

## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2025

As a result of the 2025 Quillback Rockfish Stock Assessment indicating a healthy population status, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has taken the following state regulatory actions to restore fishing access as described below.

### Commercial

The CDFW took emergency action to modify commercial regulations in state waters by removing the shoreward of the 20-fathom boundary line depth constraint and extended federal trip limits for non-nearshore groundfish stocks into state waters, north of 37° 07' N latitude (lat.). These modifications effectively removed the constraints that were implemented in state waters to protect quillback rockfish and became effective August 21, 2025. For more information about the emergency rulemaking, see [CDFW's Regulations Webpage](#). Commercial regulations in state waters may be found on CDFW's [Groundfish Webpage](#).

### Recreational

#### *Depth Changes and Management Boundaries*

The California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) took action on August 14 to adopt emergency regulation changes for state waters which became effective August 28 (see [CDFW's Marine Management News](#) post announcing the changes). These changes follow from the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) recommended actions for federal waters at the June 2025 Council meeting and include:

- Removal of the management line at 36° N lat. (near Lopez Point) eliminating the two sub-areas within the Central Groundfish Management Area (GMA).
- Authorize fishing in the Northern, Mendocino, San Francisco, and Central GMAs for Rockfish, Cabezon and Greenling (RCG) and lingcod from April 1-December 31 in all depths.

#### *Canary Rockfish Recreational Sub-Bag Limit*

The August 14 FGC emergency action also included adoption of a new statewide 2-fish sub-bag limit for canary rockfish, also effective August 28th. The canary rockfish California recreational Harvest Guideline (HG) for 2025 is 46.7 mt. Canary rockfish catch in 2024 was 40.6 mt. The changes to depth limits described above to allow all depth fishing in several GMAs in state and federal waters will allow anglers more access to the depth range where canary rockfish are commonly taken in the recreational fishery. CDFW acknowledges the declining Overfishing Limit and Annual Catch Limit for canary rockfish is constraining all fishery sectors this biennium. The sub bag limit is expected to keep the California recreational canary rockfish catch within limits.

**CDFW Recommended Action**

Recognizing state action has already been taken to keep catches of canary rockfish within the federally established limit, **CDFW recommends the Council approve a 2 fish sub-bag limit for canary rockfish off California in federal regulations.**