

Summary of 2018 Groundfish Mortality in California

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provides the following informational report on mortality of select groundfish species for 2018. These data are preliminary and CDFW will provide final 2018 mortality values in 2019.

2018 Recreational Yelloweye Rockfish Update

An update on recreational yelloweye rockfish catches through October 21 and an update to projected impacts through the end of 2018 is provided below (Table 1). Staff track the fishery weekly using catch tally information from California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS) samplers. The relationship of sample data to monthly catch estimates from past years is used to determine an Anticipated Catch Value (ACV) to use as a projection until monthly CRFS catch estimates are available (approximately six weeks after a month of fishing is complete). Once available, the CRFS catch estimates replace weekly the ACV value.

In response to higher than anticipated catches of yelloweye rockfish during the summer months, CDFW took action effective August 25, 2018 followed by action by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) at the September meeting to constrain the fishing depths north of Point Conception.

Incorporating the most recent information, the latest catch projection through October 21 suggests that 4.44 mt (114% of the 3.9 mt harvest guideline) of yelloweye rockfish have been taken to date. CDFW also revised the projected impacts through the end of 2018, which now increased to 4.89 mt (Table 1).

Table 1. Summary of projected impacts for yelloweye rockfish through Oct 21, 2018 and updated projected impacts through the end of 2018. Data are from CDFW and are preliminary.

	Catch to Date		Best Estimate of Catch
	ACV	Estimate	
January	0.00	0.00	0.00
February	0.00	0.00	0.00
March	0.01	0.02	0.02
April	0.05	0.10	0.10
May	0.70	0.68	0.68
June	0.30	0.36	0.36
July	1.12	1.39	1.39
August	1.25	1.40	1.40
September	0.40		0.40
October (through Oct 21)	0.11		0.25
November			0.15
December			0.15
Total		4.44	4.89

Update to Mortality for Select Groundfish Species in 2018

Preliminary 2018 estimated mortality for select species by month through August are provided for the recreational sector (Table 2) and through October for the commercial sector (Table 3). Estimated harvest is also compared to federally designated harvest specifications (Table 4). 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 CRFS. Preliminary commercial landings data are from CDFW.

Table 2. Estimated mortality (mt) of select groundfish species in the California recreational sector by month, 2018.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Total ^a
BOCACCIO	-	0.0	7.6	12.4	12.6	12.0	10.3	13.6	68.5
COWCOD	0.0	-	-	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.4
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	See Table 1								
Black Rockfish	0.1	-	0.2	0.6	12.4	11.1	22.8	21.2	68.4
Blackgill Rockfish S 40°10'N lat.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Rockfish	0.0	0.0	4.7	11.6	8.4	9.3	21.4	24.7	80.1
Cabezon	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.7	4.2	2.1	3.5	5.0	15.9
CA Scorpionfish ^b	4.7	5.4	2.7	2.0	11.2	27.0	34.7	16.3	104.0
Canary Rockfish	-	-	0.0	5.5	6.3	4.5	8.5	12.4	37.2
Greenlings	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.8	2.8
Lingcod S 40°10' N lat.	0.4	0.3	1.4	12.3	36.9	23.4	49.5	59.1	183.3
Nearshore RF N 40°10' N lat. ^c	0.0	-	0.0	-	2.5	1.1	4.6	3.8	12.0
Nearshore RF S 40°10' N lat. ^c	0.5	0.3	20.4	37.2	46.6	36.0	79.9	82.3	303.2

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

Data are preliminary

a\ Discrepancies in the total are due to rounding

b\ The recreational fishery for California scorpionfish closes on September 1.

c\ Does not include black rockfish mortality estimates.

Table 3. Estimated mortality (mt) of select groundfish species in the California commercial sector by month, 2018.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total ^a
BOCACCIO	0.9	1.0	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.8	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.6	7.1
COWCOD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
Black Rockfish	1.5	0.4	0.6	2.7	2.4	4.8	7.1	5.6	7.2	3.7	36.0
Blackgill Rockfish S 40°10' N lat. ^b	3.7	0.6	1.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	6.8	6.0	13.6	4.8	39.5
Blue Rockfish	0.5	1.0	0.6	0.1	0.2	1.0	1.5	1.6	1.7	0.6	8.8
Cabezon	1.3	1.7	-	-	1.1	2.1	3.8	2.9	3.3	0.9	17.1
CA Scorpionfish	0.1	0.1	-	-	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0	-	1.0
Canary Rockfish	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.3	4.6
Greenlings	0.3	0.2	-	-	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.2	2.9
Lingcod S 40°10' N lat. ^c	1.8	2.2	0.0	0.0	2.6	3.4	7.7	10.2	7.8	3.6	39.3
Nearshore RF N 40°10' N lat. ^{d,e}	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.3	1.9	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.3	5.8
Nearshore RF S 40°10' N lat. ^e	4.6	8.5	-	-	3.7	9.7	14.8	14.1	12.3	4.2	71.9

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) Discrepancies in the total are due to rounding

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

c) March and April landings are from an EFP that is exempt from federal trip limits.

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

e) Does not include black rockfish mortality estimates.

Table 4. Estimated mortality (mt) of select groundfish species in California during 2018 compared to corresponding 2018 harvest specifications.

	Reference point description	Estimated mortality (mt)	Management reference points	
			ACL/HG (mt)	% of ACL/HG
Overfished Stocks				
Bocaccio	HG (rec)	68.5	305.5	22%
Cowcod	Non-Trawl Alloc.	0.4	2.6	15%
Yelloweye rockfish	HG (rec)	4.4	3.9	114%
Non-Overfished Stocks				
Black rockfish statewide	ACL	104.4	331	32%
Blackgill rockfish S 40°10' N lat. ^a	HG	39.5	122.4	32%
Blue rockfish	HG (statewide)	88.9	311.1	29%
Cabazon	ACL	33.0	149	22%
California scorpionfish ^b	ACL	105.0	150	70%
Canary rockfish	HG (rec)	37.2	135	28%
Greenlings	^c	5.7	55.3	10%
Lingcod S 40° 10' N lat.	Non-Trawl Alloc.	222.6	624.3	36%
Nearshore rockfish N 40°10' N lat. ^{d, e}	HG	17.8	40.2	44%
Nearshore rockfish S 40°10' N lat. ^e	ACL	375.1	1,179	32%

a) Includes IFQ landings.

b) The recreational fishery for California scorpionfish closes 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.