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FISHERIES**

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS TO CALIFORNIA RECREATIONAL FISHERIES Effective September 27, 2018

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces routine inseason adjustments to management measures in California recreational groundfish fisheries. This action, which was recommended to NMFS by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) at its September 2018 meeting, is intended to allow recreational fishing vessels to access more abundant groundfish stocks while protecting overfished and depleted stocks.

At the September Council meeting, the Council was informed that Oregon and California are experiencing higher than projected recreational harvest of yelloweye rockfish. The higher than projected harvest has likely been the result of more favorable weather conditions experienced over the past few months, as well as increased targeting of rockfish due to a decline in salmon harvesting opportunities. The most recent estimates indicate that catch may approach or exceed both the Oregon and California Federal recreational harvest guidelines (HG) for yelloweye rockfish for the 2018 fishing year. Yelloweye rockfish is currently rebuilding, but no longer overfished.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will take action through its state inseason process to address the higher than anticipated catch of yelloweye rockfish. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) took action on August 25, 2018, through public notice, to reduce recreational fishing impacts on yelloweye rockfish through restrictions on recreational fishing depth north of Point Conception. The modifications to federal regulations made by NMFS through this inseason notice are needed to conform with the action already taken by CDFW.

Therefore, as recommended by the Council, NMFS is implementing, through modifications to regulations at 50 CFR 660.360(c)(3)(i)(A), more restrictive depth limits for California recreational fishing management areas as follows:

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

Management Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern-Between 42° N. lat. (California/Oregon border) and 40°10' N. lat.	CLOSED				May 1-Sept 26, <30 fm					Sept 27-Dec 31, <20 fm		
Mendocino-Between 40°10' N. lat. and 38°57.50' N. lat.	CLOSED				May 1-Dec 31, <20 fm							
San Francisco-Between 38°57.50' N. lat. and 37°11' N. lat.	CLOSED			April 15-Sept 26, <40 fm						Sept 27-Dec 31, <30 fm		
Central-Between 37°11' N. lat. and 34°27' N. lat.	CLOSED			April 1-Sept 26, <50 fm						Sept 27-Dec 31, <40 fm		
Southern-South of 34°27' N. lat.	CLOSED		March 1-December 31, <60 fm									