

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS - FINAL ACTION

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) discussed the management alternatives for California recreational fisheries as described in [Supplemental CDFW Report 2](#), and provides a brief commentary. The GMT also discussed the current Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundaries for commercial non-trawl fisheries, and offers a potential action for Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) consideration. Last, the GMT discovered errors in the November 2023 inseason action, which the GMT recommends be addressed for the March 2024 inseason action.

Comments on California Recreational Fishery Management Alternatives

The GMT appreciates the overview provided and work contributed to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) report on management alternatives being considered for the 2024 recreational fishery ([Agenda Item F.8.a Supplemental CDFW Report 2 March 2024](#)). It is the GMT's understanding that any of the 2024 recreational season structure options analyzed by CDFW could meet but not exceed the federal harvest guidelines based on various season structure and bag limit options for vermilion rockfish. The GMT does not have a specific recommendation on an option, and defaults to the GAP for their input on the option with the highest socioeconomic impact and the Enforcement Consultants (EC) regarding enforceability of these options. The GMT notes that season structures that are consistent between port areas and do not change drastically from month to month are typically easier for the public to understand as they decrease regulatory complexity.

Correction to 2023 November Inseason Action

Through the course of this meeting, the GMT realized that the trip limit tables published in January 2024 do not capture the intent of Council action in November of 2023 for the area between 40°10' north latitude (N. lat.) and 36° N lat., specifically for the minor shelf rockfish complex in the limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) South and open access (OA) South. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will make these corrections and the corrected values will remain effective until they are changed. The GMT provides this information for reference, as no Council action is necessary.

The incorrect trip limit tables for minor shelf rockfish complex limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) South currently read:

- 40° 10' N lat. - 34° 27' N lat.: 6,000 lbs./ 2 month period, of which no more than 500 lbs. may be vermilion rockfish
- South of 34°27' N lat.: 6,000 lbs./ 2 month period, of which no more than 3,000 lbs. may be vermilion rockfish

The trip limits should read the following for minor shelf rockfish complex LEFG South:

- 40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N. lat.: 6,000 lbs./ 2 month period, of which no more than 500 lbs. may be vermilion rockfish
- 36°00' N lat. - 34°27' N. lat.: 8,000 lbs./2 month period, of which no more than 500 lbs. may be vermilion rockfish
- South of 34°27' N. lat.: 5,000 lbs./ 2 month period, of which no more than 3,000 lbs. may be vermilion rockfish

The incorrect trip limit tables for minor shelf rockfish complex open access (OA) South currently read:

- 40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N. lat.: 3,000 lbs./ 2 month period, of which no more than 300 lbs. may be vermilion/sunset rockfish
- South of 34°27' N. lat.: 3,000 lbs./ 2 month period, of which no more than 900 lbs. may be vermilion/sunset rockfish

The trip limits should read the following for minor shelf rockfish complex OA South:

- 40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N. lat.: 3,000 lbs./ 2 month period, of which no more than 300 lbs. may be vermilion rockfish
- 36°00' N lat. - 34°27' N. lat.: 4,000 lbs./ 2 month period, of which no more than 300 lbs. may be vermilion rockfish
- South of 34°27' N. lat.: 3,000 lbs./ 2 month period, of which no more than 900 lbs. may be vermilion rockfish

Proposed Non-Trawl RCA Boundary Change

Background

On December 14, 2023, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) notified the Council that the stock of quillback rockfish off California is overfished ([Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 2, March 2024](#)). This determination was based on the 2021 stock assessment, which indicated that the stock is below its minimum stock size threshold of 25 percent unfished biomass. The 2021 stock assessment also indicated the stock size has been below the biomass target associated with maximum yield since the 1990s.

In 2023, the overfishing limit (OFL) contributions for the stock of quillback rockfish off California were exceeded. In response, at the September 2023 Council meeting, the Council recommended inseason changes to commercial and recreational fisheries to limit the mortality of quillback rockfish off California. To minimize the scope of potential restrictions that may be most effective at reducing further impacts on quillback rockfish, the GMT analyzed readily available data to see if there were any particular aspects of the fishery (*e.g.*, by sector, location, gear type, etc.) where quillback rockfish were most commonly encountered ([G.8.a. Supplemental GMT Report 2, September 2023](#)). Based on the GMT's findings, the Council recommended limiting the closures of trip limits by gear type and by area to maintain some fishing opportunities associated with limited quillback rockfish impacts, and focusing action on the sectors with greater quillback rockfish impacts (*see* 88 FR 67656, October 2, 2023 for the list of inseason changes).

At the November 2023 Council meeting, the Council recommended extending management measures adopted under the September 2023 inseason action to minimize the mortality of California quillback rockfish into the 2024 fishing season. Based on analysis conducted by the GMT at the September and November 2023 meetings ([G.8.a. Supplemental GMT Report 2, September 2023](#) and [E.9.a. Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2023](#)), the Council also recommended revising some of the measures implemented through the September 2023 inseason action to reduce discard mortality of quillback rockfish while further narrowing the scope of restrictions and minimizing the economic impact to fishing communities to the extent possible ([88 FR 90127](#), January 1, 2024).

Options for Council Consideration

The majority of the management measures implemented through the 2023 inseason actions occurred between 42° N. lat. and 36° N. lat. within the Non-Trawl RCA (as defined by the November 2023 inseason action, effective January 1, 2024) based on the limited available spatial data, which indicate that quillback rockfish are rarely encountered south of 36° N. lat. However, due to comments from numerous members of the public claiming that quillback rockfish are rarely encountered along the central coast of California, specifically in the Monterey Bay area, the GMT further investigated fishery encounters south of Año Nuevo (37° 07' N. lat.) in fishery data and additional survey datasets that were not available for previous GMT analysis.

At this meeting, the Council could consider moving the shoreward boundary of the Non-Trawl RCA between 36° N. lat. to 37° 07' N. lat. to 50 fathoms (fm) as opposed to the 3 nautical miles (nm) line. This boundary was changed via the November 2023 inseason action (effective January 1, 2024). This change would also move the latitudinal boundary of this portion of the Non-Trawl RCA (*i.e.*, the portion that was expanded to address quillback rockfish mortality concerns) from 36° N. lat. to 37° 07' N. lat. Moving the RCA boundary line would open approximately 61.4 square miles (sq. mi.) of fishing opportunity for non-trawl vessels in federal waters off Monterey Bay (*see* Figure 1 below).

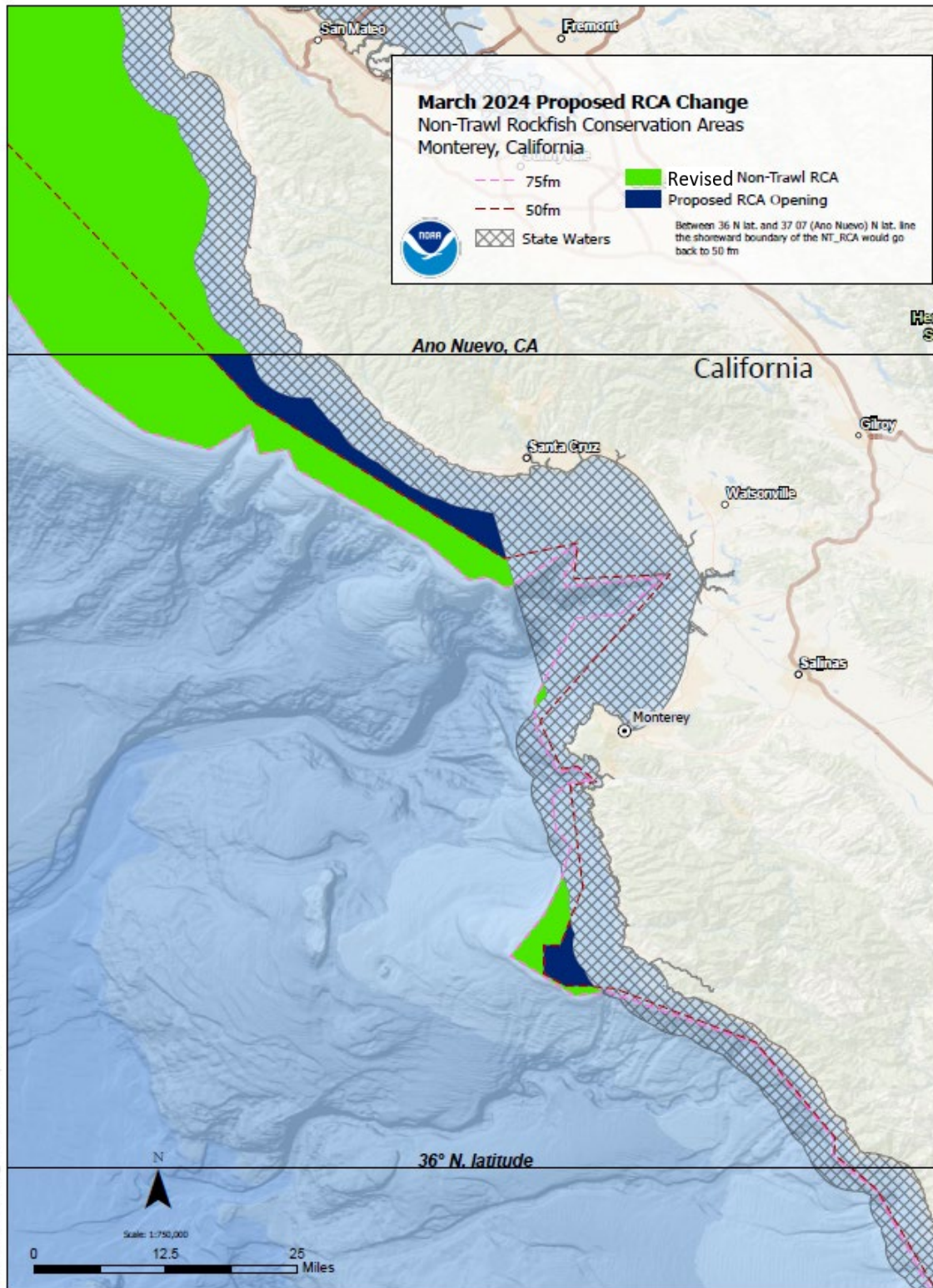


Figure 1. Proposed Non-Trawl RCA Boundary Change

During discussion with the Council’s Enforcement Committee (EC), the EC brought up an enforcement challenge with allowing a trip limit for minor shallow, deeper nearshore rockfish,

and cabezon between 37° 07' N. lat. and 36° N. lat. Except for purposes of continuous transit, it is prohibited to take and retain or possess federal groundfish, within the California Groundfish Restriction Area (*see* California [emergency rulemaking](#)). Additionally, groundfish species that are not authorized for take under the nearshore fishery or deeper nearshore fishery permit may no longer be taken and possessed in state waters north of 36° N lat. Therefore, if minor deeper/shallow nearshore rockfish, and cabezon trip limits were allowed in this area and fishermen fished for shelf species on the same trip, then they would be in violation of possession requirements when they entered California state waters except for purposes of continuous transit. To alleviate this concern, the EC requested that minor deeper/shallow rockfish, and cabezon trip limits remain at 0 lbs. per 2 month period (status quo from September and November 2023 inseason actions). In response to this concern, the GMT added a status quo option to the minor nearshore complex trip limits below.

Options for Council consideration:

No Action: The shoreward boundary of the Non-Trawl RCA between 37° 07' N. lat. and 36° N. lat. would remain at 3 nautical miles (nm) and the modified trip limits put in place to reduce quillback rockfish impacts via the November 2023 inseason action (*i.e.*, no lingcod, no cabezon, no “other flatfish,” no minor nearshore rockfish, reduced minor shelf rockfish limits) would also remain.

Option 1: Move the shoreward boundary of the Non-Trawl RCA between 37° 07' N. lat. and 36° N. lat. to 50 fm, which was the shoreward boundary prior to January 1, 2024. Revert modified trip limits for the below species and complexes back to what they were prior to the September and November 2023 inseason actions (with potential exceptions for vermilion rockfish and minor shallow/deeper nearshore rockfish). The revised trip limits for LEFG and OA sectors would be as follows:

- Minor shelf rockfish:
 - LEFG:
 - 40° 10' - 37° 07' N. lat. : 6,000 lbs. per 2 month period of which no more than 500 lbs. may be vermilion rockfish
 - 37° 07' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat.: 8,000 lbs. per 2 month period between of which no more than 500 lbs. may be vermilion rockfish
 - South of 34° 27' N. lat.: 5,000 lbs. per 2 month period of which no more than 3,000 lbs. may be vermilion rockfish
 - OA:
 - 40° 10' - 37° 07' N. lat.: 3,000 lbs. per 2 month period of which no more than 300 lbs. may be vermilion rockfish
 - 37° 07' - 34° 27' N. lat.: 4,000 lbs. per 2 month period of which no more than 300 lbs. may be vermilion rockfish
 - South of 34° 27' N. lat.: 3,000 lbs. per 2 month period of which no more than 900 lbs. may be vermilion rockfish
- Minor deeper nearshore rockfish:
 - LEFG:
 - 40° 10' - 37° 07' N. lat.: 0 lbs. per 2 month period
 - South of 37° 07' N. lat.:
 - **Status quo:** 0 lbs. per 2 month periods (EC request)

Data Overview

To determine the occurrence of quillback rockfish south of Año Nuevo, the GMT looked at data of historically encountered quillback rockfish south of Año Nuevo (37° 07' N. lat.) in commercial catches (1992-2022), recreational catches (2005-2022), West Coast Groundfish Observer Program data (WCGOP, 2002-2022), California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program survey data (CCFRP, 2014-2022), and CDFW's Marine Applied Research and Exploration (MARE) remotely operated vehicle (ROV) survey data (CDFW-MARE ROV, 2004-2021).

Nearly all quillback rockfish recreational catches in California occur north of Año Nuevo with only 1.9 percent (2.58 mt) of all recreational catches between 2005-2023 occurring south of this area and 2.4 percent (1.2 mt) in the most recent five complete data years (2018-2022, Table 1). A similar pattern is also present in the commercial landings where only 3.7 percent (5 mt) of landings from 1992-2022 occurred south of Año Nuevo with that percentage even lower in the most recent five complete data years at 0.7 percent (0.0 mt¹, 2018-2022, Table 2). The higher percentage of observed quillback landings south of Año Nuevo in the longer commercial time series may be due to variations or borrowing in species compositions used to calculate species-specific landings at nearby ports.

WCGOP, which provides data on both discarded and retained catch on observed commercial fishing vessels, had only three positively identified quillback rockfish observations south of Año Nuevo (37° 07' N. lat.). In Table 3, we show observed hauls with quillback rockfish in the nearshore and open access (OA) hook-and-line sectors, which are the commercial sectors with generally higher estimated impacts on quillback rockfish in recent years ([Somers et al., 2023a](#)). Observer coverage averages about 4 and 6 percent of landings coastwide in the non-nearshore OA fixed gear and nearshore fisheries, respectively ([Somers et al., 2023b](#)). Out of all hauls observed by WCGOP between 36° and 37° 07' N. lat., one other sector had one haul with one quillback rockfish that is not included in Table 3.

The CCFRP survey samples rocky reef areas in 0-20 fathoms sampling in locations both open and closed to fishing along California. Since 2014 the CCFRP survey has only observed one quillback rockfish south 37° 07' N. lat. (Table 4). The CDFW-MARE ROV survey also samples open and closed areas in the California nearshore area and conducts transects out to 50 fathoms. Observations of quillback rockfish in this survey south of San Francisco, excluding the Farallon Islands, were reviewed by both staff at CDFW and the Southwest Fisheries Science Center who confirmed the limited observations of quillback rockfish south of Año Nuevo (Table 5).

¹ This value is so small that it rounds to zero to the tenth decimal place, but it is not zero.

Table 1. The recreational catch of quillback rockfish in metric tons (mt) from 2005-2023 and 2018-2022 by California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS) district in California and the percent of total catch by district. The catch data from 2023 are incomplete. Districts in italics are located south of 37° 07' N. lat. Source: RecFIN

CRFS District	2005-2023		2018-2022	
	Catch (mt)	Percent by District	Catch (mt)	Percent by District
Redwood (Humboldt County, Except Shelter Cover Area, And Del Norte County)	51.7	38.3%	19.7	40.0%
Wine (Mendocino County And Shelter Cove Area In Humboldt County)	26.3	19.5%	13.5	27.4%
Bay Area (Sonoma, Marin, Solano, Napa, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, San Francisco Counties)	54.3	40.3%	14.9	30.2%
<i>Central (San Luis Obispo, Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties)</i>	2.3	1.7%	1.2	2.4%
<i>Channel (Santa Barbara and Ventura)</i>	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
<i>South (San Diego, Orange and Los Angeles Counties)^{a/}</i>	0.3	0.2%	0.0	0.0%

a/ Quillback rockfish were reported for only one year and month in the data (December 2012) in the Private/Rental mode.

Table 2. The commercial catch of California quillback rockfish in metric tons (mt) from 1992-2022 and 2018-2022 by port complex in California and the percent of catch by port complex. The catch data from 2023 is incomplete. Port complexes in italics are located south of 37° 07' N. lat. Source: CalCOM

Port complex	1992-2022		2018-2022	
	Catch (mt)	Percentage by port complex	Catch (mt)	Percentage by port complex
Crescent City	61	39.4%	3.9	34.7%
Eureka	16	10.2%	3.0	26.6%
Fort Bragg	22	14.3%	4.3	38.1%
Bodega	4	2.7%	0.0	0.0%
San Francisco	46	29.7%	0.1	0.6%
<i>Monterey</i>	5	3.4%	0.0	0.0%
<i>Morro Bay</i>	0	0.3%	0.0 ^{a/}	0.1%
<i>Santa Barbara</i>	0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%

a/ This value is so small that it rounds to zero to the tenth decimal place, but it is not zero.

Table 3. The number of hauls with quillback rockfish recorded by the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) from 2003-2022 by latitude in the nearshore and open access fixed gear hook-and-line sectors. Out of all hauls observed by WCGOP between 36° and 37° 07' N. lat., one other sector had one haul with quillback rockfish that is not included in this table.

Area N. Lat.	Sector	Total number of observed hauls	Hauls with quillback rockfish		
			Number of observed hauls	Percent of observed hauls	Percent of haul-level quillback observations
[41° - 42°)	Nearshore	1,105	320	29.0%	76.7%
[41° - 42°)	OA Fixed Gear Hook and Line	46	29	63.0%	65.9%
[40° - 41°)	Nearshore	36	28	77.8%	6.7%
[40° - 41°)	OA Fixed Gear Hook and Line	86	12	14.0%	27.3%
[39° - 40°)	Nearshore	195	29	14.9%	7.0%
[39° - 40°)	OA Fixed Gear Hook and Line	50	3	6.0%	6.8%
[38° - 39°)	Nearshore	47	3	6.4%	0.7%
[38° - 39°)	OA Fixed Gear Hook and Line	48	0	0%	0%
[37° 07' - 38°)	Nearshore	801	35	4.4%	8.4%
[37° 07' - 38°)	OA Fixed Gear Hook and Line	32	0	0%	0%
[36 - 37° 07')	Nearshore	180	0	0%	0%
[36° - 37° 07')	OA Fixed Gear Hook and Line	148	0	0%	0%
[32° - 36°)	Nearshore	1,314	2	0.2%	0.5%
[32° - 36°)	OA Fixed Gear Hook and Line	191	0	0%	0%

Table 4. The number of observations of quillback rockfish in the California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP) survey by sample location from 2014-2022. Sampling locations in italics are located south of 37° 07' N. lat. The single positive observation at Año Nuevo occurred at 37° 096' N. lat. Source: CCFRP.

Sampling Location	Positive Observations	Proportion
South Cape Mendocino	190	56.4%
Ten Mile	85	25.2%
Stewarts Point	27	8.0%
Bodega Head	33	9.8%
Año Nuevo	1	0.3%
<i>Point Lobos</i>	0	0.0%
<i>Piedras Blancas</i>	0	0.0%
<i>Point Buchon</i>	1	0.3%
<i>Carrington Point</i>	0	0.0%
<i>Anacapa Island</i>	0	0.0%
<i>South La Jolla</i>	0	0.0%

Table 5. The southernmost quillback rockfish observed in the CDFW and MARE ROV survey from 2014-2021 by sample region. Sampling locations in italics are located south of 37° 07' N. lat. Source CDFW-MARE ROV.

Area Sampled	Number observed	Percent of all observations
North of Año Nuevo to CA/OR border	1,549	98.3%
<i>Lopez Point to South of Año Nuevo</i>	26	1.7%
<i>Pt. Conception to Lopez Point</i>	0	0.0%

Biological Impacts

Based on the data presented above, commercial quillback rockfish encounters between 36° N. lat. to 37° 07' N. lat. are rare, and therefore the GMT anticipates minimal mortality impacts from moving the shoreward boundary of the Non-Trawl RCA between 37° 07' N. lat. and 36° N. lat. to 50 fm. However, due to its overfished status, catch limits are expected to be very low throughout the rebuilding time frame, and thus only a very small amount of fish will be available to account for discard mortality. The small amount of discard mortality that may result from opening this area (see Figure 1) will be a risk call by the Council. Moreover, since quillback rockfish are prohibited, no landings (data that would be immediately available) of quillback rockfish should occur. Impacts to quillback rockfish from moving the shoreward boundary of the Non-Trawl RCA between 37° 07' N. lat. and 36° N. lat. to 50 fm will come as discard mortality and will not be known until after June of 2025.

The GMT notes that many nearshore permit holders do not have a vessel monitoring system (VMS) and therefore would not be able to take advantage of this opening unless they obtained a VMS.

Encounters of quillback rockfish within this proposed opening are rare, but greater than zero, therefore, if OA effort with bottom contact gear targeting co-occurring species increases, it could increase quillback rockfish mortality. Additionally, movement of the shoreward Non-Trawl RCA boundary may cause an effort shift from Half Moon Bay and, to a lesser extent, San Francisco, as fishermen from those ports may become incentivized to travel south of 37° 07' N. lat. to take advantage of fewer regulatory constraints. The extent of this potential effort shift is unknown and only speculative at this time.

If the Council selects Option 1, there is likely to be an increase in lingcod, cabezon, other flatfish, minor nearshore, and minor shelf species mortality from 36° N. lat. to 37° 07' N. lat. However, the risk of exceeding these harvest limits is low. This action would not revert the sub-trip limit of vermilion rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.

Management Impacts

CDFW published commercial fishing regulations in February 2024 that geographically align with the Non-Trawl RCA boundaries from the November 2023 inseason action (*i.e.*, the shoreward boundary between 36° N. lat. and 37° 07' N. lat. being 3 nm). If the Council chooses to open the area shoreward of 50 fathoms from 36° N. lat. to 37° 07' N. lat., then there would be a mismatch in state vs. federal regulations that may create enforcement challenges and cause confusion among industry. Specifically, California issued an [emergency rulemaking](#) north of 36° N lat. which allows commercial fishermen who hold a state-issued shallow and/or deeper nearshore fishery permit to fish up to the trip limits established by the emergency action for those species authorized under each permit. Catch of these species is only authorized between the shore and the new California state 20-fathom boundary line. Groundfish species that are not authorized for retention under the nearshore fishery or deeper nearshore fishery permit may no longer be taken and possessed in state waters north of 36° N. lat.

Economic Impacts

Fishery closures related to quillback rockfish are expected to have adverse economic impacts on California fishing communities in 2024 and are expected to continue until the stock rebuilds. Moving the shoreward boundary of the Non-Trawl RCA to 50 fm from 36° N. lat. to 37° 07' N. lat. would yield positive economic impacts to commercial non-trawl fishermen that fish in federal waters in that area, which would otherwise not occur without the boundary move. Fishermen who fish out of Monterey Bay ports typically rely on salmon and crab fisheries as part of their portfolio. Due to the 2023 salmon season being canceled (and potentially in 2024), and shortened Dungeness crab seasons, there has been increased participation in the OA groundfish fishery. Therefore, although the area being opened is relatively small (*i.e.*, 61.4 sq mi), this Non-Trawl RCA boundary movement could provide potential relief to Monterey Bay fishermen confronted with constraints in other non-groundfish fisheries. Additionally, the fishing grounds that would be opened include shelf rockfish fishing locations that non-trawl fishermen relied on prior to its closure via the November 2023 inseason action (personal communication with Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) members).

Other Considerations

It is important to note that the potential Non-Trawl RCA boundary change would only lift restrictions for the commercial non-trawl sector. No changes are being brought forward for the recreational fishery at this time. The GMT is specifically focusing on the commercial sector

because that sector historically accounts for only 25 percent of quillback rockfish mortality, whereas the recreational sector accounts for 75 percent.

GMT Recommendation

Based on the available data presented above, it appears that quillback rockfish encounters between 36° to 37° 07' N. lat. are rare. The potential socioeconomic benefits gained from this action could outweigh the currently understood small risk to quillback rockfish, as well as the enforcement and management challenges. **Therefore, the GMT recommends Option 1, which would move the shoreward boundary of the Non-Trawl RCA to 50 fm between 36° N. lat. to 37° 07' N. lat., adopting the revised trip limits presented above, subject to the GAP and EC's input on the trip limit for minor nearshore rockfish and cabezon.** However, we recognize that this does not come without risks, and this decision is a Council risk tolerance call.

Pros of Option 1:

- Existing landings, observer, and survey data indicate rare encounters of quillback rockfish in this area.
- Gives back 61.4 sq. mi. non-trawl fishing grounds beyond the 3 nm state/federal boundary line, relieving some of the negative socioeconomic impacts on fishermen across three ports in the Monterey Bay area.
- Responds to numerous public comments from fishermen stating it is rare to encounter quillback rockfish in this region at multiple Council meetings.
- If the area is opened and quillback rockfish impacts increase between 36° N. lat. to 37° 07' N. lat., the Council could close the area again via inseason action.

Cons of Option 1:

- This change would not address public comment on fishing in state waters in Monterey Bay, as the Council only has jurisdiction in Federal waters.
- This change would create a mismatch in federal regulations vs. state regulations that would create enforcement challenges (see EC report) and regulatory complexity that may be confusing to fishermen.
- Movement of the shoreward Non-Trawl RCA boundary may cause an effort shift as fishermen from nearby, northerly ports may become incentivized to travel south of 37° 07' N. lat. to take advantage of fewer regulatory constraints.
- Low impact on quillback rockfish does not mean no impact, and due to its overfished status, ACLs are expected to be very low during rebuilding.
 - Since quillback rockfish retention is prohibited, impacts will come from discard mortality. The lag in the availability of this data may reduce the Council's ability to respond rapidly with inseason action.

Appendix.

2023 Chinook Salmon Scorecard

The 2017 Endangered Species Act Salmon Incidental Take Statement specified thresholds of Chinook salmon bycatch for the non-whiting and whiting sectors ([Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 1, March 2018](#)). In 2023, neither the whiting nor the non-whiting sectors exceeded their thresholds (Table 6). Overall bycatch of Chinook salmon in all groundfish fisheries was 7,353 fish, or 36.8 percent of the 20,000 Chinook salmon threshold.

Table 6. Chinook salmon catch (numbers of fish) in 2023 as of February 29, 2024 in relation to the sector thresholds (Source: PacFIN [IFQ021 Combined Sector Salmon Bycatch ESA Report](#)).

Sector a/	Sub-Sector	Catch To Date (# of fish)	% of Threshold	Total Threshold (# of fish)
Whiting	CP	3,354	31%	11,000
	MS	1,179	11%	
	Shoreside	1,281	12%	
	Tribal	560 b/	5%	
	Total	6,374	59%	
Non-Whiting	Bottom Trawl	288	5%	5,500
	Midwater Trawl	191	3%	
	Tribal	*	*	
	Fixed Gear	500 c/	9%	
	WA Rec			
	OR Rec + longleader			
	CA Rec			
	Total	979	18%	
All groundfish fisheries & EFPs		7,353		

a/ There is a reserve of 3,500 fish, in addition to the number of fish in the whiting and non-whiting thresholds.

b/ Current year tribal landings are estimated as the maximum of the historic landings for the last 5 years.

c/ GMT proposed assumption of annual mortality, which assumed maximum historical mortality (154) plus a 250 fish buffer from the 2017 BiOp and an additional 96 fish to account for some uncertainty in recreational salmon seasons; recreational estimates only apply to groundfish fisheries occurring outside of salmon seasons.

*confidential data

2023 Pacific Spiny Dogfish Scorecard

The 2023 estimated mortality of Pacific spiny dogfish is shown in Table 7. The table represents actual landings to date added to a recent 3-year average estimate of year-end discard mortality. Last year, 51.4 percent of the ACL was attained.

Table 7. 2023 estimated Pacific spiny dogfish mortality in metric tons (mt) by sector, as of February 29, 2024. (Source: PacFIN)

Sector	Estimated Mortality (mt)
At-Sea Hake Catcher Processor	121.4
At-Sea Hake Mothership	58.6
IFQ (non-whiting)	144.7
Shoreside Hake a/	141.6
Non-Trawl	1.1
Incidental/Miscellaneous	3.6
Recreational	2.6
Treaty	275 b/
Total	748.6
ACL	1,456
Percent ACL	51.4%

a/ For the shoreside whiting sector, landings account for roughly 90 percent of total catches, and for the bottom trawl, midwater rockfish, and non-trawl sectors, discards make up the majority of total catch

b/ 2023 set-aside for tribal fisheries, mortality is projected as full attainment

2023 Shortbelly Rockfish Scorecard

Table 8 shows the 2023 estimated mortality of shortbelly rockfish by each sector. A 2,000 metric ton threshold was established through Amendment 30 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. Should attainment exceed or be projected to exceed this threshold, the Council would consider if action is needed to reduce impact to this species. In 2023, only 10.9 percent of the threshold was attained.

Table 8. 2023 estimated shortbelly rockfish mortality in metric tons (mt) by sector, as of February 29, 2024. (Source: PacFIN)

Sector	Mortality (mt)
At-Sea Hake Catcher Processor	4.4
At-Sea Hake Mothership	10.7
IFQ	79.6
Incidental/Miscellaneous	0.3
Shoreside Hake	123.2
Treaty	N/A
Total	218.2
Threshold	2,000
Percent (%) of Threshold	10.9%

2023 Yelloweye Rockfish Scorecard

Table 9 shows the yelloweye rockfish projections from groundfish fisheries as of March 7, 2024, in relation to the specified reference points. Projected impacts are updated based on the GMT's best estimates.

Table 9. Allocations and projected mortality impacts (mt) of yelloweye rockfish as adopted for 2023 and specified in G.8, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1, September 2023. Bolded rows reflect values that have been updated since the last Council meeting.

Sector	Sub-sector	Projection (mt)	Reference Point	Tracking limit (mt)	Percent Attainment
Grand Total a/		34.2	ACL c/	52.3	65.4%
Off the top b/		12.0	Set Asides	10.7	112.0%
Trawl	CP	--	Trawl allocation	3.3	12.1%
	MS	--			
	Shoreside whiting	--			
	IFQ	0.4			
	<i>Sub Total</i>	0.4	<i>Trawl allocation</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>12.1%</i>
Non-trawl	Non-nearshore + Nearshore	3.9	HG	10.7	36.8%
	WA Rec	4.3		13.2	32.6%
	OR Rec	4.0		11.7	34.2%
	CA Rec	9.6		15.3	62.7%
	<i>Sub Total</i>	21.8	<i>HG d/</i>	<i>50.9</i>	<i>42.9%</i>
	Non-nearshore + Nearshore	3.9	ACT	6.3	62.5%
	WA Rec	4.3		7.7	55.8%
	OR Rec	4.0		7.0	57.1%
	CA Rec	9.6		9.1	105.5%
	<i>Sub Total</i>	21.8	ACT	<i>30.1</i>	<i>72.6%</i>

a/ The Grand Total is the sum of the Trawl Sector Total and Non-trawl Sector ACT Total.

b/ off the top set asides: Tribal = 8.8 mt; EFPs = 0.0 mt; Research = 0.53 mt; Incidental Open Access = 2.66 mt.

c/ ACL = Set asides + Trawl allocation + Non-trawl allocation.

d/ The non-trawl allocation is the sum of the non-trawl HGs, 50.9 mt.