55
9/10/2021	WN6689NT	1	3.13
9/10/2021	WN7426NU	3	5.13
9/12/2021	WN6689NT	1	3.56
9/23/2021	WN6689NT	1	0.93
9/24/2021	WN6689NT	1	1.85
Grand Total		97	209.59

Table 2. Number of Yelloweye Rockfish retained by Marine Area and Vessel type under this EFP in 2021.

	Marine Area 1	Marine Area 2	Marine Area 3	Marine Area 4
Charter Vessels	6	42	17	29
Private Vessels				3

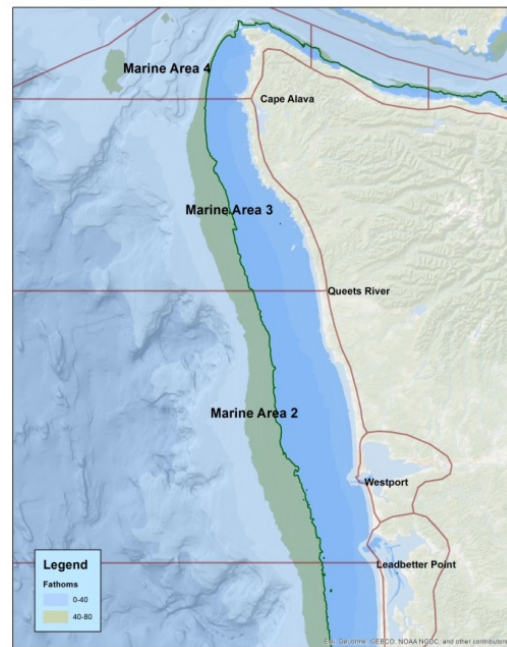


Figure 1. Washington's coastal marine areas.