

regulatory flexibility analysis is not required and none was prepared.

There are no new reporting or recordkeeping requirements contained in any of the final measures included in this action.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: June 22, 2016.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Regulatory Programs, National Marine
Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2016–15202 Filed 6–27–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 140904754–5188–02]

RIN 0648–BG08

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2015–2016 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule; inseason adjustments to biennial groundfish management measures.

SUMMARY: This final rule announces inseason changes to management measures in the Pacific Coast groundfish fisheries. This action, which is authorized by the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PCGFMP), is intended to allow fisheries to attain their allocations and maintain year-round fishing opportunities while keeping harvest within the annual catch limit (ACL) for sablefish north 36° N. lat.

DATES: This final rule is effective June 28, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gretchen Hanshew, phone: 206–526–6147, fax: 206–526–6736, or email: gretchen.hanshew@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

This rule is accessible via the Internet at the Office of the Federal Register Web site at <https://www.federalregister.gov>. Background information and documents are available at the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Web site at

<http://www.pcouncil.org/>. Copies of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) for the Groundfish Specifications and Management Measures for 2015–2016 and Biennial Periods Thereafter are available from Chuck Tracy, Acting Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Portland, OR 97220, phone: 503–820–2280.

Background

Changes to Trip Limits the Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access Sablefish Daily Trip Limit Fisheries North of 36° N. lat.

The best available fisheries information indicates that catch of sablefish in the commercial non-trawl fisheries north of 36° N. lat. in 2016 will be higher than anticipated. The Council considered updated projections and the status of ongoing groundfish fisheries at its March 9–14, 2016, and April 9–14, 2016, meetings. The Council considered 2015 fishery harvest estimates and fishery models, updated with the best estimate reports from the Pacific Fishery Information Network through February 28, 2016.

At its March meeting, the Council considered updated projections, indicating that sablefish landings through the end of the year would exceed the sablefish allocation in the limited entry fixed gear daily trip limit (DTL) fishery north of 36° N. lat. Projected landings in the limited entry fixed gear DTL fishery north of 36° N. lat. vary based on assumptions on the price per pound. If no action is taken—and this higher than anticipated catch continues in the limited entry fixed gear DTL fishery—then projected landings range from 90 percent of the allocation (low price assumption) to over 100 percent of the allocation (high price assumption) through the end of the year. In recent years, the Council has taken a precautionary approach to setting trip limits at the start of the year. Setting trip limits to target approximately 90 percent attainment of the allocation allows for flexibility to increase trip limits later in the year if harvest remains at or lower than anticipated levels, and also reduces the risk of early closure if catches are higher than anticipated. The Council considered a modest decrease to the weekly limit in the limited entry fixed gear DTL fishery north of 36° N. lat. With a slightly smaller weekly limit, harvest estimates through the end of the year were reduced to between 81 and 93 percent of the allocation (under low and high price per pound assumptions, respectively).

The Council recommended and NMFS is implementing a reduction in the weekly limit for sablefish in the limited entry fixed gear fishery north of 36° N. lat. from “1,275 lb per week, not to exceed 3,375 lb per two months” to “1,125 lb per week, not to exceed 3,375 lb per two months.”

At its April meeting, the Council considered 2015 fishery performance, status of ongoing fisheries in 2016, updated projections, and requests from industry regarding the open access DTL fishery north of 36° N. lat. Harvest of sablefish in the open access DTL fishery north of 36° N. lat. exceeded its allocation in 2015. Industry raised concerns that participation levels seen in 2015 may further increase in 2016 due to a predicted poor salmon fishing season and lack of a Dungeness crab fishery off California. If no action is taken and this higher than anticipated catch continues in the open access DTL fishery, landings through the end of the year are projected to be 70 percent of the allocation. The Council considered these updated projections, and concerns and recommendations from industry representatives. Based on public testimony, there is anecdotal evidence of a sharp increase in participation in this fishery, particularly in southern Oregon and northern California ports. Industry representatives recommended a precautionary decrease in trip limits beginning July 1 to slow landings and maintain year-round fishing opportunities. The Council considered a precautionary reduction to open access DTL trip limits to maintain harvest opportunities throughout the year even under much higher participation levels.

The Council recommended and NMFS is implementing a reduction in the trip limit for sablefish in the open access fishery north of 36° N. lat. from “300 lb per day, or one landing per week of up to 1,000 lb, not to exceed 2,000 lb per two months” to “300 lb per day, or one landing per week of up to 850 lb, not to exceed 1,700 lb per two months,” beginning July 1, 2016.

Decreases to trip limits in the limited entry fixed gear and open access DTL fisheries north of 36° N. lat. are intended to allow year-round fishing opportunities and reduce the risk of closure as occurred in 2015 (when the limited entry fixed gear and open access DTL fisheries north of 36° N. lat. were both closed on November 1, reducing the season length by two months).

Classification

This final rule makes routine inseason adjustments to groundfish fishery management measures, based on the best available information, consistent

with the PCGFMP and its implementing regulations.

This action is taken under the authority of 50 CFR 660.60(c) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

The aggregate data upon which these actions are based are available for public inspection at the Office of the Administrator, West Coast Region, NMFS, during business hours.

NMFS finds good cause to waive prior public notice and comment on the revisions to groundfish management measures under 5 U.S.C. 553(b) because notice and comment would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Also, for the same reasons, NMFS finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), so that this final rule may become effective June 28, 2016.

The Council recommended that these changes be implemented as quickly as possible to reduce harvest of sablefish in the limited entry fixed gear and open access DTL fisheries north of 36° N. lat. based in information available at its

March and April meetings. There was not sufficient time after those meetings to draft this document and undergo proposed and final rulemaking before this action needs to be in effect. For the action to be implemented in this final rule, affording the time necessary for prior notice and opportunity for public comment would prevent NMFS from managing fisheries using the best available science to approach, without exceeding, the sablefish ACLs in accordance with the PCGFMP and applicable law. These adjustments to management measures must be implemented in a timely manner to prevent the 2016 sablefish north 36° N. lat. allocations from being exceeded and help ensure year-round fishing opportunities, consistent with objectives of the PCGFMP. No aspect of this action is controversial, and changes of this nature were anticipated in the groundfish biennial harvest specifications and management measures established for 2015–2016.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, NMFS finds good cause to waive

prior notice and comment and to waive the delay in effectiveness.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 660

Fisheries, Fishing, and Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: June 22, 2016.

Emily H. Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 660 is amended as follows:

PART 660—FISHERIES OFF WEST COAST STATES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 660 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*, and 16 U.S.C. 7001 *et seq.*

■ 2. Table 2 (North) and 2 (South) to part 660, subpart E, are revised to read as follows:

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

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										7012016
		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC			
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:										TABLE 2 (North)
1	North of 46° 16' N. lat.									
2	46° 16' N. lat. - 42° 00' N. lat.									
3	42° 00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat.									
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	1,275 lb/week, not to exceed 3,375 lb/ 2 months				1,125 lb/week, not to exceed 3,375 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	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish ^{3/}	5,000 lb/ month								
10		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.								
11										
12										
13										
14	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				6,000 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	200 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								
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 cownod 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, curfin 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.										

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, curfin 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.

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/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}							
2	South of 34°27' N. lat.	60 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.	1,275 lb/week, not to exceed 3,375 lb/ 2 months				1,125 lb/week, not to exceed 3,375 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									
18	Whiting	10,000 lb/ trip							
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					

TABLE 2 (South)

TABLE 2 (South)

TABLE 2 (South)

■ 3. Table 3 (North) and 3 (South) to part 660, subpart F, are revised to read as follows:

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.											07012016
Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table											
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) ^{1/} :		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC				
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 850 lb, not to exceed 1,700 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, 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 of which may be species other than black rockfish					6,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb of which 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)

TABLE 3 (North)

Table 3 (North). Continued

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
26	SALMON TROLL (<i>subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish and lingcod, as described below</i>)						
27	North	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.					
28	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL (<i>not subject to RCAs</i>)						
29	North	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.					

TABLE 3 (North) 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/ Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod rockfishes are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Spltnose 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 lbs 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.

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

07012016

Other limits and requirements apply. Read §§660.60 through 660.79 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/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}					
2	South of 34°27' N. lat.	60 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	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 850 lb, not to exceed 1,700 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		3,000 lb/ month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs.					
12	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish ^{3/}	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.	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)

TABLE 3 (South)

Table 3 (South). Continued			JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC	TABLE 3 (South) cont'd	
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.								
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.										
To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.										

[FR Doc. 2016-15155 Filed 6-27-16; 8:45 a.m.]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-C