

Proposed Changes to the California Commercial and Recreational Groundfish Fishery  
Management Measures for the 2011-2012 Season

Modifications to commercial and recreational management measures for the 2011-2012 season are being considered for final action by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) at this meeting. Many of the proposed management measures pertaining to California fisheries have been evaluated by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and are currently available for review in the draft EIS Document under Agenda Item B.3. Additional analyses pertaining to California will be submitted by CDFG in a supplemental report prior to the June meeting and will be available at the meeting and from the electronic briefing book on the Pacific Fishery Management Council website at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/briefing-books>. Management measure specification options provided at the PFMC April 2010 meeting (Agenda Item I.4.b, Supplemental CDFG Report) are summarized below and are still available for consideration at the June meeting, except those identified at the end of this report.

**Commercial**

The following management measures are covered in the draft EIS document Agenda Item B. 3:

- Lingcod Spawning Closure Modification
- Removal Of Other Flatfish Gear Restriction

Trip limit modifications for nearshore species including nearshore rockfish, scorpionfish, and lingcod will be considered inseason as necessary to stay within harvest limits.

**Recreational**

The following management measure options and analyses are covered in the draft EIS document under Agenda Item B.3.

- Revision of Depth Restriction in the Cowcod Conservation Area (from 20 fms to 30 fms or 40 fms).

The following recreational management measure options and analyses will be covered in a forthcoming supplemental CDFG report under Agenda Item B.3.

- Changes in Groundfish Management Area depth and season restrictions.
- Lingcod spawning closure in the Southern Management Area (eliminate closure during March and December).
- Revision of Species Retention Restrictions in the Cowcod Conservation Area (CCA) [Allowing retention of shelf and slope rockfish other than cowcod, canary and bronzespotted rockfish in the open depths and seasons within the CCA.]

- Changes in Depth Restrictions in Groundfish Management Areas pertaining to scorpionfish in the Southern Management Area.
- Elimination of the 10 fm Depth Closure around the Farallon Islands and Noonday Rock.
- Combine the South-Central Morro Bay and South-Central Monterey Bay Management Areas
- Additional Management Line at Cape Vizcaino (in the North-Central North of Point Arena Management Area).
- 2011-2012 Rockfish, Cabezon and Greenlings (RCG) Bag Limits Under Consideration
  - a. Cabezon—increase the Sub-bag limit
- Increase the Lingcod Bag Limit to 3 or 4 fish.
- Lingcod Size Limit (Reduce from 24 inches to 22 inches).
- Catalina Island 100 fm Depth Closure.

In-depth analysis of the following recreational management measure options was discontinued at the April Council, but may be reconsidered in future regulatory specification cycles once the related issues are resolved.

- Rockfish Fishery in Waters Deeper than 150 fms: Discontinued due to a lack of representative data to project impacts.
- Exemption of Federally Managed Flatfish from Depth and Season Restrictions: Discontinued due to concerns regarding impacts on Petrale Sole which is currently overfished.