

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE ON QUILLBACK ROCKFISH
RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND CATCH HISTORY IN CALIFORNIA FROM 2012-2021

Notes:

This handout was prepared for the March 23, 2022 Groundfish SPEX Discussion Meeting and is not intended to provide an exhaustive review of groundfish management or regulations history.

Groundfish management area boundaries and names have changed throughout the years.

CRFS catch estimate areas do not always align with the groundfish management areas. To help with comparing catches across years with different management area definitions, catch estimates are listed by CRFS estimate area and current management area.

Catch estimates are in metric tons. A (0.00) indicates a trace amount of fish was encountered; a (-) indicates no fish were encountered. Discrepancies in totals are due to rounding. All estimate data are from RecFIN, except for Apr-Jun 2020 which are proxy average values calculated by CDFW Groundfish Project staff due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Estimate data from 2021 are preliminary and incomplete.



Quillback Rockfish - Seasons and Depths

2021

Season Structure

Table 1. Recreational groundfish season dates and depth restrictions by management area for 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 | | | Apr 1 – Dec 31, <50 fm | | | | | | | | |
| Central | Closed | | | Apr 1 – Dec 31, <50 fm | | | | | | | | |
| Southern | Closed | | Mar 1 – Dec 31, <100 fm | | | | | | | | | |

Catch Estimates

Table 2. Quillback rockfish catch estimates by estimate and management area and month for 2021.

| Estimate Area | Current Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|
| Northern | Northern | - | - | - | - | 0.09 | 0.39 | 0.91 | 0.87 | 0.27 | 0.15 | 0.39 | 0.01 | 3.07 |
| Mendocino | Mendocino | - | - | - | - | 0.44 | 0.65 | 0.85 | 0.80 | 0.27 | 0.04 | 0.15 | 0.22 | 3.42 |
| San Francisco | San Francisco | - | - | - | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.35 | 1.26 | 0.71 | 0.73 | 0.41 | 0.52 | 4.06 |
| Central | Central | - | - | - | 0.02 | - | - | 0.03 | 0.11 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.24 |
| Southern | Southern | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Estimate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 10.79 |

2020

Season Structure

Table 3. Recreational groundfish season dates and depth restrictions by management area for 2020.

| 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, <20fm | | | | | | All Depth | |
| San Francisco | Closed | | | Apr 1 – Dec 31, <40 fm | | | | | | | | |
| Central | Closed | | | Apr 1 – Dec 31, <50 fm | | | | | | | | |
| Southern | Closed | | Mar 1 – Dec 31, <75 fm | | | | | | | | | |

Catch Estimates

Table 4. Quillback rockfish catch estimates by estimate and management area and month for 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CRFS catch estimates are not available for April-June. Proxy catch values (*in italics*) were calculated using the average monthly catch from 2017-2019 and reducing those values to approximate expected reductions to fishing effort during those months

| Estimate Area | Current Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | <i>Apr</i> | <i>May</i> | <i>Jun</i> | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Northern | Northern | - | - | - | - | <i>0.19</i> | <i>0.27</i> | 1.24 | 1.79 | 1.07 | 0.15 | 0.05 | 0.02 | 4.77 |
| Mendocino | Mendocino | - | - | - | - | <i>0.11</i> | <i>0.09</i> | 0.45 | 0.59 | 0.30 | 0.59 | 0.30 | 0.22 | 2.66 |
| San Francisco | San Francisco | - | - | - | <i>0.01</i> | <i>0.09</i> | <i>0.08</i> | 0.19 | 0.55 | 0.01 | 0.13 | 0.07 | 0.01 | 1.12 |
| Central | Central | - | - | - | <i>0.00</i> | <i>0.01</i> | <i>0.04</i> | 0.01 | 0.04 | - | 0.02 | - | 0.03 | 0.15 |
| Southern | Southern | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Estimate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 8.70 |

2019

Season Structure

Table 5. Recreational groundfish season dates and depth restrictions by management area for 2019.

| 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, <20fm | | | | | | All Depth | |
| San Francisco | Closed | | | Apr 1 – Dec 31, <40 fm | | | | | | | | |
| Central | Closed | | | Apr 1 – Dec 31, <50 fm | | | | | | | | |
| Southern | Closed | | Mar 1 – Dec 31, <75 fm | | | | | | | | | |

Catch Estimates

Table 6. Quillback rockfish catch estimates by estimate and management area and month for 2019.

| Estimate Area | Current Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|
| Northern | Northern | - | - | - | - | 0.46 | 0.70 | 1.33 | 1.69 | 0.42 | 0.15 | 0.48 | 0.01 | 5.22 |
| Mendocino | Mendocino | - | - | - | - | 0.16 | 0.26 | 0.44 | 0.12 | 0.16 | 0.30 | 0.88 | 0.05 | 2.36 |
| San Francisco | San Francisco | - | - | - | 0.04 | 0.17 | 0.05 | 0.50 | 0.65 | 0.58 | 0.67 | 0.68 | 0.12 | 3.45 |
| Central | Central | - | - | - | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.10 | 0.01 | 0.13 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.08 | 0.02 | 0.42 |
| Southern | Southern | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Estimate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 11.46 |

2018

Season Structure

Table 7. Recreational groundfish season dates and depth restrictions by management area for 2018. Inseason changes are denoted by *italics* and were made in response to high yelloweye rockfish catches.

| Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|--------|-----|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Northern | Closed | | | | May 1 – <i>Aug 24</i> , <30 fm | | | | <i>Aug 25 – Dec 31</i> , <20 fm | | | |
| Mendocino | Closed | | | | May 1 – <i>Aug 24</i> , <20 fm | | | | <i>Aug 25 – Dec 31</i> , <20 fm | | | |
| San Francisco | Closed | | | Apr 15 – <i>Aug 24</i> , <40 fm | | | | | <i>Aug 25 – Dec 31</i> , <30 fm | | | |
| Central | Closed | | | Apr 1 – <i>Aug 24</i> , <50 fm | | | | | <i>Aug 25 – Dec 31</i> , <40 fm | | | |
| Southern | Closed | | Mar 1 – Dec 31, <60 fm | | | | | | | | | |

Catch Estimates

Table 8. Quillback rockfish catch estimates by estimate and management area and month for 2018.

| Estimate Area | Current Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|
| Northern | Northern | - | - | - | - | 0.49 | 0.29 | 1.32 | 1.16 | 0.47 | 0.19 | 0.20 | 0.04 | 4.15 |
| Mendocino | Mendocino | - | - | - | 0.012 | 0.40 | 0.10 | 0.55 | 0.15 | 0.58 | 0.02 | 0.18 | - | 1.98 |
| San Francisco | San Francisco | - | - | - | 0.08 | 0.29 | 0.04 | 0.71 | 0.64 | 0.48 | 0.59 | 0.72 | 0.14 | 3.69 |
| Central | Central | - | - | - | 0.05 | - | 0.05 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.08 | 0.29 |
| Southern | Southern | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Estimate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 10.11 |

2017

Season Structure

Table 9. Recreational groundfish season dates and depth restrictions by management area for 2017. Inseason changes are denoted by *italics* and were made in response to high catches of yelloweye rockfish.

| Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| Northern | Closed | | | | May 1 – Oct 15, <30 fm | | | | | Oct 16-Dec 31, <20 fm | | |
| Mendocino | Closed | | | | May 1 – Oct 15, <20 fm | | | | | Oct 16-Dec 31, <20 fm | | |
| San Francisco | Closed | | | | April 15 – Oct 15, <40 fm | | | | | Oct 16-Dec 31, <30 fm | | |
| Central | Closed | | | | April 1 – Oct 15, <50 fm | | | | | Oct 16-Dec 31, <40 fm | | |
| Southern | Closed | | | | Mar 1 – Dec 31, <60 fm | | | | | | | |

Catch Estimates

Table 10. Quillback rockfish catch estimates by estimate and management area and month for 2017.

| Estimate Area | Current Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Northern | Northern | - | - | - | - | 0.17 | 0.25 | 1.11 | 1.34 | 0.83 | 0.24 | 0.01 | 0.27 | 4.22 |
| Mendocino | Mendocino | - | - | - | - | 0.13 | 0.06 | 0.26 | 0.22 | 0.29 | 0.14 | 0.18 | 0.10 | 1.40 |
| San Francisco | San Francisco | - | - | - | 0.00 | 0.25 | 0.23 | 0.21 | 0.85 | 0.42 | 0.22 | 0.81 | 1.08 | 4.07 |
| Central | Central | - | - | - | - | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.03 | - | - | 0.08 |
| Southern | Southern | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Estimate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 9.76 |

2015-2016

Season Structure

Table 11. Recreational groundfish season dates and depth restrictions by management area for 2015 and 2016. No inseason actions occurred during this time.

| Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|--------|-----|----------------------|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| Northern | Closed | | | | | May 15-Oct 31, <20 fm | | | | | Closed | |
| Mendocino | Closed | | | | | May 15-Oct 31, <20 fm | | | | | Closed | |
| San Francisco | Closed | | | Apr 15-Dec 31, <30 fm | | | | | | | | |
| Central | Closed | | | Apr 1-Dec 31, <40 fm | | | | | | | | |
| Southern | Closed | | Mar 1-Dec 31, <60 fm | | | | | | | | | |

Catch Estimates

Table 12. Quillback rockfish catch estimates by estimate and management area and month for 2016.

| Estimate Area | Current Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Northern | Northern | - | - | - | - | 0.12 | 0.28 | 0.51 | 0.91 | 0.53 | 0.08 | - | - | 2.42 |
| Mendocino | Mendocino | - | - | - | - | 0.07 | 0.16 | 0.11 | 0.43 | 0.18 | 0.08 | - | - | 1.03 |
| San Francisco | San Francisco | - | - | - | 0.14 | 0.24 | 0.82 | 0.43 | 0.65 | 2.41 | 0.13 | 0.11 | 0.03 | 4.97 |
| Central | Central | - | - | - | - | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.00 | - | 0.00 | 0.07 |
| Southern | Southern | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Estimate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 8.48 |

Table 13. Quillback rockfish catch estimates by estimate and management area and month for 2015.

| Estimate Area | Current Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Northern | Northern | - | - | - | - | 0.10 | 0.28 | 0.96 | 0.91 | 0.20 | 0.17 | - | - | 2.62 |
| Mendocino | Mendocino | - | - | - | - | 0.07 | 0.27 | 0.23 | 0.25 | 0.11 | 0.06 | 0.01 | - | 0.99 |
| San Francisco | San Francisco | - | - | - | 0.03 | 0.12 | 0.04 | 2.39 | 0.40 | 0.24 | 0.11 | 0.36 | 0.10 | 3.78 |
| Central | Central | - | - | - | - | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | - | - | 0.01 | - | 0.03 |
| Southern | Southern | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Estimate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7.43 |

2013-2014

Season Structure

Table 14. Recreational groundfish season dates and depth restrictions by management area for 2013 and 2014. No inseason actions occurred during this time.

| Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|--------|----------------------|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|
| Northern | Closed | | | | May 15-Oct 31, <20 fm | | | | | | Closed | |
| Mendocino | Closed | | | | May 15-Sep 1, ¹ <20 fm | | | | Closed | | | |
| San Francisco | Closed | | | | | Jun 1-Dec 31, <30 fm | | | | | | |
| Central | Closed | | | | May 1-Dec 31, < 40 fm | | | | | | | |
| Southern | Closed | Mar 1-Dec 31, <50 fm | | | | | | | | | | |

¹ The fishery closed on September 1 in 2013 and September 2 in 2014 in the Mendocino Management Area.

Catch Estimates

Table 15. Quillback rockfish catch estimates by estimate and management area and month for 2014.

| Estimate Area | Current Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Northern | Northern | - | - | - | - | 0.04 | 0.09 | 0.37 | 0.66 | 0.26 | 0.05 | - | - | 1.48 |
| Mendocino | Mendocino | - | - | - | - | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.19 | 0.15 | 0.05 | 0.00 | - | - | 0.42 |
| San Francisco | San Francisco | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0.01 | 0.14 | 0.25 | 0.01 | 0.16 | 0.03 | 0.60 |
| Central | Central | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0.03 | - | - | - | 0.03 |
| Southern | Southern | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Estimate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2.52 |

Table 16. Quillback rockfish catch estimates by estimate and management area and month for 2013.

| Estimate Area | Current Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Northern | Northern | - | - | - | - | 0.09 | 0.24 | 0.38 | 0.84 | 0.25 | 0.15 | - | - | 1.95 |
| Mendocino | Mendocino | - | - | - | - | 0.09 | 0.17 | 0.04 | 0.14 | 0.06 | 0.08 | - | 0.00 | 0.59 |
| San Francisco | San Francisco | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0.05 | 0.09 | 0.06 | 0.07 | 0.01 | 0.07 | 0.34 |
| Central | Central | - | - | - | - | 0.00 | - | 0.02 | - | - | - | - | - | 0.02 |
| Southern | Southern | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Estimate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2.89 |

2012

Season Structure

Table 17. Recreational groundfish season dates and depth restrictions by management area for 2012. Inseason changes in the Southern Management Area are denoted by *italics* and were made in response to high cowcod catches.

| Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|--------|-----|------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----|--------|-----|-----|---------------------------------|-----|
| Northern | Closed | | | | May 15 – Oct 31, <20 fm | | | | | | Closed | |
| Mendocino | Closed | | | | May 15 – Aug 15, <20 fm | | | Closed | | | | |
| San Francisco | Closed | | | | | Jun 13 - Dec 31, <30 fm | | | | | | |
| Central | Closed | | | | May 1 - Dec 31, <40 fm | | | | | | | |
| Southern | Closed | | Mar 1 – Oct 31, <60 fm | | | | | | | | <i>Nov 1- Dec 31, <50 fm</i> | |

Catch Estimates

Table 18. Quillback rockfish catch estimates by estimate and management area and month for 2012.

| Estimate Area | Current Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|-------|
| Northern | Northern | - | - | - | - | 0.16 | 0.26 | 2.28 | 0.39 | 0.10 | 0.42 | - | - | 3.60 |
| Mendocino | Mendocino | - | - | - | - | 0.05 | 0.24 | 0.21 | 0.10 | 0.13 | 0.01 | - | - | 0.75 |
| San Francisco | San Francisco | - | - | - | - | - | 0.19 | 0.01 | 0.18 | 0.19 | 0.81 | 0.07 | 0.21 | 1.66 |
| Central | Central | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Southern | Southern | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0.29 | 0.29 |
| Total Estimate | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6.31 | |