



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

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www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/index.html



PUBLIC NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 3, 2017

PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY **2017-2018 Harvest Specifications and Commercial and Recreational Management Measures** **Final Rule, Effective February 7, 2017**

The final rule regarding the 2017-2018 Pacific Coast Groundfish Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures and Amendment 27 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan has filed with the *Federal Register*, will be placed on public inspection in the *Federal Register* on Monday, February 6, and will publish on Tuesday, February 7, 2017. This rule makes changes to existing management measures, which are explained below.

Regulations contained in this rule are effective February 7, 2017. For commercial fishery cumulative trip limits, increases will be effective February 7 and decreases will begin on March 1, 2017. See the sector-specific sections below for more information. The full rule, when published in the *Federal Register*, can be found at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/frn/groundfish_frns.html

Some regulations regarding retention in Cowcod Conservation Areas, Cordell Banks, and the California recreational fishery will be revised for consistency with California state regulations and Pacific Fishery Management Council intent. All harvest specifications put forth in the final rule are effective on publication until superseded.

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AT A GLANCE:

New federal requirements for each fishery sector (see below for Pacific Whiting Fishery and Tribal Fishery information, which are not listed here):

	LEFG	OA	IFQ Program	Recreational
Closed Areas and Area Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify seaward boundary of non-trawl RCA in area 40°10' to 34°27' N. lat. from 150 fm to 125 fm • Modify shoreward boundary south of 34°27' N. lat., from 60 fm to 75 fm • Revised lat/longs for off CA: 30 fm line (currently used to define the non-trawl RCA), 40 fm line, and 150 fm line (currently used to define the non-trawl RCA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify seaward boundary of non-trawl RCA in area 40°10' to 34°27' N. lat. from 150 fm to 125 fm • Modify shoreward boundary south of 34°27' N. lat., from 60 fm to 75 fm • Revised lat/longs for off CA: 30 fm line (currently used to define the non-trawl RCA), 40 fm line, and 150 fm line (currently used to define the non-trawl RCA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify trawl RCA boundaries in the area north of Cape Alava (48°10' N. lat.) to open the shoreward area. Boundaries are 100 fm line to the 150 fm line, year round. This RCA configuration is consistent with the RCA boundaries currently in effect south of Cape Alava to 45°46' N. lat. • *NOTE* For vessels operating under gear switching provisions, see also the LEFG closed areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA - modifications to southern boundary of the lingcod closed area • CA - modifications to closed areas
Sorting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorting: big skate must be sorted to species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorting: big skate must be sorted to species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorting: big skate must be sorted to species 	<i>[intentionally blank]</i>
Commercial Trip Limits; Recreational bag limits, size limits and seasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New 300 lb/2 month trip limit allows retention of canary rockfish • New trip limits for yellowtail rockfish N of 40°10' N. lat. • Revised trip limits for the Minor Shelf Rockfish complex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New 150 lb/ 2 month trip limit allows retention of canary rockfish • Revised trip limits for the Minor Shelf Rockfish complex between 40°10' N. lat. and 34°27' N. lat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No trip limit changes • QS accounts will be topped up with 2017 QP shortly after publication of the final rule. The QP for widow rockfish will be based on QS holdings as of January 1, 2017. See below for more details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA – Shorter season length; new winter closure October through February (see specific dates below) • WA - 10 rockfish sub-bag limit with a one canary rockfish

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<p>between 40°10' N. lat. and 34°27' N. lat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New trip limits for bocaccio in the area S of 40°10' N. lat. • Revised trip limits for Minor Nearshore Rockfish in the area S of 40°10' N. lat. • Revised sablefish trip limits • New 2017 and 2018 Primary Sablefish Fishery Tier Limits are announced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New trip limits for bocaccio in the area S of 34°27' N. lat. • Revised trip limits for Minor Nearshore Rockfish in the area S of 40°10' N. lat. • Revised sablefish trip limits 	<p>sub-limit in Marine Areas 1 & 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA – 2 lingcod sub-bag limit with a minimum size of 22 inches • WA - modify flatfish retention during all depth Pacific halibut • OR - remove canary rockfish sub-bag limit within marine fish bag • OR – remove kelp greenling size restriction • OR - modify flatfish retention during all depth Pacific halibut • CA - groundfish, RCG, and lingcod, season dates are slightly adjusted • CA - decrease lingcod bag limit • CA - modify sub-bag limits for black rockfish, bocaccio, canary rockfish, to the RCG complex
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Updates to the Pacific Fishery Management Plan:

Big skate is now considered “in the fishery” instead of an ecosystem component species. With this change, big skate now have harvest specifications and must be sorted in commercial fisheries.

California has new inseason management measures for black rockfish, canary rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish, allowing NMFS to take inseason action outside of a Council meeting.

Canary rockfish and petrale sole have been declared rebuilt and their harvest specifications are no longer derived from their former rebuilding plans. Particularly for canary rockfish, this means the harvest specifications are higher in 2017-2018 than in recent years.

A new management tool where unallocated quota, or “buffer” of darkblotched rockfish, canary rockfish or Pacific Ocean perch (POP) can be distributed to any sector in response to a demonstrated need. Distribution of all or part of the buffer would be considered through the Council process after an unforeseen catch event of one or more of these three species.

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Limited Entry Fixed Gear (LEFG) Fishery

Closed Areas

Modifications to Latitude and Longitude Coordinates Defining RCAs

This rule refines selected coordinates: the 30 fm line, 40 fm line, and 150 fm line off California. The changes to the coordinates around Noon Day rock are proposed to address an area where the current RCA is not enforceable because it is too small. The other changes are proposed to more accurately define the depth contours.

These changes described above refine lines that approximate the depth contours but make no regulatory changes to how, or for which fisheries, those lines may be used. The coordinates that define the lines are listed at § 660.71 through § 660.74, and are posted on the NMFS WCR website.

Change to Boundary of the Non-Trawl RCA

The non-trawl RCA boundaries for 2017–2018 are the same as those in place for the non-trawl fisheries in 2015–2016, except for the seaward boundary from 40°10' N. lat. to 34°27' N. lat., which is proposed to be shifted from 150 fm to 125 fm, and the shoreward boundary south of 34°27' N. lat., which is proposed to be shifted from 60 fm to 75 fm.

The complete list of boundary lines for the 2017-2018 non-trawl RCA can be found at the top of the limited entry fixed gear trip limit tables (Tables 2 North and 2 South, attached). RCA boundaries may be revised inseason, if fishery information warrants it.

Sorting

During consideration of changes to stock complexes, the Council found that a majority of the unspecified skate landed is now known to be big skate. A stock that is targeted and generally retained for sale can no longer be classified as an ecosystem component species and is considered “in the fishery.” **Big skate now has species specific harvest specifications and must be sorted to species.**

Trip Limits – for a complete list of trip limits, see the tables at the end of this notice

Canary rockfish

Canary rockfish is declared rebuilt and the 2017-2018 ACLs have increased from 2016. Therefore, the Council recommended allowing canary rockfish to be retained in limited amounts. Per the Council recommendation, NMFS is implementing a **“300 lb per 2 months” trip limit for canary rockfish in the limited entry fixed gear fishery coastwide.**

Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat.

Yellowtail rockfish is a healthy stock whose overall catch is far below the allowable amounts. The Council recommended establishing a species-specific trip limit to promote greater utilization of the resource. Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing a **species specific trip limit for yellowtail rockfish in the limited entry fixed gear fishery north of 40°10' N. lat. of “1,000 lb per month.”**

Minor Nearshore Rockfish and Black rockfish South of 40°10' N. lat.

The Council recommended increases in trip limits for Minor Nearshore Rockfish and Black rockfish in the area south of 40°10' N. lat. to allow higher attainment of their harvest targets and ACLs.

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For period 1 (January-February), shallow nearshore trip limits are increasing from “600 lb per 2 months” to **“1,200 lb per 2 months.”** Vessels harvesting these species in this area may not exceed a cumulative amount of 1,200 lb for the months of January and February. If a vessel has already harvested 600 lb, they may harvest an additional 600 lb before February 28.

For period 1, deeper nearshore trip limits are increasing from “700 lb per 2 months” between 40°10’ N. lat. and 34°27’ N. lat. and from “500 lb per 2 months” south of 34°27’ N. lat. to **“1,000 lb per 2 months”** for the entire area south of 40°10’ N. lat. A vessel that fished between 40°10’ N. lat. and 34°27’ N. lat. and landed 700 lb may land an additional 300 lb before February 28. A vessel that fished south of 34°27’ N. lat. and landed 500 lb may land an additional 500 lb before February 28. **No vessel fishing in the area south of 40°10’ N. lat. may exceed a cumulative total for Minor Nearshore Rockfish and Black rockfish of 1,000 lb during January-February.**

Taking and retaining Minor Nearshore Rockfish and Black rockfish in the limited entry fixed gear fishery south of 40°10’ N. lat. is prohibited in Period 2 (March-April)(i.e. is CLOSED). Increased limits described above for Period 1 resume in Periods 3-6, beginning May 1.

Bocaccio South of 40°10’ N. lat.

The Council recommended a species-specific trip limit for bocaccio in the area between 40°10’ N. lat. and 34°27’ N. lat. and increasing the trip limit in the area south of 34°27’ N. lat. to more fully attain the increased harvest specification for this species. **Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing trip limits in the limited entry fixed gear fishery between 40°10’ N. lat. and 34°27’ N. lat. of “1,000 lb per 2 months” in periods 1-6 and south of 34°27’ N. lat. of “1,500 lb per 2 months” in periods 1 and 3-6 (closed in period 2 (March-April)).**

Sablefish Daily Trip Limit (DTL) Fishery North of 36° N. lat.

The Council recommended a slight decrease to limited entry fixed gear sablefish trip limits in the area north of 36° N. lat. These changes are anticipated to allow harvest opportunities to attain but not exceed the allocation in this area. **Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing trip limit changes for the LEFG sablefish DTL fishery north of 36° N. lat. from “1,275 lb per week, not to exceed 3,375 lb per 2 months” to “1,100 lb per week, not to exceed 3,300 lb per 2 months” periods 2-6, beginning on March 1, 2017.**

For period 1 (January-February) the weekly limit decreases on February 7 from 1,275 lb to 1,125 lb but the two-month cumulative trip limit announced in this public notice is unchanged from that in place January 1, 2017 (3,375 lb per 2 months). After Monday, February 6, (e.g. between Tuesday, February 7 through Saturday, February 11) vessels delivering a weekly limit of sablefish may not deliver more than a total of 1,125 lb.

2017 and 2018 Primary Sablefish Fishery

Regulations for this fishery can be found at §660.231, Subpart E, and a separate notice that answers frequently asked questions about the primary sablefish fishery will be e-mailed separately. Based on increased sablefish harvest specifications, tier limits for the limited entry fixed gear primary sablefish fishery are higher than in 2015–2016.

The 2017 tier limits are as follows:

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Tier 1 = 45,120 lb, Tier 2 = 20,509 lb, Tier 3 = 11,720 lb

The 2018 tier limits are as follows:

Tier 1 = 47,050 lb, Tier 2 = 21,386 lb, Tier 3 = 12,221 lb

As catch against a vessels tier limit(s) is completed the vessel is then eligible to fish in the limited entry (LE) daily trip limit (DTL) fishery under trip limits. As of January 1, 2017, any sablefish landed must be documented on an electronic fish ticket. A tier limit is no longer considered “complete” at or below 300 lb, but the vessel operator must tell the first receiver how to split the landing, including finishing the tier limit and switching to LEFG DTL. After the entire tier limit(s) have been landed, all subsequent landings are subject to LEFG trip limits.

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Open Access (OA) Fishery

Closed Areas

Modifications to Latitude and Longitude Coordinates Defining RCAs

This rule refines selected coordinates. These changes are described in more detail above in the Limited Entry Fixed Gear section and also apply to vessels participating in the open access fishery.

Change to Boundary of the Non-Trawl RCA

The shoreward boundary of the non-trawl RCA, between 42° N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat., will move from the line approximating the 20 fm depth contour to the line approximating the 30 fm depth contour. These changes are described in more detail above in the Limited Entry Fixed Gear section.

Sorting

During consideration of changes to stock complexes, the Council found that a majority of the unspecified skate landed is now known to be big skate. A stock that is targeted and generally retained for sale can no longer be classified as an ecosystem component species and is now considered “in the fishery.” **Therefore, big skate now has species specific harvest specifications and must be sorted to species.**

Trip Limits – for a complete list of trip limits, see the tables at the end of this notice

Canary rockfish

Canary rockfish is designated rebuilt. **Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing a trip limit in the open access gears north of 40°10' N. lat. and south of 40°10' N. lat. of: “150 lb/ 2 months.”**

Yellowtail rockfish North of 40°10' N. lat.

Yellowtail rockfish is a healthy stock whose overall catch is far below the allowable amounts. The Council recommended establishing a species-specific trip limit to promote greater utilization of the resource. **Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing a species specific trip limit for yellowtail rockfish in the open access fishery north of 40°10' N. lat. of “500 lb per month.”**

Minor Shelf Rockfish between 40°10' N. lat. and of 34°27' N. lat.

Minor Shelf Rockfish, shortbelly, widow, and chilipepper rockfish are all included under a single trip limit. Trip limits in periods 1 and 3-6 are increased. Period 2 remains closed. **Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing trip limits in the open access fishery between 40°10' N. lat. and 34°27' N. lat. of: “400 lb per 2 months” in periods 1 and 3-6.**

Minor Nearshore Rockfish and Black rockfish South of 40°10' N. lat.

The Council recommended increases in trip limits for Minor Nearshore Rockfish and Black rockfish in the area south of 40°10' N. lat. to allow higher attainment of their harvest targets and ACLs. The trip limits for the open access fishery are the same as those described above for the limited entry fixed gear fishery (see above).

Bocaccio South of 40°10' N. lat.

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For the 2017-2018 biennium the Council recommended an increase to the bocaccio trip limits in the area south of 40°10' N. lat., to reduce discards as the stock rebuilds. **Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing bocaccio trip limits in the open access fishery south of 40°10' N. lat. of “500 lb per 2 months” in periods 1 and 3-6. Period 2 remains CLOSED.**

Sablefish Daily Trip Limit (DTL) Fishery North of 36° N. lat.

The Council recommended revising the sablefish trip limits in the open access fishery for the area north of 36° N. lat. These changes slightly increase sablefish limits from those that were in place during 2016 to allow greater harvest opportunities on sablefish.

Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing trip limit changes for the OA sablefish DTL fishery north of 36° N. lat. to “300 lb/day, or one landing per week of up to 900 lb, not to exceed 1,800 lb/ 2 months” in periods 2-6, beginning on March 1.

For period 1 (January-February) the trip limits announced in this public notice are unchanged from those in place January 1, 2017 (300 lb per day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,000 lb, not to exceed 2,000 lb per 2 months).

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Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program

Closed Areas

Modifications to Latitude and Longitude Coordinates Defining RCAs

This rule refines selected coordinates. These changes are described in more detail above in the Limited Entry Fixed Gear section and also apply to vessels participating in the Shorebased IFQ Program.

Changes to the Boundary of the Trawl RCA

For 2017-2018 the boundary off northern Washington is modified to be consistent with the RCA currently south of Cape Alava to 45°46' N. lat. **The boundary of the trawl RCA north of 48°10' N. lat. is changed from 150 fm and 200 fm to 150 fm and the shoreward boundary changed from shore to 100 fm.** The schedule for the 2017-2018 trawl RCA can be found at the top of the Tables 1 North and 1 South, attached). RCA boundaries may be revised inseason, if fishery information warrants it.

Sorting

During consideration of changes to stock complexes, the Council found that a majority of the unspecified skate landed in the Shorebased IFQ Program is now known to be big skate. A stock that is targeted and generally retained for sale can no longer be classified as an ecosystem component species and is considered “in the fishery.” **Big skate now has species specific harvest specifications and must be sorted to species.**

First receivers and catcher vessels in the Shorebased IFQ Program have additional requirements and exemptions related to sorting at 660.130(d)(2), all of which are unchanged via this rulemaking.

Trip Limits

For vessels fishing IFQ, with either groundfish trawl gear or non-trawl gears, the following incidentally caught species are managed with trip limits (the same as in 2016): Minor nearshore rockfish north and south, black rockfish, cabezon (46°16' N. lat. to 40°10' N. lat. and south of 40°10' N. lat.), spiny dogfish, shortbelly rockfish, big skate, Pacific whiting, and the Other Fish complex. No changes to trip limits in the IFQ fishery are proposed for the start of the 2017–2018 biennium; however, changes to trip limits are considered a routine measure under § 660.60(c) and may be implemented or adjusted, if determined necessary, through inseason action.

2017 Shorebased IFQ Program Allocation

The Groundfish Permits Office will top-up quota share (QS) accounts with 2017 quota pounds (QP) shortly after publication of the final rule. The QP for widow rockfish will be based on QS holdings as of January 1, 2017, and will not incorporate the proposed widow rockfish reallocation that has not yet been finalized. NMFS will proceed with a final rule for the widow rockfish QS reallocation in 2017, with implementation scheduled for January 1, 2018, if approved.

Based on the trawl sector allocations in this final rule, NMFS will issue the remaining QP to QS accounts for all IFQ species, except Pacific whiting and Pacific halibut. Allocations for Pacific whiting and Pacific halibut will be issued later this spring after the final rules for those species are implemented. An updated table of 2017 Shorebased IFQ vessel limits with daily and annual quota pound limits will be posted shortly.

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Below is a table showing the shorebased trawl allocations for IFQ species in pounds based on the Shorebased IFQ Program allocation for 2017 (§660.140(d)(1)(ii)(D)) and the vessel limits specified at §660.140(e)(4). These values are used to calculate the amount of QP that can be transferred to a vessel account. Values for Pacific halibut and Pacific whiting will change between interim and final.

Shorebased IFQ Program allocations and limits for 2017:

IFQ SPECIES	2017 Shorebased Trawl Sector Allocation (mt)	2017 Shorebased Trawl Sector Allocation in Pounds	2017 Interim Allocations in Pounds (actual)	Top-Off Pounds
Arrowtooth flounder	11,120.60	24,516,726.31	6,687,440.00	17,829,286.31
Bocaccio rockfish South of 40°10' N.	302.40	666,677.88	187,436.00	479,241.88
Canary rockfish	1,060.10	2,337,120.44	98,004.00	2,239,116.44
Chillipepper rockfish South of 40°10' N.	1,920.80	4,234,639.13	2,637,232.00	1,597,407.13
Cowcod South of 40°10' N.	1.40	3,086.47	3,083.00	3.47
Darkblotched rockfish	535.60	1,180,795.88	645,478.00	535,317.88
Dover sole	45,986.00	101,381,775.80	101,370,252.00	11,523.80
English sole	9,263.60	20,422,742.10	14,631,283.00	5,791,459.10
Lingcod North of 40°10' N.	1,374.70	3,030,694.72	2,388,422.00	642,272.72
Lingcod South of 40°10' N.	558.90	1,232,163.58	929,491.00	302,672.58
Longspine thornyheads North of 34°27' N.	2,704.80	5,963,063.26	5,952,030.00	11,033.26
Minor shelf rockfish North of 40°10' N.	1,183.10	2,608,289.02	2,417,349.00	190,940.02
Minor shelf rockfish South of 40°10' N.	192.20	423,728.47	423,650.00	78.47
Minor slope rockfish North of 40°10' N.	1,368.80	3,017,687.44	2,711,552.00	306,135.44
Minor slope rockfish South of 40°10' N.	432.70	953,940.21	937,453.00	16,487.21
Other flatfish	7,475.40	16,480,435.93	13,922,406.00	2,558,029.93
Pacific cod	1,036.40	2,284,870.88	2,273,789.00	11,081.88
Pacific halibut (IBQ) North of 40°10' N.*			144,861.00	
Pacific ocean perch North of 40°10' N.	220.00	485,016.98	268,687.00	216,329.98
Pacific whiting*			31,783,811.00	
Petrale sole	2,750.30	6,063,373.59	5,805,653.00	257,720.59
Sablefish North of 36° N.	2,416.00	5,326,368.25	5,315,872.00	10,496.25
Sablefish South of 36° N.	780.80	1,721,369.34	990,681.00	730,688.34
Shortspine thornyheads North of 34°27' N.	1,571.30	3,464,123.52	3,420,026.00	44,097.52
Shortspine thornyheads South of 34°27' N.	50.00	110,231.13	110,126.00	105.13
Splitnose rockfish South of 40°10' N.	1,661.80	3,663,641.87	3,634,800.00	28,841.87
Starry flounder	635.90	1,401,919.52	1,390,859.00	11,060.52
Widow rockfish	12,094.20	26,663,146.89	2,954,410.00	23,708,736.89
Yelloweye rockfish	1.10	2,425.08	2,376.00	49.08
Yellowtail rockfish North of 40°10' N.	4,546.10	10,022,434.89	9,361,037.00	661,397.89

* Indicates preliminary value, used for issuance; to be updated when a final amount is available.

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Recreational Fishery

General

Continuing in 2017 and 2018, the recreational groundfish fishery will be managed through bag limits, size limits, gear restrictions, and time/area closures. **Management measures for recreational fisheries off all three West Coast states are found at §660.360, subpart G.**

Washington Recreational Fisheries

Closed Areas

As in 2016, regulations include a Washington State lingcod recreational fishing closure area off Washington Marine areas 1 and 2, a portion of which are closed to lingcod fishing, except on days that the primary Pacific halibut fishery is open ((§ 660.360 (c)(1)(iv)(B)). For 2017–2018, the southern boundary of the lingcod area closure off Washington Marine Areas 1 and 2 will be shifted five miles north (from 46°28' N. lat. to 46°33' N. lat.) to allow additional access to deepwater lingcod areas without expected increases in yelloweye rockfish catches.

Bag Limits

The aggregate groundfish bag limits off Washington will continue to be 12 fish. The rockfish and lingcod sub-limits are similar to 2015–2016 sub-limits. For rockfish, a 10 rockfish sub-limit with no retention of canary or yelloweye rockfish except in Marine Areas 1 and 2. In Marine Areas 1 and 2 there will be a one canary rockfish sub-limit (with a new option to expand and increase canary rockfish retention inseason). For lingcod, there is a two lingcod sub-limit, with the lingcod minimum size of 22 inches (56 cm).

Seasons

The season dates in Marine Areas 1-4 are shortened, with a winter closure from late October through February. The season will open the second Saturday in March, and close the third Saturday in October.

For 2017 season dates, or for more specific descriptions regarding marine area boundaries, please refer to § 660.360 (c)(1)(iv)(A).

Flatfish

Flatfish retention is allowed in the Columbia River area along with Pacific halibut when halibut are onboard. Starting in Marine Area 1, when the nearshore incidental halibut fishery is open, landing incidental Pacific halibut on groundfish trips is allowed only in the nearshore area on days not open to all-depth Pacific halibut fisheries in the area shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 30 fm (55 m) depth contour extending from Leadbetter Point, Washington, to the Washington-Oregon border, and from there, connecting to the boundary line approximating the 40 fm (73 m) depth contour in Oregon.

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Oregon Recreational Fisheries

Off Oregon, recreational fishing for groundfish in 2017-2018 will have the same season structures and closed area as in 2015-2016. The marine fish bag limit is the same as 2015-2016, except for removing the size restriction of kelp greenling and the one fish sub-bag limit for canary rockfish. Also, changes to groundfish retention in Oregon during nearshore Pacific halibut fishing days are described above in the Washington recreational section. **For 2017 season dates, or for more specific descriptions, please refer to § 660.360 (c)(2).**

California Recreational Fisheries

General

For 2017-2018, recreational fisheries off California will continue to be managed as five separate areas. California recreational management areas and regulations can be found at §660.350(c)(3).

Closed Areas and Seasons

Compared to the 2016 season structure, the Northern and Mendocino Management Areas will be extended by two and a half months, through December 31. Allowable fishing depths are increased in the Northern Management Area from 20 fm to 30 fm during May 1 through October 31. Due to high yelloweye rockfish encounters in the Mendocino Management Area, the depth restriction remains at 20 fathoms from May 1 through October 31. However, from November through December, the depth restriction will be eliminated in both the Northern and Mendocino Management Areas; fishing is permissible at all depths. Allowable fishing depths are increased in the San Francisco and Central Management Areas by 10 fathoms to 40 and 50 fathoms, respectively.

Due to projected cowcod impacts, the season structure in the Southern Management Area remains the same as in 2016. Similarly, the California scorpionfish season remains the same as in 2016 (*i.e.* closed September through December), except for the opening date in the Mendocino area will be changed to May 1 instead of May 15. Coordinates for all boundary lines and closed areas are defined at §§660.70-660.74 and are posted on the NMFS WCR website.

Bag Limits and Size Limits

Size, bag, and sub-bag limits remain the same as 2016 except for black rockfish, bocaccio, canary rockfish, and lingcod. To keep within allowable limits, the black rockfish sub-bag limit is reduced from five to three fish within the 10 fish aggregate RCG complex bag limit. For bocaccio, the 3-fish sub-bag limit (within the 10 fish aggregate RCG complex bag limit) is eliminated to reduce discarding; anglers are able to retain up to 10 bocaccio. For canary rockfish, due to its newly rebuilt status, retention is allowed with a sub-bag limit of one fish (within the 10 fish aggregate RCG complex bag limit). Finally, for lingcod, the bag limit is reduced from three fish to two fish.

Inseason Process

A new inseason process was developed for only black rockfish, canary rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish, and only in California. This system allows NMFS to take inseason action outside of a Council meeting when a Federal harvest specification for one of these species is projected to be attained or had been attained prior to the start of the next scheduled Council meeting, and works similar to NMFS' current inseason process.

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Tribal Fishery

All of the Federal regulations specific to Pacific Coast treaty Indian fisheries are grouped together at §660.50. Many of the tribal fishery management measures are unchanged from 2015-2016, with a few exceptions: sablefish Tribal set asides will be set at 10 percent of the Monterey through Vancouver area ACL minus 1.5 percent (reduced from 1.6 percent in 2016) to account for estimated discard mortality, with changes in size of discarded fish; widow rockfish are will be managed by Tribal regulation to stay within the annual 440,000 lb (200 mt) Tribal catch limit; trip limits for Dover sole, English sole, and other flatfish and arrowtooth flounder will be established through Tribal regulation only, adjusted inseason to stay within the overall harvest targets and overfished species limits. This changes from established trip limits in place in 2016. See regulations at [§660.50](#) for details.

**Trip limit tables, effective February 7, 2017,
are included at the end of this public notice.**

This Public Notice serves as a Small Entity Compliance Guide for the final rule which establishes the 2017-2018 harvest specifications and management measures for the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery in Federal regulations. This public notice was prepared pursuant to section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-121. The statements in this document are intended solely as guidance. This document is intended to provide a plain-language summary of how small businesses can comply with these final regulations.

For more information contact: NMFS West Coast Region at 206-526-6147 or visit our website at <http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov>, click on “Fisheries” then “Groundfish” in the left side banner.

Any discrepancies between this Public Notice and the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

Table 1 (North) to Part 660, Subpart D -- Limited Entry Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Landing Allowances for non-IFQ Species and Pacific Whiting North of 40°10' N. Lat.

This table describes Rockfish Conservation Areas for vessels using groundfish trawl gear. This table describes incidental landing allowances for vessels registered to a Federal limited entry trawl permit and using groundfish trawl or groundfish non-trawl gears to harvest individual fishing quota (IFQ) species.

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read § 660.10 - § 660.399 before using this table

08/17/2016

TABLE 1 (North)

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:							
1	North of 45°46' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}					
2	45°46' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - modified ^{2/} 200 fm line ^{1/}					
<p>Selective flatfish trawl gear is required shoreward of the RCA; all bottom trawl gear (large footrope, selective flatfish trawl, and small footrope trawl gear) is permitted seaward of the RCA. Large footrope and small footrope trawl gears (except for selective flatfish trawl gear) are prohibited shoreward of the RCA. Midwater trawl gear is permitted for vessels targeting whiting and non-whiting during the days open to the primary whiting season. Vessels fishing groundfish trawl quota pounds with groundfish non-trawl gears, under gear switching provisions at § 660.140, are subject to the limited entry groundfish trawl fishery landing allowances in this table, regardless of the type of fishing gear used. Vessels fishing groundfish trawl quota pounds with groundfish non-trawl gears, under gear switching provisions at § 660.140, are subject to the limited entry fixed gear non-trawl RCA, as described in Tables 2 (North) and 2 (South) to Part 660, Subpart E.</p>							
<p>See § 660.60, § 660.130, and § 660.140 for Additional Gear, Trip Limit, and Conservation Area Requirements and Restrictions. See §§ 660.70-660.74 and §§ 660.76-660.79 for Conservation Area Descriptions and Coordinates (including RCAs, YRCA, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).</p>							
State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than federal trip limits, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.							
3	Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish	300 lb/ month					
4	Whiting^{3/}	<p>Before the primary whiting season: CLOSED. -- During the primary season: mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.131 for season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: CLOSED.</p> <p>Before the primary whiting season: 20,000 lb/trip. -- During the primary season: 10,000 lb/trip. -- After the primary whiting season: 10,000 lb/trip.</p>					
5	midwater trawl						
6	large & small footrope gear						
7	Cabezon^{4/}						
8	North of 46°16' N. lat.	Unlimited					
9	46°16' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	50 lb/ month					
10	Shortbelly rockfish	Unlimited					
11	Spiny dogfish	60,000 lb/ month					
12	Big skate	5,000 lb/ 2 months	25,000 lb/ 2 months	30,000 lb/ 2 months	35,000 lb/ 2 months	10,000 lb/ 2 months	5,000 lb/ 2 months
13	Longnose skate	Unlimited					
14	Other Fish^{4/}	Unlimited					

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours, and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to the RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ The "modified" fathom lines are modified to exclude certain petrale sole areas from the RCA.

3/ As specified at §660.131(d), when fishing in the Eureka Area, no more than 10,000 lb of whiting may be taken and retained, possessed, or landed by a vessel that, at any time during the fishing trip, fished in the fishery management area shoreward of 100 fm contour.

4/ "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling, leopard shark, and cabezon in Washington

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

Table 1 (South) to Part 660, Subpart D -- Limited Entry Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Landing Allowances for non-IFQ Species and Pacific Whiting South of 40°10' N. Lat.

This table describes Rockfish Conservation Areas for vessels using groundfish trawl gear. This table describes incidental landing allowances for vessels registered to a Federal limited entry trawl permit and using groundfish trawl or groundfish non-trawl gears to harvest individual fishing quota (IFQ) species.							
Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read § 660.10 - § 660.399 before using this table							08/17/2016
		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:							
1	South of 40°10' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/2/}					
Small footrope trawl gear is required shoreward of the RCA; all trawl gear (large footrope, selective flatfish trawl, midwater trawl, and small footrope trawl gear) is permitted seaward of the RCA. Large footrope trawl gear and midwater trawl gear are prohibited shoreward of the RCA. Vessels fishing groundfish trawl quota pounds with groundfish non-trawl gears, under gear switching provisions at § 660.140, are subject to the limited entry groundfish trawl fishery landing allowances in this table, regardless of the type of fishing gear used. Vessels fishing groundfish trawl quota pounds with groundfish non-trawl gears, under gear switching provisions at § 660.140, are subject to the limited entry fixed gear non-trawl RCA, as described in Tables 2 (North) and 2 (South) to Part 660, Subpart E.							
See § 660.60, § 660.130, and § 660.140 for Additional Gear, Trip Limit, and Conservation Area Requirements and Restrictions. See §§ 660.70-660.74 and §§ 660.76-660.79 for Conservation Area Descriptions and Coordinates (including RCAs, YRCA, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).							
State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than federal trip limits, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.							
2	Longspine thornyhead						
3	South of 34°27' N. lat.	24,000 lb/ 2 months					
4	Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish	300 lb/ month					
5	Whiting						
6	midwater trawl	Before the primary whiting season: CLOSED. -- During the primary season: mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.131 for season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: CLOSED.					
7	large & small footrope gear	Before the primary whiting season: 20,000 lb/trip. -- During the primary season: 10,000 lb/trip. -- After the primary whiting season: 10,000 lb/trip.					
8	Cabezon	50 lb/ month					
9	Shortbelly rockfish	Unlimited					
10	Spiny dogfish	60,000 lb/ month					
11	Big skate	5,000 lb/ 2 months	25,000 lb/ 2 months	30,000 lb/ 2 months	35,000 lb/ 2 months	10,000 lb/ 2 months	5,000 lb/ 2 months
12	Longnose skate	Unlimited					
13	California scorpionfish	Unlimited					
14	Other Fish^{3/}	Unlimited					
1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours, and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to the RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.							
2/ South of 34°27' N. lat., the RCA is 100 fm line - 150 fm line along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm line around islands.							
3/ "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling, leopard shark, and cabezon in Washington							
To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.							

TABLE 1 (South)

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

Table 2 (North) to Part 660, Subpart E -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 40°10' N. lat.

		Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table						01042017
		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC	
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:								
1	North of 46° 16' N. lat.	shoreline - 100 fm line ^{1/}						
2	46° 16' N. lat. - 42° 00' N. lat.	30 fm line ^{1/} - 100 fm line ^{1/}						
3	42° 00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat.	30 fm line ^{1/} - 100 fm line ^{1/}						
<p>See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).</p>								
<p>State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.</p>								
4	Minor Slope Rockfish^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish	4,000 lb/ 2 months						
5	Pacific ocean perch	1,800 lb/ 2 months						
6	Sablefish	1,125 lb/week, not to exceed 3,375 lb/ 2 months	1,100 lb/week, not to exceed 3,300 lb/ 2 months					
7	Longspine thornyhead	10,000 lb/ 2 months						
8	Shortspine thornyhead	2,000 lb/ 2 months			2,500 lb/ 2 months			
9								
10	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish^{3/}	5,000 lb/ month						
11		South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line, are not subject to the RCAs.						
12								
13								
14								
15	Whiting	10,000 lb/ trip						
16	Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}, Shortbelly, & Widow rockfish	200 lb/ month						
17	Yellowtail rockfish	1,000 lb/ month						
18	Canary rockfish	300 lb/ 2 months						
19	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED						
20	Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish							
21	North of 42°00' N. lat.	5,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue/deacon rockfish ^{4/}						
22	42° 00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat.	8,500 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish	7,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish					
23	Lingcod^{5/}	200 lb/2 months		1,200 lb/ 2 months		600 lb/ month	200 lb/ month	
24	Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months						
25	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months			
26	Longnose skate	Unlimited						
27	Other Fish^{6/} & Cabezon in Oregon and California	Unlimited						

TABLE 2 (North)

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

Footnotes from Table 2 (North):

1/	The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.
2/	Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish and splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish.
3/	"Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.
4/	For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09.50' N. lat.), and between Destruction Is. (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Pnt. (46°38.17' N. lat.), there is an additional limit of 100 lb or 30 percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip.
5/	The minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) total length North of 42° N. lat. and 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.
6/	"Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling, leopard shark, and cabezon in Washington.
To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.	

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

Table 2 (South) to Part 660, Subpart E -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear								
South of 40° 10' N. lat.								
Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table								
		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC	
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:								
1	40° 10' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat.	30 fm line ^{1/} - 125 fm line ^{1/}						
2	South of 34° 27' N. lat.	75 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} (also applies around islands)						
See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).								
State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.								
3	Minor Slope rockfish^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish	40,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,375 lb may be blackgill rockfish			40,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,600 lb may be blackgill rockfish			
4	Splitnose rockfish	40,000 lb/ 2 months						
5	Sablefish							
6	40° 10' N. lat. - 36° 00' N. lat.	1,125 lb/week, not to exceed 3,375 lb/ 2 months	1,100 lb/week, not to exceed 3,300 lb/ 2 months					
7	South of 36° 00' N. lat.	2,000 lb/ week						
8	Longspine thornyhead	10,000 lb/ 2 months						
9	Shortspine thornyhead							
10	40° 10' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat.	2,000 lb/ 2 months			2,500 lb/ 2 months			
11	South of 34° 27' N. lat.	3,000 lb/ 2 months						
12	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish^{3/}	5,000 lb/ month						
13		South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line, are not subject to the RCAs.						
14								
15								
16	Whiting	10,000 lb/ trip						
17								
18	Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}, Shortbelly rockfish, Widow rockfish (including Chilipepper between 40° 10' - 34° 27' N. lat.)							
19	40° 10' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat.	Minor shelf rockfish, shortbelly, widow rockfish, & chilipepper: 2,500 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 500 lb may be any species other than chilipepper.						
20	South of 34° 27' N. lat.	4,000 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	4,000 lb/ 2 months				
21	Chilipepper							
22	40° 10' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat.	Chilipepper included under minor shelf rockfish, shortbelly and widow rockfish limits - - See above						
23	South of 34° 27' N. lat.	2,000 lb/ 2 months, this opportunity only available seaward of the non-trawl RCA						
24	Canary rockfish	300 lb/ 2 months						
25	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED						
26	Cowcod	CLOSED						
27	Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED						
28	Bocaccio							
29	40° 10' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat.	1,000 lb/ 2 months						
30	South of 34° 27' N. lat.	1,500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lb/ 2 months				
31	Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish							
32	Shallow nearshore	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,200 lb/ 2 months				
33	Deeper nearshore	1,000 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,000 lb/ 2 months				
34	California Scorpionfish	1,500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lb/ 2 months				
35	Lingcod^{4/}	200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	800 lb/ 2 months			400 lb/ month	200 lb/ month
36	Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months						
37	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months		100,000 lb/ 2 months		
38	Longnose skate	Unlimited						
39	Other Fish^{5/} & Cabezon	Unlimited						

TABLE 2 (South)

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

Footnotes from Table 2 (South):

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.
2/ POP is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish. Blackgill rockfish have a species specific trip sub-limit within the Minor Slope Rockfish cumulative limit. Yellowtail rockfish are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.
3/ "Other Flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.
4/ The commercial minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.
5/ "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling, leopard shark, and cabezon in Washington.
To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

Table 3 (North) to Part 660, Subpart F -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears North of 40° 10' N. lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table		01042017					
		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:							
1	North of 46° 16' N. lat.	shoreline - 100 fm line ^{1/}					
2	46° 16' N. lat. - 42° 00' N. lat.	30 fm line ^{1/} - 100 fm line ^{1/}					
3	42° 00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat.	30 fm line ^{1/} - 100 fm line ^{1/}					
See §§660.60, 660.330 and 660.333 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).							
State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.							
4	Minor Slope Rockfish^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish	Per trip, no more than 25% of weight of the sablefish landed					
5	Pacific ocean perch	100 lb/ month					
6	Sablefish	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,000 lb, not to exceed 2,000 lb/ 2 months	300 lb/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 900 lb, not to exceed 1,800 lb/ 2 months				
7	Shortpine thornyheads and longspine thornyheads	CLOSED					
8	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish^{3/}	3,000 lb/ month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs.					
9		South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "Other Flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line are not subject to the RCAs.					
10							
11							
12							
13							
14	Whiting	300 lb/ month					
15	Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}, Shortbelly rockfish, & Widow rockfish	200 lb/ month					
16	Yellowtail rockfish	500 lb/ month					
17	Canary rockfish	150 lb/ 2 months					
18	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED					
19 Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish							
20	North of 42° 00' N. lat.	5,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish					
21	42° 00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat.	8,500 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish	7,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish				
22	Lingcod^{5/}	100 lb/ month		600 lb/ month			100 lb/ month
23	Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
24	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months		
25	Longnose skate	Unlimited					
26	Other Fish^{6/} & Cabezon in Oregon and California	Unlimited					

TABLE 3 (North)

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

Table 3 (North). Continued		Table 3 (North) cont'd
27	SALMON TROLL (subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish and lingcod, as described below)	
28	North	
<p style="margin: 0;">Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lb of yellowtail rockfish for every 2 lbs of salmon landed, with a cumulative limit of 200 lb/month, both within and outside of the RCA. This limit is within the 200 lb per month combined limit for minor shelf rockfish, widow rockfish and yellowtail rockfish, and not in addition to that limit. Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lingcod per 15 Chinook per trip, plus 1 lingcod per trip, up to a trip limit of 10 lingcod, on a trip where any fishing occurs within the RCA. This limit only applies during times when lingcod retention is allowed, and is not "CLOSED." This limit is within the per month limit for lingcod described in the table above, and not in addition to that limit. All groundfish species are subject to the open access limits, seasons, size limits and RCA restrictions listed in the table above, unless otherwise stated here.</p>		
29	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL (not subject to RCAs)	
30	North	
<p style="margin: 0;">Effective April 1 - October 31: Groundfish: 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/month; canary, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of these species count toward the per day and per trip groundfish limits and do not have species-specific limits. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.</p>		
<p>1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.</p>		
<p>2/ Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod rockfishes are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish.</p>		
<p>3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.</p>		
<p>4/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09.50' N. lat.), and between Destruction Is. (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Pnt. (46°38.17' N. lat.), there is an additional limit of 100 lbs or 30 percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip.</p>		
<p>5/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) total length North of 42° N. lat. and 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.</p>		
<p>6/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling, leopard shark, and cabezon in Washington.</p>		
<p>To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.</p>		

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

Table 3 (South) to Part 660, Subpart F -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears South of 40°10' N. lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

01042017

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:							
1	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	30 fm line ^{1/} - 125 fm line ^{1/}					
2	South of 34°27' N. lat.	75 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} (also applies around islands)					
<p>See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.</p>							
3	Minor Slope Rockfish^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish	10,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 475 lb may be blackgill rockfish			10,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 550 lb may be blackgill rockfish		
4	Splitnose rockfish	200 lb/ month					
5	Sablefish						
6	40°10' N. lat. - 36°00' N. lat.	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,000 lb, not to exceed 2,000 lb/ 2 months	300 lb/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 900 lb, not to exceed 1,800 lb/ 2 months				
7	South of 36°00' N. lat.	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,600 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months					
8	Shortpine thornyheads and longspine thornyheads						
9	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	CLOSED					
10	South of 34°27' N. lat.	50 lb/ day, no more than 1,000 lb/ 2 months					
11	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish^{3/}	3,000 lb/ month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs.					
12		South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line are not subject to the RCAs.					
13							
14							
15							
16	17	Whiting	300 lb/ month				
18	Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}, Shortbelly, Widow rockfish and Chilipepper						
19	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	400 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	400 lb/ 2 months			
20	South of 34°27' N. lat.	1,500 lb/ 2 months		1,500 lb/ 2 months			
21	Canary rockfish	150 lb/ 2 months					
22	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED					
23	Cowcod	CLOSED					
24	Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED					
25	Bocaccio	500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	500 lb/ 2 months			
26	Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish						
27	Shallow nearshore	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,200 lb/ 2 months			
28	Deeper nearshore	1,000 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,000 lb/ 2 months			
29	California scorpionfish	1,500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lb/ 2 months			
30	Lingcod^{4/}	100 lb/ month	CLOSED	400 lb/ month			100 lb/ month
31	Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
32	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months	150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months			
33	Longnose skate	Unlimited					
34	Other Fish^{5/} & Cabezon	Unlimited					

TABLE 3 (South)

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

Table 3 (South). Continued

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
35	RIDGEBACK PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF 38° 57.50' N. LAT., CA HALIBUT AND SEA CUCUMBER NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL						
36	NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) for CA Halibut, Sea Cucumber & Ridgeback Prawn:						
37	40° 10' N. lat. - 38° 00' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 200 fm line ^{1/}	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}				100 fm line ^{1/} - 200 fm line ^{1/}
38	38° 00' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}					
37	South of 34° 27' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm line ^{1/} around islands					
39		<p>Groundfish: 300 lb/trip. Species-specific limits described in the table above also apply and are counted toward the 300 lb groundfish per trip limit. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of the target species landed, except that the amount of spiny dogfish landed may exceed the amount of target species landed. Spiny dogfish are limited by the 300 lb/trip overall groundfish limit. The daily trip limits for sablefish coastwide and thornyheads south of Pt. Conception and the overall groundfish "per trip" limit may not be multiplied by the number of days of the trip. Vessels participating in the California halibut fishery south of 38°57.50' N. lat. are allowed to (1) land up to 100 lb/day of groundfish without the ratio requirement, provided that at least one California halibut is landed and (2) land up to 3,000 lb/month of flatfish, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs, sand sole, starry flounder, rock sole, curlfin sole, or California scorpionfish (California scorpionfish is also subject to the trip limits and closures in line 31).</p>					
40	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL GEAR (not subject to RCAs)						
41	South	<p>Effective April 1 - October 31: Groundfish: 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/ month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/ month; canary rockfish, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of all groundfish species count toward the per day, per trip or other species-specific sublimits described here and the species-specific limits described in the table above do not apply. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.</p>					

TABLE 3 (South) cont'd

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish. Blackgill rockfish have a species specific trip sub-limit within the minor slope rockfish cumulative limits. Yellowtail rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.

3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ The commercial minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.

5/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and includes kelp greenling, leopard shark, and cabezon in Washington.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.