



National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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NMFS-SEA-09-06
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 30, 2009

PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY **Changes to commercial fishery management measures in the limited entry non-whiting trawl fishery**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces changes to commercial management measures to the limited entry non-whiting trawl fishery of the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California, **effective at 0001 hours (local time) November 1, 2009.**

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) recommended interim changes to petrale sole management measures at their September 12-17 meeting in Foster City, California. Changes to management measures are being implemented in a Federal Register notice that will publish on November 4, 2009, and are described in this public notice.

Limited Entry Non-whiting Trawl Fishery

For complete regulations governing the commercial trawl groundfish fishery, please see Title 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G. Current trip limit tables, Tables 3 (North and South), are included at the end of this public notice.

The Council considered the results of the new 2009 petrale sole stock assessment at their June 2009

Visit the NMFS Northwest Region website for current groundfish management regulations, VMS information, and RCA boundary coordinates.

[http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/
Groundfish-Halibut/index.cfm](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/index.cfm)

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meeting. The new assessment indicates that the stock status of petrale sole is worse than what was thought when 2009-2010 harvest specifications and management measures were developed and implemented. The Council requested that NMFS propose interim changes to 2009-2010 management measures to reduce catches of petrale sole in response to the more pessimistic stock assessment.

This Public Notice announces changes to management measures for Period 6 (November-December) 2009. Any recommendations by the Council for 2010 will be implemented and announced in a separate rulemaking and Public Notice.

Changes to Cumulative Limits

Petrale sole: The Council considered reductions in cumulative limits for period 6 (November-December). These catch reductions are intended to improve stock status of petrale sole in the future, and to facilitate rebuilding if the stock is declared overfished. Therefore, NMFS has implemented the following Pacific Council recommendations for changes to the petrale sole cumulative limits:

- **Coastwide**, decrease petrale sole limits taken with all trawl gears to 2,000 lb per two months from November 1 through December 31.

Changes to the Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) Boundaries

Petrale sole: The Council also considered area closures for period 6 (November-December). Historically, the winter seaward boundary of the trawl RCA has been “modified” to open known areas of petrale sole spawning aggregations to the fishery. The Council recommended closure of these fishing areas. These area closures are intended to improve stock status of petrale sole in the future, and to facilitate rebuilding if the stock is declared overfished. Therefore, NMFS has implemented the

following Pacific Council recommendations for boundary changes to the trawl RCA:

- **North of 40°10' N. lat.**, shift the shoreward boundary of the trawl RCA from the petrale-modified 200 fm line¹ to the regular 200 fm line¹ from November 1 through December 31.

¹The RCA is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.391-660.394. 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.

**Trip limit tables, effective November 1, 2009,
are included at the end of this public notice.**

For more information contact: NMFS Northwest Region at 206-526-6140 or visit our website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>, click on “Groundfish & Halibut;”; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at 360-249-4628; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 541-867-4741; or the California Department of Fish and Game at 707-441-5797 (Eureka), 510-581-7358 (Belmont), 562-342-7184 (Los Alamitos), 858-546-7167 (La Jolla).

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

Table 3 (North) to Part 660, Subpart G -- 2009-2010 Trip Limits for Limited Entry Trawl Gear North of 40°10' N. Lat.
Other Limits and Requirements Apply – Read § 660.301 - § 660.399 before using this table

110109

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{6/}:						
1 North of 48°10' N. lat.	shore - modified ^{7/} 200 fm line ^{6/}		shore - 150 fm line ^{6/}		shore - 200 fm line ^{6/}	shore - 200 fm line ^{6/}
2 48°10' N. lat. - 45°46' N. lat.	75 fm line ^{6/} - modified ^{7/} 200 fm line ^{6/}		75 fm line ^{6/} - 150 fm line ^{6/}	100 fm line ^{6/} - 150 fm line ^{6/}	75 fm line ^{6/} - 200 fm line ^{6/}	75 fm line ^{6/} - 200 fm line ^{6/}
3 45°46' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.			75 fm line ^{6/} - 200 fm line ^{6/}	100 fm line ^{6/} - 200 fm line ^{6/}		

Selective flatfish trawl gear is required shoreward of the RCA; all 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.

See § 660.370 and § 660.381 for Additional Gear, Trip Limit, and Conservation Area Requirements and Restrictions. See §§ 660.390-660.394 and §§ 660.396-660.399 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.

4 Minor slope rockfish^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish	1,500 lb/ 2 months			4,000 lb/ 2 months		
5 Pacific ocean perch	1,500 lb/ 2 months					
6 DTS complex						
7 Sablefish						
8 large & small footrope gear	18,000 lb/ 2 months		22,000 lb/ 2 months	24,000 lb/ 2 months	27,000 lb/ 2 months	
9 selective flatfish trawl gear	5,000 lb/ 2 months	7,500 lb/ 2 months		11,000 lb/ 2 months		
10 multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	5,000 lb/ 2 months	7,500 lb/ 2 months		11,000 lb/ 2 months		
11 Longspine thornyhead						
12 large & small footrope gear	22,000 lb/ 2 months					
13 selective flatfish trawl gear	3,000 lb/ 2 months	5,000 lb/ 2 months			3,000 lb/ 2 months	
14 multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	3,000 lb/ 2 months	5,000 lb/ 2 months			3,000 lb/ 2 months	
15 Shortspine thornyhead						
16 large & small footrope gear	17,000 lb/ 2 months					
17 selective flatfish trawl gear	3,000 lb/ 2 months					
18 multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	3,000 lb/ 2 months					
19 Dover sole						
20 large & small footrope gear	110,000 lb/ 2 months					
21 selective flatfish trawl gear	40,000 lb/ 2 months	45,000 lb/ 2 months			40,000 lb/ 2 months	
22 multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	40,000 lb/ 2 months	45,000 lb/ 2 months			40,000 lb/ 2 months	

TABLE 3 (North)

Table 3 (North). Continued

110109

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Whiting						
23						
24	midwater trawl	Before the primary whiting season: CLOSED. -- During the primary season: mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.373 for season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: CLOSED.				
25	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.				
26	Flatfish (except Dover sole)					
27	Arrowtooth flounder					
28	large & small footrope gear	150,000 lb/ 2 months			180,000 lb/ 2 months	
29	selective flatfish trawl gear	90,000 lb/ 2 months				
30	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	90,000 lb/ 2 months				
31	Other flatfish ^{3/}, English sole, starry flounder, & Petrale sole					
32	large & small footrope gear for Other flatfish ^{3/} , English sole, & starry flounder	110,000 lb/ 2 months	110,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 25,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.	110,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 30,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.		110,000 lb/ 2 months
33	large & small footrope gear for Petrale sole	25,000 lb/ 2 months			2,000 lb/ 2 months	
34	selective flatfish trawl gear for Other flatfish ^{3/} , English sole, & starry flounder	90,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 16,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.	90,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 18,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.		90,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 5,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.	90,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 2,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.
35	selective flatfish trawl gear for Petrale sole					
36	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	90,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 16,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.	90,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 18,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.		90,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 5,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.	90,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 2,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.
37	Minor shelf rockfish ^{1/}, Shortbelly, Widow & Yelloweye rockfish					
38	midwater trawl for Widow rockfish	Before the primary whiting season: CLOSED. -- During primary whiting season: In trips of at least 10,000 lb of whiting, combined widow and yellowtail limit of 500 lb/ trip, cumulative widow limit of 1,500 lb/ month. Mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.373 for primary whiting season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: CLOSED.				
39	large & small footrope gear	300 lb/ 2 months				
40	selective flatfish trawl gear	300 lb/ month	1,000 lb/ month, no more than 200 lb/ month of which may be yelloweye rockfish			300 lb/ month
41	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	300 lb/ month	300 lb/ 2 months, no more than 200 lb/ month of which may be yelloweye rockfish			300 lb/ month

TABLE 3 (North) con't

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
42	Canary rockfish						
43	large & small footrope gear	CLOSED					
44	selective flatfish trawl gear	100 lb/ month		300 lb/ month		100 lb/ month	
45	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	CLOSED					
46	Yellowtail						
	midwater trawl	Before the primary whiting season: CLOSED. -- During primary whiting season: In trips of at least 10,000 lb of whiting: combined widow and yellowtail limit of 500 lb/ trip, cumulative yellowtail limit of 2,000 lb/ month. Mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.373 for primary whiting season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: CLOSED.					
47	large & small footrope gear	300 lb/ 2 months					
48	selective flatfish trawl gear	2,000 lb/ 2 months					
49	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	300 lb/ 2 months					
50	Minor nearshore rockfish & black rockfish						
51	large & small footrope gear	CLOSED					
52	selective flatfish trawl gear	300 lb/ month					
53	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	CLOSED					
54	Lingcod ^{4/}						
55	large & small footrope gear			4,000 lb/ 2 months			
56	selective flatfish trawl gear	1,200 lb/ 2 months		1,200 lb/2 months			
57	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}						
58	Pacific cod	30,000 lb/ 2 months		70,000 lb/ 2 months			30,000 lb/ 2 months
59	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months		
60	Other Fish ^{5/}	Not limited					
61							

TABLE 3 (North) con't

1/ Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod are included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish.

2/ Splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.302 and include butter sole, curffin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ 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.

5/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.302 and include sharks, skates (including longnose skate), ratfish, morids, grenadiers, and kelp greenling.

Cabezon is included in the trip limits for "other fish."

6/ 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 §§ 660.391-660.394. 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.

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

8/ If a vessel has both selective flatfish gear and large or small footrope gear on board during a cumulative limit period (either simultaneously or successively), the most restrictive cumulative limit for any gear on board during the cumulative limit period applies for the entire cumulative limit period.

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

Table 3 (South) to Part 660, Subpart G -- 2009-2010 Trip Limits for Limited Entry Trawl Gear South of 40°10' N. Lat.

Other Limits and Requirements Apply – Read § 660.301 - § 660.399 before using this table

110109

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{6/}:						
¹ South of 40°10' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{6/} - 150 fm line ^{6/7/}					
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.						
See § 660.370 and § 660.381 for Additional Gear, Trip Limit, and Conservation Area Requirements and Restrictions. See §§ 660.390-660.394 and §§ 660.396-660.399 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.						
Minor slope rockfish^{7/} & Darkblotched rockfish						
²						
³	40°10' - 38° N. lat.	15,000 lb/ 2 months		10,000 lb/ 2 months	15,000 lb/ 2 months	18,000 lb/ 2 months
⁴	South of 38° N. lat.	55,000 lb/ 2 months				
Splitnose						
⁵						
⁶	40°10' - 38° N. lat.	15,000 lb/ 2 months		10,000 lb/ 2 months		15,000 lb/ 2 months
⁷	South of 38° N. lat.	55,000 lb/ 2 months				
DTS complex						
⁸						
⁹	Sablefish	20,000 lb/ 2 months			27,000 lb/ 2 months	
¹⁰	Longspine thornyhead	22,000 lb/ 2 months				
¹¹	Shortspine thornyhead	17,000 lb/ 2 months				
¹²	Dover sole	110,000 lb/ 2 months				
Flatfish (except Dover sole)						
¹³						
¹⁴	Other flatfish ^{3/} , English sole, & stary flounder	110,000 lb/ 2 months	110,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 30,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.		110,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 5,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.	110,000 lb/ 2 months
¹⁵	Petrale sole	50,000 lb/ 2 months			2,000 lb/ 2 months	
¹⁶	Arrowtooth flounder	10,000 lb/ 2 months				
Whiting						
¹⁷						
¹⁸	midwater trawl	Before the primary whiting season: CLOSED. -- During the primary season: mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.373 for season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: CLOSED.				
¹⁹	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.				

TABLE 3 (South)

Table 3 (South). Continued

110109

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
20 Minor shelf rockfish^{1/}, Chilipepper, Shortbelly, Widow, & Yelloweye rockfish						
21 large footrope or midwater trawl for Minor shelf rockfish & Shortbelly	300 lb/ month					
22 large footrope or midwater trawl for Chilipepper	5,000 lb/ 2 months			12,000 lb/ 2 months		
23 large footrope or midwater trawl for Widow & Yelloweye	CLOSED					
24 small footrope trawl for Minor Shelf, Shortbelly, Widow & Yelloweye	300 lb/ month					
25 small footrope trawl for Chilipepper	5,000 lb/ 2 months			12,000 lb/ 2 months		
26 Bocaccio						
27 large footrope or midwater trawl	300 lb/ 2 months					
28 small footrope trawl	CLOSED					
29 Canary rockfish						
30 large footrope or midwater trawl	CLOSED					
31 small footrope trawl	100 lb/ month		300 lb/ month		100 lb/ month	
32 Cowcod	CLOSED					
33 Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED					
34 Minor nearshore rockfish & Black rockfish						
35 large footrope or midwater trawl	CLOSED					
36 small footrope trawl	300 lb/ month					
37 Lingcod^{4/}						
38 large footrope or midwater trawl	1,200 lb/ 2 months		4,000 lb/ 2 months			
39 small footrope trawl	1,200 lb/ 2 months					
40 Pacific cod	30,000 lb/ 2 months		70,000 lb/ 2 months			30,000 lb/ 2 months
41 Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months		
42 Other Fish^{5/} & Cabezon	Not limited					

TABLE 3 (South) cont'

1/ Yellowtail is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.
 2/ POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish
 3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.302 and include butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.
 4/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.
 5/ Other fish are defined at § 660.302 and include sharks, skates (including longnose skate), rattfish, morids, grenadiers, and kelp greenling.
 6/ 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 §§ 660.391-660.394. 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.
 7/ 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.
To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.