

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT
ON 2025 GROUND FISH HARVEST IN CALIFORNIA

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provides the following report on harvest of select groundfish species of interest in 2025. A comprehensive reporting of groundfish mortality in California is found at the end of this report in Appendix 1. All values were rounded using standard rounding rules in each table for presentation purposes; for that reason, a sum of the values over rows or columns within tables may not equal the total value.

Inseason Regulation Changes

As described in [Agenda Item G.7, Supplemental CDFW Report 1, September 2025](#), California made recent changes to state regulations in response to the California quillback rockfish stock assessment ([Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 2, September 2025](#)). Mid-season changes to regulations should be considered when comparing groundfish mortalities in 2025 with that of other years. CDFW will continue to closely monitor groundfish mortality with respect to the limits.

Vermilion/Sunset Rockfish

Vermilion/sunset rockfish are managed within the shelf complex north and south of 40°10' N. lat., with a shared commercial and recreational non-trawl Annual Catch Limit (ACL) contribution to the shelf complex of 6.2 mt north of 40°10' N. lat. and 274.3 mt south of 40°10' N. lat. Estimated mortality is 2.1 mt (34.5% of the limit) for the area north and 156.5 mt (57.1% of the limit) for the area south, with the recreational portions of these estimates available through July (Table 1) and commercial through August (Table 2).

Mortality of vermilion rockfish south of 40°10' N lat. exceeded the species-specific ACL and Overfishing Limit (OFL) contributions to the complex each year from 2015 through 2023 (Figure 1), prompting several regulatory changes to reduce mortality. Total mortality in 2024 remained under the ACL and OFL contributions to the complex for the first time in a decade and preliminary data for 2025 indicate catches are on track. However, catch and mortality of vermilion/sunset rockfish can be variable from year to year, and are influenced by season, bag and depth regulations.

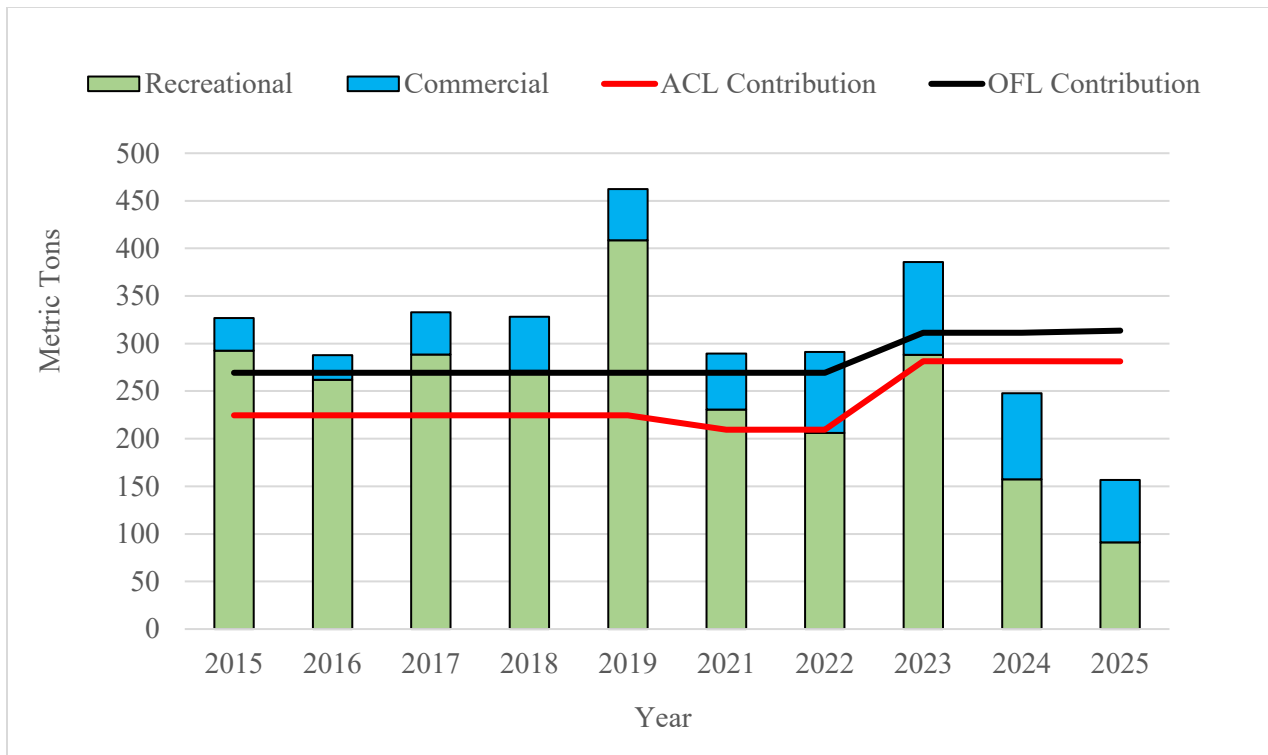


Figure 1. Recreational and commercial harvest (mt) of vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40°10' N lat. compared to the ACL and OFL contributions from 2015-2025. Commercial data do not include discard mortality estimates. Data for 2020 are not included as the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in incomplete data collection for the year. Data for 2025 are incomplete.

Appendix 1.

This appendix provides the most current California harvest information for the 2025 fishing season relative to Annual Catch Limits (ACLs), Harvest Guidelines (HGs), sector allocations, and Annual Catch Targets (ACTs) for 2025. Catch includes estimates of total mortality from the recreational sector, and landings from the commercial sector without discard mortality. Commercial landings are from the non-trawl fixed gear limited entry and open access sectors, except for blackgill rockfish landings which include both trawl and non-trawl landings.

Monthly recreational catch estimates are from RecFIN through July 2025 and reflect activity across all recreational management areas (Table 1). Commercial landings data are from PacFIN and reflect activity across all management areas from January through August 31, 2024 (Table 2). The 2025 combined recreational and commercial catches are compared to federally designated harvest specifications in Table 3.

Table 1. Estimated catch (mt) of select groundfish species in the California recreational sector by month in 2025. Data are from RecFIN, are preliminary and subject to change. Note: 0.0 indicates trace mortality; a dash (--) indicates no mortality.

Stock/Stock Complex	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Yelloweye rockfish	--	--	--	0.9	0.3	0.1	0.2						1.6
CA Quillback rockfish	--	--	--	--	0.1	0.1	0.2						0.5
CA Black rockfish	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	19.1	23.2	55.9						98.7
Canary rockfish	0.0	--	--	6.7	2.6	2.0	3.3						14.7
Darkblotched rockfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--						0.0
Shortbelly rockfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--						0.0
Splitnose rockfish N. 40°10' N. lat	--	--	--	--	--	--	--						0.0
Splitnose rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat	--	--	--	--	--	--	--						0.0
Widow rockfish	--	--	--	1.0	0.1	0.3	--						1.4
Spiny dogfish	--	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3						0.6
Dover sole	--	--	--	--	--	0.0	--						0.0
English sole	--	--	--	--	--	--	--						0.0
Petrале sole	0.0	--	1.2	6.3	1.6	2.5	3.6						15.2
Starry flounder	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2						0.4
Other flatfish	1.9	0.6	1.0	2.4	1.3	3.8	8.2						19.2
CA Cabezon	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.4	2.8	1.6	4.1						9.2
CA Kelp greenling	0.1	--	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.7						1.4

Stock/Stock Complex	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Nearshore rockfish N. 42°-40°10' N. lat. ^a	0.0	--	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.1	5.8						8.6
Copper rockfish 42°-40°10' N. lat.	--	--	--	0.0	0.4	0.4	1.3						2.1
Shelf rockfish N. 40°10' N. lat. ^b	--	--	--	0.0	0.4	0.5	1.6						2.5
Vermilion/sunset rockfish N. 40°10' N. lat.	--	--	--	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.9						1.7
Yellowtail rockfish N. 40°10' N. lat.	--	--	--	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.6						0.8
Slope rockfish N. 40°10' N. lat.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--						0.0
Lingcod N. 40°10' N. lat.	--	0.0	0.3	0.4	5.2	6.2	18.5						30.6
Nearshore rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat. ^a	0.2	0.2	0.2	7.5	24.8	33.1	85.5						151.4
Copper rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	3.5	4.4	6.7						17.6
Copper rockfish S. 34°27' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.2						9.2
CA scorpionfish	10.2	8.9	11.8	10.9	17.6	28.3	46.0						133.7
Shelf rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat. ^b	0.0	0.1	0.3	71.3	39.9	37.6	26.1						175.4
Mexican Rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.	--	--	--	0.9	8.7	2.8	0.0						12.5
Squarespot Rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	--	0.0	0.8	1.2	1.5	1.0						4.6
Vermilion/sunset rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.1	0.2	28.3	22.6	22.2	17.7						91.0
Bocaccio S. 40°10' N. lat.	--	0.0	0.0	46.4	21.8	19.2	3.6						91.0
Chilipepper S. 40°10' N. lat.	0.1	0.0	0.0	23.4	9.9	4.0	0.8						38.2
Cowcod S. 40°10' N. lat.	--	--	--	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.0						1.1
Slope rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat. ^c	--	--	--	4.0	0.8	0.9	0.1						5.8
Blackgill rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.	--	--	--	0.0	--	--	--						0.0
Lingcod S. 40°10' N. lat.	0.1	0.1	0.1	17.8	17.7	23.5	47.0						106.2
Sablefish N. 36° N. lat.	--	--	--	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.4						1.5
Sablefish S. 36° N. lat.	0.0	--	--	0.1	0.2	--	0.3						0.6
Longspine thornyhead N 34° 27' N. lat.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--						0.0
Longspine thornyhead S 34° 27' N. lat.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--						0.0
Shortspine thornyhead	--	--	--	--	--	--	--						0.0

a/Includes catch of copper rockfish

b/ Includes catch of vermilion/sunset rockfish for the area North of 40°10' N. lat.; squarespot rockfish, vermilion/sunset rockfish, and Mexican rockfish South of 40°10' N. lat.

c/ Does not include catch of blackgill rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat. due to a separate harvest limit from the slope rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat.

Table 2. Landings (mt) of select groundfish species in California commercial non-trawl fixed gear limited entry and open access sectors, except for blackgill rockfish landings which include trawl and non-trawl, by month in 2025. Data are from PacFIN (09/03/2025), are preliminary and subject to change. Note: Landing estimates do not include discard mortality. 0.0 indicates trace landings; a dash (--) indicates no landings.

Stock/Stock Complex	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--					0.0
CA QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--					--
CA Black rockfish	0.7	0.3	0.6	1.2	1.8	3.1	3.6	6.6					17.9
Canary rockfish	2.0	0.9	1.7	1.2	2.4	1.1	2.2	2.4					14.0
Darkblotched rockfish	--	--	--	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1					0.4
Shortbelly rockfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--					--
Splitnose rockfish	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					0.0
Widow rockfish	0.4	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.6					6.3
Spiny dogfish	0.3	0.2	--	--	--	0.3	0.2	0.0					1.0
Dover sole	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2					0.7
English sole	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--					--
Petrale sole	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1					0.6
Starry flounder	--	--	--	--	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1					0.2
Other flatfish	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.2					2.2
CA Cabezon	1.9	0.4	0.6	1.7	1.0	1.8	3.8	1.8					13.1
CA Kelp greenling	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2					1.1
Nearshore rockfish N. 42°-40°10' N. lat. ^a	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6					2.4
Copper rockfish 42°-40°10' N. lat.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					0.1
Shelf rockfish N. 40°10' N. lat. ^b	0.0	--	0.1	0.7	0.5	1.0	1.7	0.3					4.4
Vermilion/sunset rockfish N. 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	--	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0					0.5
Yellowtail rockfish N. 40°10' N. lat.	0.1	--	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5	1.0					2.3
Slope rockfish N. 40°10' N. lat.	--	--	--	0.1	0.0	0.8	2.5	1.3					4.7
Lingcod N. 40°10' N. lat.	--	--	--	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.5					1.1
Nearshore rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat. ^a	7.2	1.7	2.0	6.4	4.2	10.2	15.9	12.8					60.5
Copper rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2					0.9
CA scorpionfish	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.4					2.3
Shelf rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat. ^c	15.1	7.5	10.3	10.1	13.5	9.9	10.1	13.9					90.5
Mexican Rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4					2.8

Stock/Stock Complex	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Squarespot Rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.	0.0	--	--	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					0.1
Vermilion/sunset rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.	10.8	4.7	8.0	7.2	10.1	7.7	7.8	9.2					65.5
Bocaccio S. 40°10' N. lat.	10.3	7.2	10.7	14.1	8.7	17.4	14.3	7.2					89.9
Chilipepper S. 40°10' N. lat.	8.0	7.8	6.4	10.9	6.2	9.8	13.1	6.2					68.5
Cowcod S. 40°10' N. lat.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--					--
Slope rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat. ^d	1.7	0.2	0.7	1.1	0.8	1.5	1.4	1.8					9.1
Blackgill rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat. ^e	4.8	3.2	4.0	4.1	3.8	9.1	6.5	15.2					50.7
Lingcod S. 40°10' N. lat.	3.3	1.3	1.4	3.4	2.1	3.3	3.2	3.5					21.6
Sablefish N. 36° N. lat.	45.9	25.2	42.3	52.4	72.9	110.2	129.0	188.9					666.8
Sablefish S. 36° N. lat.	22.1	11.3	21.2	15.7	18.9	15.4	18.3	16.5					139.3
Longspine thornyhead N 34°27' N. lat.	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1					1.3
Longspine thornyhead S 34°27' N. lat.	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.3					2.8
Shortspine thornyhead ^f	11.1	5.4	6.1	4.9	8.9	8.4	9.5	8.8					63.0
Shortspine thornyhead N 34°27' N. lat.	4.0	2.0	3.1	1.7	4.2	4.3	6.2	4.8					30.3

a/ Includes landings of copper rockfish. Does not include landings of California black rockfish.

b/ Includes landings of vermilion/sunset rockfish

c/Includes landings of Mexican rockfish, vermilion/sunset rockfish, and squarespot rockfish

d/ Does not include landings of blackgill rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat. due to a separate harvest limit from the slope rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat.

e/ Blackgill rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat. landings include both trawl and non-trawl sectors.

f/ Shortspine thornyhead includes N 34°27' N. lat. but shown separate to track to the lower ACT.

Table 3. Estimated mortality (mt) of select groundfish species in California for 2025 compared to the harvest limits for 2025.

Stock/Stock Complex	Reference Point	Recreational Mortality (mt)	Commercial non-trawl Landings (mt)	Total (mt)	Tracking Limits	Percent Attainment
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	^a	1.6	--	1.6	8.9	17.9%
QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	ACL	0.5	--	0.5	1.2	38.8%
CA Black rockfish	ACL	98.7	17.9	116.6	222.3	52.4%
Canary rockfish	^a	14.7	14.0	28.6	43.3	66.1%
Darkblotched rockfish	Non-Trawl Allocation	0.0	0.4	0.4	36.5	1.2%
Shortbelly rockfish ^b	EC Species Threshold	0.0	--	0.0	2,000.0	0.0%
Splitnose rockfish N. 40°10' N. lat	ACL	0.0	0.0	0.0	848.0	0.0%
Splitnose rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat	Non-Trawl Allocation	0.0	0.0	0.0	74.7	0.1%
Widow rockfish	Non-Trawl Allocation	1.4	6.3	7.7	300.0	2.6%
Spiny dogfish	Fishery HG	0.6	1.0	1.6	1,037.4	0.2%
Dover sole	Non-Trawl Allocation	0.0	0.7	0.7	2,292.0	0.0%
English sole	Non-Trawl Allocation	0.0	--	0.0	433.5	0.0%
Petrале sole	Non-Trawl Allocation	15.2	0.6	15.7	30.0	52.4%
Starry flounder	Non-Trawl Allocation	0.4	0.2	0.6	187.7	0.3%
Other flatfish	Non-Trawl Allocation	19.2	2.2	21.4	780.3	2.7%
CA Cabezon	Fishery HG (CA)	9.2	13.1	22.3	161.2	13.8%
CA Kelp greenling	^c	1.4	1.1	2.5	92.5	2.7%
Nearshore rockfish N. 42°-40°10' N. lat. ^d	HG ^e	8.6	2.4	10.9	37.9	28.8%
Copper rockfish 42°-40°10' N. lat.	ACL Contribution to Complex	2.1	0.1	2.1	6.8	31.6%
Shelf rockfish N. 40°10' N. lat. ^f	Non-Trawl Allocation	2.5	4.4	6.9	511.1	1.4%
Vermilion/sunset rockfish N. 40°10' N. lat.	Non-Trawl ACL Contribution to Complex	1.7	0.5	2.1	6.2	34.5%
Yellowtail rockfish N. 40°10' N. lat.	Non-Trawl Allocation	0.8	2.3	3.1	625.9	0.5%
Slope rockfish N. 40°10' N. lat.	Non-Trawl Allocation	0.0	4.7	4.7	271.7	1.7%
Lingcod N. 40°10' N. lat.	Non-Trawl Allocation	30.6	1.1	31.6	1,842.4	1.7%
Nearshore rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat. ^d	Fishery HG	151.4	60.5	211.9	931.7	22.7%
Copper rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.	ACL Contribution to Complex	17.6	0.9	18.6	125.0	14.8%

Stock/Stock Complex	Reference Point	Recreational Mortality (mt)	Commercial non-trawl Landings (mt)	Total (mt)	Tracking Limits	Percent Attainment
Copper rockfish S. 34°27' N. lat. ^g	Rec ACT	9.2	N/A	9.2	15.8	58.1%
CA scorpionfish	Fishery HG	133.7	2.3	136.0	242.0	56.2%
Shelf rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat. ^h	Non-Trawl Allocation	175.4	90.5	265.8	1,256.0	21.2%
Mexican Rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.	Non-Trawl ACL Contribution to Complex	12.5	2.8	15.3	3.5	443.6%
Squarespot Rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.	Non-Trawl ACL Contribution to Complex	4.6	0.1	4.7	4.7	98.3%
Vermilion/sunset rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat.	Non-Trawl ACL Contribution to Complex	91.0	65.5	156.5	274.3	57.1%
Bocaccio S. 40°10' N. lat.	Non-Trawl Allocation	91.0	89.9	180.9	1,020.6	17.7%
Chilipepper S. 40°10' N. lat.	Non-Trawl Allocation	38.2	68.5	106.8	696.9	15.3%
Cowcod S. 40°10' N. lat.	Non-Trawl Allocation	1.1	--	1.1	49.0	2.3%
Slope rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat. ⁱ	Non-Trawl Allocation	5.8	9.1	14.9	249.4	6.0%
Blackgill rockfish S. 40°10' N. lat. ^j	HG	0.0	50.7	50.8	167.7	30.3%
Lingcod S. 40°10' N. lat.	Non-Trawl Allocation	106.2	21.6	127.8	441.8	28.9%
Sablefish N. 36° N. lat.	Comm OA Share + Rec Set-Aside	1.5	666.8	668.3	2,448.6	27.3%
Sablefish S. 36° N. lat.	Non-Trawl Allocation	0.6	139.3	139.9	4,541.3	3.1%
Longspine thornyhead N 34° 27' N. lat.	Non-Trawl Allocation	0.0	1.3	1.3	100.0	1.3%
Longspine thornyhead S 34° 27' N. lat.	ACL	0.0	2.8	2.8	646.0	0.4%
Shortspine thornyhead ^k	Coastwide Non-Trawl Allocation	0.0	63.0	63.0	267.6	23.5%
Shortspine thornyhead N 34°27' N. lat.	Non-Trawl ACT	0.0	30.3	30.3	67.0	45.2%

a/ The tracking limit for yelloweye and canary rockfish only includes the recreational limits as there are no state-specific HG or ACT for the non-trawl commercial sector.

b/ Shortbelly rockfish is an ecosystem component species and has a threshold of 2,000 lb as per FMP Amendment 30

c/ Reference point denotes the CA kelp greenling contribution to the Other Fish complex ACL.

d/ Includes catch of copper rockfish.

e/ The nearshore complex north of 40°10' N lat. HG is 87.8 mt. The CA share of the HG is 37.9 mt.

f/ Includes catch of vermilion/sunset rockfish

g/ The recreational sub-limit for copper rockfish south of 34° 27' N. lat. within the south of 40° 10' N. lat. limit is 15.8 mt.

h/ Includes catch of vermilion/sunset rockfish, Mexican rockfish, and squarespot rockfish

i/ Does not include blackgill rockfish landings south of 40°10' N. lat. due to a separate harvest limit from the slope rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat.

j/ Blackgill rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat. commercial landings include both trawl and non-trawl sector

k/ Shortspine thornyhead includes N 34°27' N. lat but is shown as separate due to the ACT.