

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT  
 ON 2024 PROJECTED QUILLBACK ROCKFISH REMOVALS IN CALIFORNIA**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provides the following informational report on projected removals of quillback rockfish for 2024 to inform the rebuilding analysis. CDFW offers the following rationale for the 6.32 mt value provided by the Council via motion at the September 2023 meeting, to replace the 10.62 mt value put forward by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT).

**Quillback Removals 2024 Analysis**

While the 10.62 mt value (table 1) reflected status quo seasons and opportunities for both the recreational and commercial fisheries, substantial inseason management changes were recommended at the September Council meeting to be implemented for the remainder of 2023, and are expected to continue into 2024 that likely will result in a substantial decrease in the total mortality in 2024. They are anticipated to include:

- Prohibited retention of quillback rockfish in both the commercial and recreational fisheries in California for the entire year.
- For the commercial fisheries north of Pt. Conception, reduced trip limits for shelf species, minimal trip limits for co-occurring nearshore species, gear restrictions to limit contact with the bottom, and depth-based management to minimize targeted and non-targeted fishing opportunity in prime quillback rockfish depth distribution.
- For the recreational fishery north of Pt. Conception inseason action for 2024 may provide some limited boat-based fishing opportunities in areas shallower than 20 fathoms in state waters, alternating with non-concurrent time periods for offshore-only fishing in waters deeper than 50 fathoms.

Table 1 below reflects the component sectors where CDFW anticipates quillback mortality to occur in 2024, noting these estimates are intended to reflect the maximum impacts rather than expected values. Projections below were derived assuming the bulleted items above continue into 2024.

Table 1. 2024 quillback rockfish projections. The first column projects status quo fishing activity under a quillback prohibition and the second column projection reflects the proposed 2024 inseason actions under consideration.

<b>California</b>	<b>Status Quo (mt)</b>	<b>Reflective of Inseason Action (mt)</b>
OA Fixed Gear	5.32	1.79
Nearshore	1.75	1.75
Directed Pacific Halibut	0.28	0.28
CA Recreational	3.25	2.50
Other	0.02	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.62</b>	<b>6.32</b>