

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON 2017  
GROUNDFISH MORTALITY IN CALIFORNIA

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provides the following informational report on mortality of select groundfish species for 2017. The following tables provide estimated mortality of select species by month for the recreational sector (Table 1), estimated mortality of select species by month for the commercial sector (Table 2), and estimated harvest compared to federally designated harvest specifications (Table 3). Mortality is reported in metric tons and includes landings plus discards for the recreational fishery and landings for the commercial fishery without discard mortality estimates. Preliminary recreational estimates are provided by the California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS) through September. Preliminary commercial landings through October were extracted from the California Commercial Fisheries Information System (CFIS). CDFW offers this information to assist stakeholders in evaluating future inseason actions, and those under consideration in the biennial specifications process.

**YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH UPDATE**

Yelloweye rockfish encounters in California's recreational fishery are tracked weekly during the open season. Catch estimates from CRFS are available approximately six weeks after a month of fishing is complete. Staff use weekly catch tally information from CRFS samplers, and the relationship of sample data to monthly estimates from past years to determine an Anticipated Catch Value (ACV) to use as a projection of catch during the time that CRFS estimates are not yet available for a fishing month. Once CRFS estimates become available, that information replaces the weekly ACV value.

In response to higher than anticipated catches of yelloweye rockfish during the summer months, action was taken at the September 2017 Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting to constrain fishing depths north of Point Conception to the depths used in 2016. This inseason regulation change became effective in state waters on October 16, 2017. Since this action, the reported encounter rate with yelloweye rockfish has declined precipitously. CDFW expects this trend to continue for the remainder of 2017.

The latest catch and projection information through November 11, 2017 suggests that 3.96 mt of yelloweye rockfish have been taken to date.

Table 1. Estimated mortality (mt) of select groundfish species in the California recreational sector by month, 2017.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>BOCACCIO</b>	-	0.0	13.8	11.6	18.2	16.1	5.9	19.2	12.4	97.2
<b>COWCOD</b>	-	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.6
Black Rockfish	-	0.1	0.3	1.3	10.1	15.2	23.6	20.1	11.6	82.3
Blackgill Rockfish S 40°10' N lat.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Rockfish	0.0	0.3	2.1	12.2	10.0	15.2	32.0	24.2	24.5	120.5
Cabazon	0.1	0.3	0.9	0.6	3.8	2.4	5.9	5.3	3.5	22.8
CA Scorpionfish <sup>b</sup>	3.9	4.8	5.5	3.1	15.7	20.0	19.4	8.3	0.3	81.0
Canary rockfish	-	0.0	0.1	4.5	10.9	7.8	10.4	15.9	9.7	59.3
Greenlings	0.0	0.4	1.0	0.2	2.2	1.2	1.3	0.9	0.5	7.7
Lingcod S 40°10' N lat.	0.4	0.3	7.9	26.5	57.7	44.9	51.3	64.6	47.8	301.4
Nearshore RF N 40°10' N lat <sup>b</sup>	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.6	0.9	3.1	4.0	3.3	11.9
Nearshore RF S 40°10' N lat. <sup>b</sup>	0.5	1.1	12.8	22.4	43.9	40.6	51.4	67.4	74.2	314.3

Note: 0.0 indicates trace mortality; a dash (-) indicates no mortality.

Data are preliminary

a\ The recreational fishery for California scorpionfish closed on September 1.

b\Does not include black rockfish mortality estimates.

Table 2. Estimated mortality (mt) of select groundfish species in the California commercial sector by month, 2017.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>BOCACCIO</b>	0.3	0.5	0.0	-	0.5	1.1	1.2	0.7	0.4	0.0	4.7
Black Rockfish	0.5	0.3	2.4	3.4	8.6	10.3	7.4	7.0	5.8	0.7	46.4
Blackgill Rockfish S 40°10' N lat. <sup>a</sup>	1.2	0.5	1.8	1.8	2.1	2.7	4.1	11.6	9.0	0.1	34.9
Blue Rockfish	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.2	0.5	1.0	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.2	7.0
Cabazon	1.2	0.8	0.0	0.0	3.1	2.5	3.5	2.7	3.7	0.2	17.7
CA Scorpionfish	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.0	1.0	1.9
Canary Rockfish	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.1	3.6
Greenlings	0.2	0.1	-	-	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.0	2.6
Lingcod S 40°10' N lat.	1.4	1.2	0.0	-	6.6	5.1	6.8	8.4	9.5	1.9	40.9
Nearshore RF N 40°10' N lat. <sup>b, c</sup>	0.3	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3	1.1	1.3	0.2	5.0
Nearshore RF S 40°10' N lat. <sup>b</sup>	4.7	4.5	-	-	8.6	8.1	12.7	11.3	11.3	1.4	62.6

Note: Landings include non-trawl, non-IFQ fixed-gears for limited entry and open access sectors.

Data are preliminary and mortality estimates do not include discard mortality.

0.0 indicates trace mortality; a dash (-) indicates no mortality.

a) Blackgill rockfish landings include both IFQ and non-IFQ sectors.

b) Does not include black rockfish mortality estimates.

c) Applies only between 40°10' N lat. and 42° N lat.

Table 3. Estimated mortality (mt) of select groundfish species in California during 2017 compared to corresponding 2017 harvest specifications.

	Reference point description	Estimated mortality (mt)	Management reference points	
			ACL/HG (mt)	% of ACL/HG
<b>Overfished Stocks</b>				
Bocaccio	HG (rec)	97.2	326.1	30%
Cowcod	Non-Trawl Alloc.	0.6	2.6	23%
<b>Non-Overfished Stocks</b>				
Black rockfish	HG (statewide)	128.7	332	39%
Blackgill rockfish S 40°10' N lat. <sup>a</sup>	HG	34.9	120.2	29%
Blue rockfish	HG (statewide)	127.5	304.6	42%
Cabazon	ACL	40.5	149	27%
California scorpionfish <sup>b</sup>	ACL	82.9	111	75%
Canary rockfish	HG (rec)	59.3	135	44%
Greenlings	c	10.3	55.3	19%
Lingcod S 40° 10' N lat.	Non-Trawl Alloc.	342.3	683.1	50%
Nearshore rockfish N 40°10' N lat. <sup>d, e</sup>	HG	16.9	40.2	42%
Nearshore rockfish S 40°10' N lat. <sup>e</sup>	ACL	376.9	1,159	33%

a) Includes IFQ landings.

b) The recreational fishery for California scorpionfish closed on September 1.

c) Reference point denotes ACL contribution to Other Fish complex

d) Applies only between 40°10' N lat. and 42° N lat.

e) Does not include black rockfish mortality estimates.