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National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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NMFS-SEA-15-07
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 10, 2015

PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY 2015-2016 Harvest Specifications and Commercial and Recreational Management Measures Final Rule, Effective March 10, 2015

The final rule regarding the 2015-2016 Pacific Coast Groundfish Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures and Amendment 24 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan has filed with the *Federal Register* and will publish on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. This rule also makes changes to existing management measures and are explained below.

Unless otherwise noted, the regulations contained in this rule are effective March 10, 2015. The full rule, as published in the *Federal Register*, can be found at:
http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/frn/groundfish_frns.html

More information on the changes this rule makes can be found in this document.

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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 shoreward boundary of non-trawl RCA in area from 40°10' to 42° to 30 fm • Revised lat/longs for 60 fm line off southern CA (currently used to define the non-trawl RCA) • Revised lat/longs for 100 fm line off south-central OR (currently used to define the non-trawl RCA) • Revised lat/longs for 50 fm line around the northern Channel Islands, CA • Revised lat/longs for petrale-modified 200 fm line off central OR • Latitude 46°16' is re-named "Columbia River" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify shoreward boundary of non-trawl RCA in area from 40°10' to 42° to 30 fm • Revised lat/longs for 60 fm line off southern CA (currently used to define the non-trawl RCA) • Revised lat/longs for 100 fm line off south-central OR (currently used to define the non-trawl RCA) • Revised lat/longs for 50 fm line around the northern Channel Islands, CA • Revised lat/longs for petrale-modified 200 fm line off central OR • Latitude 46°16' is re-named "Columbia River" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify trawl RCA boundary in area from 45°46' N. lat. to 40°10' N. lat. to the petrale-modified 200 fm line • Revised lat/longs for 100 fm line off south-central OR (currently used to define the trawl RCA) • Revised lat/longs for petrale-modified 200 fm line off central OR (currently used to define the trawl RCA) • Revised lat/longs for 50 fm line around the northern Channel Islands, CA • Revised lat/longs for 60 fm line off southern CA • Latitude 46°16' is re-named "Columbia River" • *NOTE* For vessels operating under gear switching provisions, see also the LEFG closed areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA - modifications to closed areas • CA - modifications to closed areas • Latitude 46°16' is re-named "Columbia River"
Sorting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorting: new sorting requirement for roughey/blackspotted rockfish (two species sorted as a single unit) and shortraker rockfish (a separate unit) • The species composition of the Other Fish complex has changed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorting: new sorting requirement for roughey/blackspotted rockfish (two species sorted as a single unit) and shortraker rockfish (a separate unit) • The species composition of the Other Fish complex has changed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorting: new sorting requirement for roughey/blackspotted rockfish (two species sorted as a single unit) and shortraker rockfish (a separate unit) • The species composition of the Other Fish complex has changed. 	<i>[intentionally blank]</i>

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Commercial Trip Limits; Recreational bag limits, size limits and seasons

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised and new trip limits for lingcod N and S of 40°10' N. lat. • Revised and new trip limits for the Minor Shelf Rockfish complex in the area S of 34°27' N. lat. • Revised trip limits for bocaccio in the area S of 34°27' N. lat. • Revised sablefish trip limits • New 2015 and 2016 Primary Sablefish Fishery Tier Limits are announced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised and new trip limits for lingcod N and S of 40°10' N. lat. • Revised and new trip limits for the minor shelf complex in the area S of 34°27' N. lat. • Revised trip limits for bocaccio in the area S of 34°27' N. lat. • Revised sablefish trip limits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No trip limit changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA - lingcod season dates are slightly adjusted; • WA - modify rockfish retention during all depth halibut • OR - 1 fish canary sub-bag limit within marine fish bag • OR - modify rockfish retention during all depth halibut • CA - groundfish, RCG, and lingcod, season dates are slightly adjusted • CA - increase lingcod bag limit • CA - add sub-bag for black rockfish to the RCG complex • CA - close CA scorpionfish retention September-December
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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 to more closely approximate the depth contours: the 200 fm line modified to allow fishing for petrale sole off central Oregon, the 100 fm line off south-central Oregon (currently the seaward boundary of the non-trawl RCA), the 60 fm line off southern California (currently the shoreward boundary of the non-trawl RCA in that area), and the 50 fm line around the northern Channel Islands.

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

Due to updated projections for catch of canary and yelloweye rockfish for 2015-2016 the shoreward boundary off the northern California coast is shifted seaward to open some additional areas to fishing close to shore. **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.**

The complete list of boundary lines for the 2015-2016 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 identified a need for improved information on harvest of rougheye/blackspotted rockfish and of shorttraker rockfish coastwide. To gain additional harvest estimates and biological information on these species, this rule **establishes new sorting requirements for rougheye/blackspotted rockfish (two species sorted as a single unit) and shorttraker rockfish (a separate unit) in the limited entry fixed gear fisheries coastwide beginning April 1, 2015.** The Council also designated some of the species that were in the Other Fish complex as ecosystem component species, changing the species composition of the Other Fish complex. Therefore, **where existing regulations continue to require sorting of “other fish”, the new species composition of the Other Fish complex is in effect: kelp greenling (coastwide), leopard shark (coastwide), and cabezon (in waters off Washington).**

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

Minor Shelf Rockfish South of 34°27' N. lat.

Minor Shelf Rockfish, shortbelly, widow, and chillipepper rockfish are all included under a single trip limit. Period 3 (May-June) is opened with the same trip limits as period 1 and 4-6. **The new minor shelf rockfish trip limit in the limited entry fixed gear fishery south of 34°27' N. lat. is: “4,000 lb per 2 months”.** Period 2 (March-April) is closed.

Lingcod North of 40°10' N. lat.

For the 2015-2016 biennium the Council recommended allowing lingcod retention in previously closed periods and increasing the trip limits in currently open periods. This changes is to allow

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harvest opportunities to more fully utilize lingcod in this area. **Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing trip limits in the limited entry fixed gear fishery north of 40°10' N. lat. of “200 lb per 2 months” in periods 1-2, “1,200 lb per 2 months” in periods 3-5, “600 lb per month” in November, and “200 lb per month” in December.**

Lingcod South of 40°10' N. lat.

For the 2015-2016 biennium the Council recommended allowing lingcod retention in previously closes periods. **Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing trip limits in the limited entry fixed gear fishery south of 40°10' N. lat. “200 lb per 2 months” in period 1, (800 lb per 2 months” in periods 3-5, “400 lb per month” in November, and “200 lb per month” in December.**

Bocaccio South of 34°27' N. lat.

For the 2015-2016 biennium the Council recommended increasing the trip limit for bocaccio 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 south of 34°27' N. lat. of “750 lb per 2 months” in periods 1 and 3-6 (closed in period 2 (March-April)).**

Other Fish

There have been no changes to the trip limits for the Other Fish complex, however the species composition for the Other Fish complex has changed (see above under “Sorting”) and is as follows: kelp greenling (coastwide), leopard shark (coastwide), and cabezon (in waters off Washington).

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

For the 2015-2016 biennium the Council recommended increasing the sablefish trip limits in the area north of 36° N. lat. These changes increase sablefish limits in the LEFG DTL fishery north of 36° N. lat., to allow the harvest opportunities to full attain 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. that increase the LEFG sablefish DTL fishery limits to “1,025 lb per week, not to exceed 3,075 lb per 2 months” periods 1-6, beginning on March 10, 2015.

2015 and 2016 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 2013–2014.

The 2015 tier limits are as follows:

Tier 1 = 41,175 lb, Tier 2 = 18,716 lb, Tier 3 = 10,695 lb

The 2016 tier limits are as follows:

Tier 1 = 45,053 lb, Tier 2 = 20,479 lb, Tier 3 = 11,702 lb

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As catch against a vessel's 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 a reminder, the threshold upon which the tier limit(s) is considered "completed" and the vessel switches to the LE DTL fishery, if a daily limit is not in effect is set at 300 lb or the daily limit if one is in effect, for the tier amount below which a vessel's tier is considered to be "complete." All subsequent landings are subject to LEFG trip limits. In other words, a vessel will automatically be subject to LEFG DTL fishery regulations and trip limits when the amount on their tier(s) is either at or below 300 lb (or at or below the daily limit, if one is in effect).

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Open Access (OA) Fishery

Closed Areas

Modifications to Latitude and Longitude Coordinates Defining RCAs

This rule refines selected coordinates to more closely approximate the depth contours. 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

This rule establishes new sorting requirements for rougheye/blackspotted rockfish (two species sorted as a single unit) and shortraker rockfish (a separate unit) in the open access fisheries coastwide beginning April 1, 2015. The Other Fish complex maintains its existing sorting requirement but has a new species composition: kelp greenling (coastwide), leopard shark (coastwide), and cabezon (in waters off Washington). These changes are described in more detail above in the Limited Entry Fixed Gear section.

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

Minor Shelf Rockfish South of 34°27' N. lat.

Minor Shelf Rockfish, shortbelly, widow, and chillipepper 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 south of 34°27' N. lat. of: “1,500 lb per 2 months” in periods 1 and 3-6.**

Lingcod North of 40°10' N. lat.

For the 2015-2016 biennium the Council recommended allowing lingcod retention in previously closed periods and increasing the trip limits in currently open periods to allow greater harvest opportunities for lingcod. **Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing trip limits in the open access fishery north of 40°10' N. lat. of “100 lb per month” in periods 1-2 and in December, “600 lb per month” in periods 3-5 and in November.**

Lingcod South of 40°10' N. lat.

For the 2015-2016 biennium the Council recommended allowing lingcod retention in previously closed periods to allow greater harvest opportunity on lingcod. **Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing trip limits in the open access fishery south of 40°10' N. lat. “100 lb per month” in period 1 and in December and “400 lb per month” in Periods 3-5 and in November. Period 2 remains closed.**

Bocaccio South of 34°27' N. lat.

For the 2015-2016 biennium the Council recommended increasing the trip limit for bocaccio in the area south of 34°27' N. lat. in order to more fully attain the increased harvest specification. **Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing trip limits in the open access**

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fishery south of 34°27' N. lat. of “250 lb per 2 months” in periods 1 and 3-6. Period 2 remains closed.

Other Fish

There have been no changes to the trip limits for the Other Fish complex, however the species composition for the Other Fish complex has changed (see above under “Limited Entry Fixed Gear: Sorting”) and is as follows: kelp greenling (coastwide), leopard shark (coastwide), and cabezon (in waters off Washington).

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

For the 2015-2016 biennium the Council recommended increasing the sablefish trip limits in the area north of 36° N. lat. These changes increase sablefish limits in the OA DTL fishery north of 36° N. lat., 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. that increase the OA sablefish DTL fishery limits to “300 lb/day, or one landing per week of up to 900 lb, not to exceed 1,800 lb/ 2 months” in periods 1-6, beginning on March 10, 2015.

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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 to more closely approximate the depth contours: the 200 fm line modified to allow fishing for petrale sole off central Oregon (currently the seaward boundary of the trawl RCA), the 100 fm line off south-central Oregon (currently the shoreward boundary of the trawl RCA), the 60 fm line off southern California (currently the shoreward boundary of the non-trawl RCA in that area), and the 50 fm line around the northern Channel Islands.

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 all of these lines are listed at § 660.71 through § 660.74, and are posted on the NMFS WCR website.

Changes to the Boundary of the Trawl RCA

For 2015-2016 the seaward boundary off southern Oregon and the northern California coast is shifted shoreward to open some additional areas fishing seaward of the RCA. **The seaward boundary of the trawl RCA between 45°46' N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat., will move from the line approximating the 200 fm depth contour to the line approximating the 200 fm depth contour that is modified to open some areas for targeted petrale sole fishing (also called "petrale-modified" lines).** The schedule for the 2015-2016 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.

Gear Switching - Change to Boundary of the Non-Trawl RCA

Vessels harvesting IFQ with non-trawl gear under the gear switching provisions are subject to the non-trawl RCA area closure. **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.** This change is described in more detail above in the Limited Entry Fixed Gear section.

Sorting

This rule establishes new sorting requirements for rougheye/blackspotted rockfish (two species sorted as a single unit) and shortraker rockfish (a separate unit) coastwide beginning April 1, 2015. The Other Fish complex maintains its existing sorting requirement but has a new species composition: kelp greenling (coastwide), leopard shark (coastwide), and cabezon (in waters off Washington). These changes are described in more detail above in the Limited Entry Fixed Gear section.

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: minor nearshore rockfish, black rockfish, cabezon, spiny dogfish, shortbelly rockfish, Pacific whiting, longnose skate, California scorpionfish south, longspine thornyhead south, and the Other Fish complex. No changes to trip limits in the IFQ fishery are implemented at this time for the 2015-2016 biennium (except for Other Fish; see below),

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however changes to trip limits are considered a routine measure under §660.60(c) and may be implemented, if determined necessary, through inseason action.

Other Fish

There have been no changes to the trip limits for the Other Fish complex, however the species composition for the Other Fish complex has changed (see above under “Limited Entry Fixed Gear: Sorting”) and is as follows: kelp greenling (coastwide), leopard shark (coastwide), and cabezon (in waters off Washington).

2015 Shorebased IFQ Program Allocation

Based on the trawl sector allocations in this final rule, NMFS will issue the remaining quota pounds (QP) to quota share 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.

2015 allocations and the corresponding vessel limits (daily and annual)

Below is a table showing the shorebased trawl vessel limits for IFQ species in pounds based on the Shorebased IFQ Program allocation for 2015 (50 CFR 660.140(d)(1)(ii)(D)) and the vessel limits specified at 50 CFR 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.

The **Annual QP Limit** is the total amount of QP (used, unused available, and pending outgoing transfers) that may be registered to a single vessel during the year. It applies to the sum of your catch to date (landings + discards), available QP balance, and pending outgoing transfers, which is displayed in the year to date column (for annual vessel limit calculation) on your vessel account summary page. The Non-whiting Groundfish Species Annual QP Limit is an overall limit applying to the sum of every IFQ species (excluding Pacific whiting and Pacific halibut).

The **Daily QP Limit** is the total amount of unused QP (available QP balance plus pending outgoing transfers) that may be registered to a vessel at any time.

Shorebased IFQ Program allocations and limits for 2015:

IFQ Category	2015 Shorebased Trawl Allocation (mt)	Total Pounds for Shorebased IFQ Program	Annual QP Vessel Limit (%)	Annual QP Vessel Limit (pounds)	Unused QP Vessel Limit (Daily Limit) %	Daily QP Limit (pounds)
Arrowtooth flounder	3,193.93	7,041,410	20.0%	1,408,282		
Bocaccio rockfish South of 40° 10' N.	81.89	180,537	15.4%	27,803	13.2%	23,831
Canary rockfish	43.26	95,372	10.0%	9,537	4.4%	4,196
Chilipepper rockfish South of 40° 10' N.	1,203.00	2,652,161	15.0%	397,824		
Cowcod South of 40° 10' N.	1.44	3,175	17.7%	562	17.7%	562
Darkblotched rockfish	285.61	629,662	6.8%	42,817	4.5%	28,335
Dover sole	45,980.80	101,370,312	3.9%	3,953,442		
English sole	9,153.19	20,179,330	7.5%	1,513,450		
Lingcod North of 40° 10' N.	1,133.32	2,498,543	5.3%	132,423		
Lingcod South of 40° 10' N.	447.71	987,032	13.3%	131,275		
Longspine thornyheads North of 34° 27' N.	2,962.33	6,530,820	9.0%	587,774		
Minor Shelf Rockfish North of 40° 10' N.	1,091.70	2,406,787	7.5%	180,509		
Minor Shelf Rockfish South of 40° 10' N.	192.20	423,728	13.5%	57,203		
Minor Slope Rockfish North of 40° 10' N.	1,219.41	2,688,339	7.5%	201,625		
Minor Slope Rockfish South of 40° 10' N.	423.99	934,738	9.0%	84,126		
Other Flatfish	7,670.50	16,910,558	15.0%	2,536,584		
Pacific cod	1,031.41	2,273,870	20.0%	454,774		

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Pacific halibut (IBQ) North of 40°10' N. *	68.67	151,391	14.4%	21,800	5.4%	8,175
Pacific ocean perch North of 40°10' N.	118.45	261,138	6.0%	15,668	4.0%	10,446
Pacific whiting *	18,191.00	40,104,290	15.0%	6,015,644		
Petrale sole	2,539.40	5,598,419	4.5%	251,929		
Sablefish North of 36° N.	2,199.37	4,848,781	4.5%	218,195		
Sablefish South of 36° N.	719.88	1,587,064	15.0%	238,060		
Shortspine thornyheads North of 34°27' N.	1,581.49	3,486,589	9.0%	313,793		
Shortspine thornyheads South of 34°27' N.	50.00	110,231	9.0%	9,921		
Splitnose rockfish South of 40°10' N.	1,619.28	3,569,901	15.0%	535,485		
Starry flounder	756.85	1,668,569	20.0%	333,714		
Widow rockfish	1,420.62	3,131,931	8.5%	266,214	5.1%	159,728
Yelloweye rockfish	1.00	2,205	11.4%	251	5.7%	126
Yellowtail rockfish North of 40°10' N.	4,593.15	10,126,162	7.5%	759,462		
Non-whiting Groundfish Species	91,715.18	202,197,360	3.2%	6,470,316		

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

At-sea Pacific Whiting Fishery (Mothership and Catcher/Processor)

Sorting

This rule establishes new sorting requirements for rougheye/blackspotted rockfish (two species sorted as a single unit) and shortraker rockfish (a separate unit) coastwide beginning April 1, 2015. The Other Fish complex maintains its existing sorting requirement but has a new species composition: kelp greenling (coastwide), leopard shark (coastwide), and cabezon (in waters off Washington). These changes are described in more detail above in the Limited Entry Fixed Gear section.

At-sea processors and catcher vessels in the at-sea Pacific whiting fishery have additional requirements and exemptions related to sorting at 660.130(d)(3), all of which are unchanged via this rulemaking.

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Recreational Fishery

General

Continuing in 2015 and 2016, 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

Similar to 2014, this proposed rule includes the 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 Pacific halibut fishery is open. However, for 2015–2016, refinement of the southern boundary of this lingcod area closure is shifted three miles north (from 46°25' N. lat. to 46°28' N. lat.) to continue reduced encounters with co-occurring yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish.

As in 2013-2014, the Washington recreational fishery for groundfish is open year-round with seasonal depth restrictions for specific groundfish species. This rule includes refinement of the southern boundary of the lingcod closure off Washington Marine Areas 1 and 2, by shifting the boundary three miles north (from 46°25' N. lat. to 46°28' N. lat.) to continue reduced encounters with co-occurring yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish. The RCA for recreational fishing off Washington is proposed to be the same as in 2014 with the following exceptions: In Marine Areas 3 and 4, where overfished species interactions are prevalent, the dates of the seasonal depth closure (closed deeper than 20 fm) are slightly shorter to reduce overfished species impacts; in Marine Area 2, the seasonal depth restriction for lingcod retention is removed, allowing lingcod to be retained in all depths year-round, except within the lingcod area closure. Changes to groundfish retention during Pacific halibut season are included in this rule. Starting from Leadbetter Point in Washington Marine Area 1, when the nearshore incidental halibut fishery is open, taking, retaining, possessing or landing incidental Pacific halibut on groundfish trips will be 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, WA to the Washington-Oregon border and from there, connecting to the boundary line approximating the 40 fm (73 m) depth contour in Oregon. The nearshore incidental halibut fishery would be open Monday through Wednesday following the opening of the early season all-depth fishery, until the nearshore Pacific halibut allocation is taken. The aggregate groundfish bag limits off Washington will continue to be 12 fish.

Seasons

Additionally, the lingcod seasons in 2015-2016 will be slightly changed from those in 2013-2014 due to minor fluctuations in the dates of particular days of the week between calendar years. **For 2015 season dates, or for more specific descriptions regarding marine area boundaries, please refer to § 660.360 (c)(1)(iv)(A).** As in 2014, 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 halibut fishery is open ((§ 660.360 (c)(1)(iv)(B)).

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Oregon Recreational Fisheries

Off Oregon, recreational fishing for groundfish in 2015-2016 will have the same season structures and closed area as in 2013-2014. The marine fish bag limit is modified to add a one fish sub-bag limit for canary rockfish and remove the one fish sub-bag limit for cabezon. Also, changes to groundfish retention, in Oregon, during nearshore halibut fishing days are described above in the Washington recreational section. **For 2015 season dates, or for more specific descriptions, please refer to § 660.360 (c)(2).**

California Recreational Fisheries

General

For 2015-2016, recreational fisheries off California will continue to be managed as five separate areas, to reduce complexity while retaining flexibility in minimizing impacts on overfished stocks. California recreational management areas and regulations can be found at §660.350(c)(3).

Closed Areas and Seasons

All Groundfish

Season dates for recreational fishing for all groundfish (except “other flatfish) in the Mendocino, San Francisco, and Central Management Areas are modified by this rule. In the Mendocino Management Area, recreational fishing for groundfish is prohibited seaward of 20 fm along the mainland and along island and offshore seamounts from May 15-October 31, and closed entirely from January 1-May 14 and from November 1-December 31. In the San Francisco Management Area, fishing for all groundfish is prohibited seaward of the boundary line approximating the 30 fm (55 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from April 15-December 31; and is closed entirely from January 1-April 14. In the Central Management Area fishing for all groundfish is prohibited seaward of a boundary line approximating the 40 fm (73 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from April 1-December 31; and is closed entirely from January 1-March 31. Coordinates for all boundary lines and closed areas are defined at 660.70-660.74 and are posted on the NMFS WCR website.

In the Southern Management area recreational fishing for all groundfish and for California scorpionfish south of 34°27' N. lat. is prohibited seaward of a boundary line approximating the 60 fm depth contour.

RCG Complex

Season dates for recreational fishing for the RCG complex in the Mendocino, San Francisco, and Central Management areas are modified by this rule. In the Mendocino Management Area, fishing for the RCG complex is open from May 15-October 31. In the San Francisco Management Area, fishing for the RCG complex is open from April 15-December 31. In the Central Management Area, fishing for the RCG complex is open April 1 through December 31.

Lingcod

Season dates for recreational fishing for lingcod in the Mendocino, San Francisco, and Central Management Areas are modified by this rule. In the Mendocino Management Area, fishing for lingcod is open May 15-October 31. In the San Francisco Management Area, fishing for lingcod is open April 15-December 31. In the Central Management Area, fishing for lingcod is open April 1-December 31.

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

California Scorpionfish

Season dates for recreational fishing for California scorpionfish in the Mendocino, San Francisco, and Central Management Areas are modified by this rule, ending the season in August, rather than December.

The Council also recommended modifications to the season dates for California scorpionfish in the Southern Management area and within the Cowcod Conservation Area. However, an error was made in the final rule and these changes were not included. NMFS will correct this error in the very near future.

In the Mendocino Management Area, fishing for California scorpionfish is open from May 15-August 31. In the San Francisco Management Area fishing for California scorpionfish is open April 15-August 31. In the Central Management Area, fishing for California scorpionfish is open April 1-August 31.

Bag Limits and Size Limits

There are no changes to size limits for any of the recreational fisheries in California. There are several bag limit changes for 2015-2016.

Lingcod bag limit

When lingcod seasons are open the bag limit is increased to **3 fish per day**. Hook limits for lingcod remain unchanged.

Rockfish, Cabezon, and Kelp Greenling Bag Limits

The California-wide combined bag limit for the Rockfish-Cabezon-Greenling (RCG) Complex will continue to be 10 fish per day when the season is open. RCG Complex sub-bag limits will also remain largely the same, including the cabezon statewide limit of three fish per day, and the bocaccio statewide limit of three fish per day. To control catch and keep impacts within the California harvest guideline, a new statewide sub-bag limit is added for black rockfish, where no more than five fish of the 10 fish RCG bag limit may be black rockfish.

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

Tribal Fishery

All of the Federal regulations specific to Pacific Coast treaty Indian fisheries are grouped together at 50 CFR 660.50. Many of the tribal fishery management measures are unchanged from 2013-2014, with a few exceptions: the tribal allocation of sablefish increases slightly, consistent with the slightly higher ACL and N. of 36° N. lat. allocation scheme; the Pacific cod harvest guideline is increased by 100 mt for a total of 500 mt; the fleet-wide catch limit for yellowtail rockfish increased to 1,000 mt per year; the fleet-wide harvest target for petrale sole increased slightly to 275 mt per year. See regulations at [50 CFR 660.50](#) for details.

**Trip limit tables, effective March 10, 2015,
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 2015-2016 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

3/1/15

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:							
1	North of 48°10' N. lat.	shore - modified ^{2/} 200 fm line ^{1/}	shore - 200 fm line ^{1/}	shore - 150 fm line ^{1/}		shore - 200 fm line ^{1/}	shore - modified ^{2/} 200 fm line ^{1/}
2	48°10' N. lat. - 45°46' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}					
3	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 only for vessels participating in 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>							
<p>State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than federal trip limits, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.</p>							
4	Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish	300 lb/month					
5	Whiting^{3/}						
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^{4/}						
9	North of 46°16' N. lat.	Unlimited					
10	46°16' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	50 lb/ month					
11	Shortbelly	Unlimited					
12	Spiny dogfish	60,000 lb/month					
13	Longnose skate	Unlimited					
14	Other Fish^{4/}	Unlimited					

TABLE 1 (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, 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							3/1/15
		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	Unlimited					
10	Spiny dogfish	60,000 lb/ month					
11	Longnose skate	Unlimited					
12	California scorpionfish	Unlimited					
13	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							3/1/15
		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 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.							
4	Minor Slope Rockfish^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish	4,000 lb/ 2 months					
5	Pacific ocean perch	1,800 lb/ 2 months					
6	Sablefish^{7/}	1,025 lb/ week, not to exceed 3,075 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 & Yellowtail rockfish	200 lb/ month					
17	Canary rockfish	CLOSED					
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 or blue rockfish ^{4/}					
21	42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	8,500 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish					
22	Lingcod^{5/}	200 lb/2 months		1,200 lb/ 2 months			600 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 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, curffin 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.

7/ Beginning on January 1, 2016, the following trip limits are in effect for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. from January through December 1,275 lb/week, not to exceed 3,375 lb/ 2 months

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								3/1/15
		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC	
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:								TABLE 2 (South)
1	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	30 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}						
2	South of 34°27' N. lat.	60 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} (also applies around islands)						
<p style="text-align: center;">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	40,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,375 lb may be blackgill rockfish						
4	Splitnose rockfish	40,000 lb/ 2 months						
5	Sablefish^{6/}							
6	40°10' N. lat. - 36°00' N. lat.	1,025 lb/ week, not to exceed 3,075 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								
17		10,000 lb/ trip						
18	Whiting							
19	Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}, Shortbelly, Widow rockfish (including Bocaccio and Chilipepper between 40°10' - 34°27' N. lat.)							
20	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	Minor shelf rockfish, shortbelly, widow rockfish, bocaccio & chilipepper: 2,500 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 500 lb may be any species other than chilipepper.						
21	South of 34°27' N. lat.	4,000 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	4,000 lb/ 2 months				
22	Chilipepper							
23	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	Chilipepper included under minor shelf rockfish, shortbelly, widow rockfish and bocaccio limits - - See above						
24	South of 34°27' N. lat.	2,000 lb/ 2 months, this opportunity only available seaward of the non-trawl RCA						
25	Canary rockfish	CLOSED						
26	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED						
27	Cowcod	CLOSED						
28	Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED						
29	Bocaccio							
30	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	Bocaccio included under Minor shelf rockfish, shortbelly, widow rockfish & chilipepper limits - - See above						
31	South of 34°27' N. lat.	750 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	750 lb/ 2 months				

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

Table 2 (South). Continued		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC	
32	Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish							
33	Shallow nearshore	600 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	800 lb/ 2 months	900 lb/ 2 months	800 lb/ 2 months	1,000 lb/ 2 months	
34	Deeper nearshore							
35	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	700 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	700 lb/ 2 months	900 lb/ 2 months		1,000 lb/ 2 months	
36	South of 34°27' N. lat.	500 lb/ 2 months		600 lb/ 2 months				
37	California scorpionfish	1,200 lb/ 2 months ^{6/}	CLOSED	1,200 lb/ 2 months	1,200 lb/ 2 months			
38	Lingcod^{4/}	200 lb/ 2 mo	CLOSED	800 lb/ 2 months			400 lb/ mo	200 lb/ mo
39	Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months						
40	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months			
41	Longnose skate	Unlimited						
42	Other Fish^{5/} & Cabezon	Unlimited						
<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/ 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.</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/ The commercial minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.</p> <p>5/ "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling, leopard shark, and cabezon in Washington.</p> <p>6/ Beginning on January 1, 2016, the following trip limits are in effect for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. from January through December 1,275 lb/week, not to exceed 3,375 lb/ 2 months</p> <p>To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.</p>								

TABLE 2 (South)

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								3/1/15
		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, 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).</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>								
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^{7/}	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 longpine 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		300 lb/ month						
14	Whiting	300 lb/ month						
15	Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}, Shortbelly, Widow & Yellowtail rockfish	200 lb/ month						
16	Canary rockfish	CLOSED						
17	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED						
18	Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish							
19	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						
20	42° 00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat.	8,500 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb may be species other than black rockfish						
21	Lingcod^{5/}	100 lb/ month		600 lb/ month			100 lb/ month	
22	Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months						
23	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months			
24	Longnose skate	Unlimited						
25	Other Fish^{6/} & Cabezon in Oregon and California	Unlimited						

TABLE 3 (North)

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

Table 3 (North). Continued

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
26	SALMON TROLL (subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish and lingcod, as described below)						
27	North	<p>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>					
28	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL (not subject to RCAs)						
29	North	<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, 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>7/ Beginning on January 1, 2016, the following trip limits are in effect for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. 300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,000 lb, not to exceed 2,000 lb/ 2 months.</p>							
<p>To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.</p>							

TABLE 3 (North) cont'd

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								3/1/15
		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/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}						
2	South of 34°27' N. lat.	60 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>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						
4	Splitnose rockfish	200 lb/ month						
5	Sablefish^{5/}							
6	40°10' N. lat. - 36°00' N. lat.	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		300 lb/ month						
17	Whiting							
18	Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}, Shortbelly, Widow rockfish and Chilipepper							
19	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	300 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	200 lb/ 2 months		300 lb/ 2 months		
20	South of 34°27' N. lat.	1500 lb/ 2 months		1500 lb/ 2 months				
21	Canary rockfish	CLOSED						
22	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED						
23	Cowcod	CLOSED						
24	Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED						
25	Bocaccio							
26	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	100 lb/ 2 months		200 lb/ 2 months		
27	South of 34°27' N. lat.	250 lb/ 2 months		250 lb/ 2 months				

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
28	Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish						
29	Shallow nearshore	600 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	800 lb/ 2 months	900 lb/ 2 months	800 lb/ 2 months	1,000 lb/ 2 months
30	Deeper nearshore						
31	40° 10' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat.	700 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	700 lb/ 2 months	900 lb/ 2 months		1,000 lb/ 2 months
32	South of 34° 27' N. lat.	500 lb/ 2 months		600 lb/ 2 months			
33	California scorpionfish	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,200 lb/ 2 months			
34	Lingcod^{4/}	100 lb/month	CLOSED	400 lb/ month			100 lb/month
35	Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
36	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months		
37	Longnose skate	Unlimited					
38	Other Fish^{5/} & Cabezon	Unlimited					
39	RIDGEBACK PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF 38° 57.50' N. LAT., CA HALIBUT AND SEA CUCUMBER NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL						
40	NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) for CA Halibut, Sea Cucumber & Ridgeback Prawn:						
41	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/}
42	38° 00' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}					
43	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					
44		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, stary flounder, rock sole, curfin sole, or California scorpionfish (California scorpionfish is also subject to the trip limits and closures in line 31).					
45	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL GEAR (not subject to RCAs)						
46	South	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 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.					

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, curfin 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.

6/ Beginning on January 1, 2016, the following trip limits are in effect for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. 300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,000 lb, not to exceed 2,000 lb/ 2 months

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