

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON FINAL PREFERRED MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR 2025-2026 FISHERIES

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recommends the Preliminary Preferred Management Measure Alternatives (PPA) identified in [Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1, April 2024](#) for Council consideration as Final Preferred Alternative (FPA) management measures for the 2025 – 2026 biennium.

Routine Measures

- The modifications to the 50 fathom (fm) Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) Boundary Line off California to improve alignment of waypoints with depth contours.
- Adjustments to bag limits/sub-bag limits, size limits, and season structures for the recreational fishery off California. This includes adopting the 2024 season structure and sub-bag limits for the 2025-26 biennium, with the following modifications:
 - removing size limits for cabezon, greenling, and California scorpionfish
 - removing the fillet length for California scorpionfish
 - modifying filleting requirements for lingcod, California scorpionfish, cabezon, and greenling to have the entire skin attached as recommend by the Enforcement Consultants in [Agenda Item F.5.a Supplemental EC Report 1 April 2024](#) .

New Management Measures

- Require recreational anglers to possess a descending device aboard while fishing in Federal waters.
- Modify continuous vessel transit limitations for California recreational vessels in Federal waters.

Regulation Clarification

CDFW supports removing and/or modifying incorrect language in Federal regulations referencing a California state law that does not exist. This measure has been identified as administrative clean-up in nature and no further analysis has been required.

Other Routine Measures Not Identified in CDFW PPA Report

CDFW supports creating an Annual Catch Target (ACT) for copper rockfish south of 34° 27' N lat. to specifically address the stock assessment modeling results that suggest greater depletion in this area compared to the California stock in central and northern areas. CDFW supports an ACT equal to the proportional estimated biomass in this area (i.e., 2025 = 15.8 mt, 2026 = 18.0 mt) and if the copper rockfish south of 34°27' N. lat. ACT is exceeded, or projected to be exceeded, the Council will consider management measure adjustments to mitigate impacts. The recreational season structures in the southern management area have fishery impact projections for copper rockfish below these values and CDFW expects the ACT to effectively prevent excessive harvest in this area.