

Fishery Conservation and Management

\$ 660.352

Table 3 (South) Continued

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

9/24/2021

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC					
<b>Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)<sup>1/</sup>:</b>											
40	40°10' N. lat. - 38°57' 5" N. lat.		40 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 125 fm line <sup>1/</sup>								
41	38°57' 5" N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.		50 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 125 fm line <sup>1/</sup>								
42	South of 34°27' N. lat.		100 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 150 fm line <sup>1/</sup> (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).											
43 <b>SALMON TROLL</b> (subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish, as described below)											
44	South of 40°10' N. lat.	Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lb of yellowtail rockfish for every 2 lb of Chinook salmon landed, with a cumulative limit of 200 lb/month, both within and outside of the RCA. This limit is within the 4,000 lb per 2 month limit for minor shelf rockfish between 40°10' and 34°27' N. lat., 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.									
45 <b>RIDGEBACK PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF 38° 57' 50" N. LAT., CA HALIBUT AND SEA CUCUMBER NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL</b>											
46 <b>NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) for CA Halibut, Sea Cucumber &amp; Ridgeback Prawn:</b>											
47	40°10' N. lat. - 38°00' N. lat.	100 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 200 fm line <sup>1/</sup>	100 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 150 fm line <sup>1/</sup>		100 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 200 fm line <sup>1/</sup>						
48	38°00' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.		100 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 150 fm line <sup>1/</sup>								
49	South of 34°27' N. lat.		100 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 150 fm line <sup>1/</sup>								
50		Groundfish: 300 lb/trip. Species-specific limits described in the table above also apply and are counted toward the 300 lb groundfish per trip limit. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of the target species landed, except that the amount of spiny dogfish landed may exceed the amount of target species landed. Spiny dogfish are limited by the 300 lb/trip overall groundfish limit. The daily trip limits for sablefish coastwide and thornyheads south of Pt. Conception and the overall groundfish "per trip" limit may not be multiplied by the number of days of the trip. Vessels participating in the California halibut fishery south of 38°57' 50" N. lat. are allowed to (1) land up to 100 lb/day of groundfish without the ratio requirement, provided that at least one California halibut is landed and (2) land up to 3,000 lb/month of flatfish, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs, sand sole, starry flounder, rock sole, curfin sole, or California scorpionfish (California scorpionfish is also subject to the trip limits and closures in line 29).									
51 <b>PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL GEAR</b> (not subject to RCAs)											
52	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 rockfish, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of all groundfish species count toward the per day, per trip or other species-specific sublimits described here and the species-specific limits described in the table above do not apply. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.									

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/ "Shallow Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(1).

5/ "Deeper Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(2).

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

7/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and includes kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

8/ Open access vessels are allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using hook and line only. See section 660.330 (d) of the regulations for more information.

[86 FR 72871, Dec. 23, 2021]

Subpart G—West Coast  
Groundfish—Recreational Fisheries

SOURCE: 75 FR 60995, Oct. 1, 2010, unless otherwise noted.

§ 660.350 Purpose and scope.

This subpart covers the Pacific Coast Groundfish recreational fishery.

§ 660.351 Recreational fishery—definitions.

These definitions are specific to the recreational fisheries covered in this subpart. General groundfish definitions are defined at § 660.11, subpart C.

*Bag limit* means the number of fish available to an angler.

*Boat limit* means the number of fish available to for a vessel or boat.

*Hook limit* means a limit on the number of hooks on any given fishing line.

*Long-leader gear* (also known as Holloway gear) means fishing gear with the following: One fishing line, deployed with a sinker and no more than three hooks, with a minimum of 30 feet (9.14 meters) between the sinker and the lowest hook, and a non-compressible float attached to the line above the hooks. The gear may be equipped with artificial lures and flies less than or equal to 5 inches in length. Natural bait, and lures or flies greater than 5 inches in length, may not be used.

[75 FR 60995, Oct. 1, 2010, as amended at 83 FR 13431, Mar. 29, 2018]

§ 660.352 Recreational fishery—prohibitions.

These prohibitions are specific to the recreational fisheries. General groundfish prohibitions are found at § 660.12, subpart C. In addition to the general groundfish prohibitions specified in

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§ 600.12, subpart C, of this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to:

(a) Sell, offer to sell, or purchase any groundfish taken in the course of recreational groundfish fishing.

(b) Use fishing gear other than hook-and-line or spear for recreational fishing.

### § 660.353 Recreational fishery—record-keeping and reporting.

Recordkeeping and reporting requirements at § 660.13 (a) through (c), subpart C, apply to the recreational fishery.

### § 660.360 Recreational fishery—management measures.

(a) *General.* Federal recreational groundfish regulations are not intended to supersede any more restrictive state recreational groundfish regulations relating to federally-managed groundfish. The bag limits include fish taken in both state and Federal waters.

(b) *Gear restrictions.* The only types of fishing gear authorized for recreational fishing are hook-and-line and spear. Spears may be propelled by hand or by mechanical means. More fishery-specific gear restrictions may be required by state as noted in paragraph (c) of this section (e.g., California's recreational "other flatfish" fishery).

(c) *State-specific recreational fishery management measures.* Federal recreational groundfish regulations are not intended to supersede any more restrictive State recreational groundfish regulations relating to federally-managed groundfish. Off the coast of Washington, Oregon, and California, boat limits apply, whereby each fisher aboard a vessel may continue to use angling gear until the combined daily limits of groundfish for all licensed and juvenile anglers aboard has been attained (additional state restrictions on boat limits may apply).

(1) *Washington.* For each person engaged in recreational fishing off the coast of Washington, the groundfish bag limit is 9 groundfish per day, including rockfish, cabezon and lingcod. Within the groundfish bag limit, there are sub-limits for rockfish, lingcod, and cabezon outlined in paragraph (c)(1)(i)(D) of this section. In addition to the groundfish bag limit of 9, there

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will be a flatfish limit of 5 fish, not to be counted towards the groundfish bag limit but in addition to it. The recreational groundfish fishery will open the second Saturday in March through the third Saturday in October for all species. In the Pacific halibut fisheries, retention of groundfish is governed in part by annual management measures for Pacific halibut fisheries, which are published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The following seasons, closed areas, sub-limits and size limits apply:

(i) *Recreational groundfish conservation areas off Washington—(A) North coast recreational yelloweye rockfish conservation area.* Recreational fishing for groundfish and halibut is prohibited within the North Coast Recreational Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA). It is unlawful for recreational fishing vessels to take and retain, possess, or land groundfish taken with recreational gear within the North Coast Recreational YRCA. A vessel fishing in the North Coast Recreational YRCA may not be in possession of any groundfish. Recreational vessels may transit through the North Coast Recreational YRCA with or without groundfish on board. The North Coast Recreational YRCA is defined by latitude and longitude coordinates specified at § 660.70, subpart C.

(B) *South coast recreational yelloweye rockfish conservation area.* Recreational fishing for groundfish and halibut is allowed within the South Coast Recreational YRCA. The South Coast Recreational YRCA is defined by latitude and longitude coordinates specified at § 660.70, subpart C.

(C) *Westport offshore recreational yelloweye rockfish conservation area.* Recreational fishing for groundfish and halibut is allowed within the Westport Offshore Recreational YRCA. The Westport Offshore Recreational YRCA is defined by latitude and longitude coordinates specified at § 660.70, subpart C.

(D) *Recreational rockfish conservation area.* Fishing for groundfish with recreational gear is prohibited within the recreational RCA unless otherwise stated. It is unlawful to take and retain, possess, or land groundfish taken with recreational gear within the recreational RCA unless otherwise stated.

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A vessel fishing in the recreational RCA may not be in possession of any groundfish unless otherwise stated. [For example, if a vessel participates in the recreational salmon fishery within the RCA, the vessel cannot be in possession of groundfish while in the RCA. The vessel may, however, on the same

trip fish for and retain groundfish shoreward of the RCA on the return trip to port.] Coordinates approximating boundary lines at the 10-fm (18-m) through 100-fm (183-m) depth contours can be found at § 660.71 through § 660.73. The Washington recreational fishing season structure is as follows:

**TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH ((C)(1)(I)(D)—WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL FISHING SEASON STRUCTURE**

Marine Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3 and 4 (North Coast)	Closed		Open		Open < 20 fm June 1-July 31 <sup>a/b/</sup>		Open		Closed			
2 (South Coast)	Closed		Open <sup>c/d/</sup>		Open <sup>d/</sup>				Closed			
1 (Columbia River)	Closed		Open <sup>e/f/</sup>						Closed			

a/ Retention of Pacific cod, sablefish, lingcod, bocaccio, silvergray rockfish, canary rockfish, widow rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish allowed > 20 fm on days when recreational Pacific halibut is open.

b/ Retention of yellowtail and widow rockfish is allowed > 20 fm in July.

c/ From May 1 through May 31 lingcod retention prohibited > 30 fathoms except on days that the primary halibut season is open.

d/ When lingcod is open, retention is prohibited seaward of line drawn from Queets River (47° 31.70' N. Lat. 124° 45.00' W. Lon.) to Leadbetter Point (46° 38.17' N. Lat. 124° 30.00' W. Lon.), except on days open to the primary halibut fishery and, June 1 – 15 and September 1 – 30.

e/ Retention of flatfish, sablefish, Pacific cod, yellowtail rockfish, widow rockfish, canary rockfish, redstriped rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, silvergray rockfish, chilipepper, bocaccio, and blue/deacon rockfish allowed during the all-depth Pacific halibut fishery. Lingcod retention is only allowed north of the WA-OR border with halibut on board.

f/ Retention of lingcod is prohibited seaward of a line drawn from Leadbetter Point (46° 38.17' N. Lat. 124° 21.00' W. Lon.) to 46° 33.00' N. Lat. 124° 21.00' W. Lon. year round except lingcod retention is allowed from June 1 - June 15 and Sept 1 - Sept 30.

(ii) *Rockfish*. In areas of the EEZ seaward of Washington (Washington Marine Areas 1–4) that are open to recreational groundfish fishing, there is a 7 rockfish per day bag limit. Taking and retaining yelloweye rockfish is prohibited in all Marine areas.

(iii) *Cabezon*. In areas of the EEZ seaward of Washington (Washington Marine Areas 1–4) that are open to recreational groundfish fishing, there is a 1 cabezon per day bag limit.

(iv) *Lingcod*. In areas of the EEZ seaward of Washington (Washington Marine Areas 1–4) that are open to recreational groundfish fishing and when the recreational season for lingcod is

open, there is a bag limit of 2 lingcod per day. The recreational fishing seasons for lingcod is open from the second Saturday in March through the third Saturday in October.

(2) *Oregon*—(i) *Recreational groundfish conservation areas off Oregon*—(A) *Stonewall Bank yelloweye rockfish conservation area*. Recreational fishing for groundfish and halibut is prohibited within the Stonewall Bank YRCA. It is unlawful for recreational fishing vessels to take and retain, possess, or land groundfish taken with recreational gear within the Stonewall Bank YRCA. A vessel fishing in the Stonewall Bank YRCA may not be in possession of any

groundfish. Recreational vessels may transit through the Stonewall Bank YRCA with or without groundfish on board. The Stonewall Bank YRCA, and two possible expansions that are available through inseason adjustment, are defined by latitude and longitude coordinates specified at § 660.70, subpart C.

(B) *Recreational rockfish conservation area (RCA)*. Fishing for groundfish with recreational gear is prohibited within the recreational RCA, a type of closed area or groundfish conservation area, except with long-leader gear (as defined at § 660.351). It is unlawful to take and retain, possess, or land groundfish taken with recreational gear within the recreational RCA, except with long-leader gear (as defined at § 660.351). A vessel fishing in the recreational RCA may not be in possession of any groundfish. [For example, if a vessel fishes in the recreational salmon fishery within the RCA, the vessel cannot be in possession of groundfish while within the RCA. The vessel may, however, on the same trip fish for and retain groundfish shoreward of the RCA on the return trip to port.] Off Oregon, from January 1 through December 31, recreational fishing for groundfish is allowed in all depths. Coordinates approximating boundary lines at the 10-fm (18 m) through 100-fm (183-m) depth contours can be found at § 660.71 through § 660.73.

(C) *Essential fish habitat conservation areas*. The Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Areas (EFHCAs) are closed areas, defined by specific latitude and longitude coordinates at §§ 660.76 through 660.79, where specified types of fishing are prohibited. Prohibitions applying to specific EFHCAs are found at § 660.12.

(ii) *Seasons*. Recreational fishing for groundfish is open from January 1 through December 31, subject to the closed areas described in paragraph (c) of this section.

(iii) *Bag limits, size limits*. For each person engaged in recreational fishing off the coast of Oregon, the following bag limits apply:

(A) *Marine fish*. The bag limit is 10 marine fish per day, which includes rockfish, kelp greenling, cabezon and other groundfish species. The bag limit

of marine fish excludes Pacific halibut, salmonids, tuna, perch species, sturgeon, sanddabs, flatfish, lingcod, striped bass, hybrid bass, offshore pelagic species and baitfish (herring, smelt, anchovies and sardines). The minimum size for cabezon retained in the Oregon recreational fishery is 16 in (41 cm) total length.

(B) *Lingcod*. There is a 3 fish limit per day for lingcod from January 1 through December 31. The minimum size for lingcod retained in the Oregon recreational fishery is 22 in (56 cm) total length. For vessels using long-leader gear (as defined in § 660.351) and fishing inside the recreational RCA, possession of lingcod is prohibited.

(C) *Flatfish*. There is a 25 fish limit per day for all flatfish, excluding Pacific halibut, but including all soles, flounders and Pacific sanddabs, from January 1 through December 31.

(D) *In the Pacific halibut fisheries*. Retention of groundfish is governed in part by annual management measures for Pacific halibut fisheries, which are published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Between the Columbia River and Humbug Mountain, during days open to the “all-depth” sport halibut fisheries, when Pacific halibut are onboard the vessel, no groundfish may be taken and retained, possessed or landed, except sablefish, Pacific cod, and other species of flatfish (sole, flounder, sanddab). “All-depth” season days are established in the annual management measures for Pacific halibut fisheries, which are published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and are announced on the NMFS Pacific halibut hotline, 1-800-662-9825.

(E) Taking and retaining yelloweye rockfish is prohibited at all times and in all areas.

(3) *California*. Seaward of California, California law provides that, in times and areas when the recreational fishery is open, there is a 20 fish bag limit for all species of finfish, within which no more than 10 fish of any one species may be taken or possessed by any one person. [Note: There are some exceptions to this rule. The following groundfish species are not subject to a bag limit: Petrale sole, Pacific sanddab and starry flounder.] For groundfish species not specifically mentioned in

this paragraph, fishers are subject to the overall 20-fish bag limit for all species of finfish and the depth restrictions at paragraph (c)(3)(i) of this section. Recreational spearfishing for all federally-managed groundfish, is exempt from closed areas and seasons, consistent with Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. This exemption applies only to recreational vessels and divers provided no other fishing gear, except spearfishing gear, is on board the vessel. California state law may provide regulations similar to Federal regulations for the following state-managed species: Ocean whitefish, California sheephead, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. Kelp greenling is the only federally-managed greenling. Retention of cowcod, yelloweye rockfish, and bronzedspotted rockfish, is prohibited in the recreational fishery seaward of California all year in all areas. Retention of species or species groups for which the season is closed is prohibited in the recreational fishery seaward of California all year in all areas, unless otherwise authorized in this section. For each person engaged in recreational fishing in the EEZ seaward of California, the following closed areas, seasons, bag limits, and size limits apply:

(1) *Recreational groundfish conservation areas off California*. A Groundfish Conservation Area (GCA), a type of closed area, is a geographic area defined by coordinates expressed in degrees latitude and longitude. The following GCAs apply to participants in California's recreational fishery.

(A) *Recreational rockfish conservation areas*. The recreational RCAs are areas that are closed to recreational fishing for groundfish. Fishing for groundfish with recreational gear is prohibited within the recreational RCA, except that recreational fishing for species in the Other Flatfish complex, petrale sole, and starry flounder is permitted within the recreational RCA as specified in paragraph (c)(3)(iv) of this section. It is unlawful to take and retain, possess, or land groundfish taken with recreational gear within the recreational RCA, unless otherwise authorized in this section. A vessel fishing in the recreational RCA may not be

in possession of any species prohibited by the restrictions that apply within the recreational RCA. For example, if a vessel fishes in the recreational salmon fishery within the RCA, the vessel cannot be in possession of rockfish while in the RCA. The vessel may, however, on the same trip fish for and retain rockfish shoreward of the RCA on the return trip to port. If the season is closed for a species or species group, fishing for that species or species group is prohibited both within the recreational RCA and shoreward of the recreational RCA, unless otherwise authorized in this section. Coordinates approximating boundary lines at the 10- fm (18 m) through 100-fm (183-m) depth contours can be found at §660.71 through §660.73. The California recreational fishing season structure and RCA depth boundaries by management area and month are as follows:

(1) Between 42° N lat. (California/Oregon border) and 40°10' N lat. (Northern Management Area), recreational fishing for all groundfish (except petrale sole, starry flounder, and "Other Flatfish" as specified in paragraph (c)(3)(iv) of this section) is closed from January 1 through April 30; 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 May 1 through October 31 (shoreward of 30 fm is open); and is open at all depths from November 1 through December 31.

(2) Between 40°10' N lat. and 38°57.50' N lat. (Mendocino Management Area), recreational fishing for all groundfish (except petrale sole, starry flounder, and "Other Flatfish" as specified in paragraph (c)(3)(iv) of this section) is closed from January 1 through April 30; 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 May 1 through October 31 (shoreward of 30 fm is open), and is open at all depths from November 1 through December 31.

(3) Between 38°57.50' N lat. and 37°11' N lat. (San Francisco Management Area), recreational fishing for all groundfish (except petrale sole, starry

flounder, and “Other Flatfish” as specified in paragraph (c)(3)(iv) of this section) is closed from January 1 through March 31; is prohibited seaward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from April 1 through December 31 (shoreward of 50 fm is open). Closures around Cordell Bank (see paragraph (c)(3)(i)(C) of this section) also apply in this area.

(4) Between 37°11′ N lat. and 34°27′ N lat. (Central Management Area), recreational fishing for all groundfish (except petrale sole, starry flounder, and “Other Flatfish” as specified in paragraph (c)(3)(iv) of this section) is closed from January 1 through March 31; and is prohibited seaward of a boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from April 1 through December 31.

(5) South of 34°27′ N lat. (Southern Management Area), recreational fishing for all groundfish (except California scorpionfish, “Other Flatfish,” petrale sole, and starry flounder) is closed entirely from January 1 through the last day of February. Recreational fishing for all groundfish (except “Other Flatfish,” petrale sole, and starry flounder, as specified in paragraph (c)(3)(iv) of this section) is prohibited seaward of a boundary line approximating the 100 fm (137 m) depth contour from April 1 through December 31 along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts, except in the CCAs where fishing is prohibited seaward of the 40 fm (73 m) depth contour when the fishing season is open (see paragraph (c)(3)(i)(B) of this section).

(B) *Cowcod conservation areas.* The latitude and longitude coordinates of the Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCAs) boundaries are specified at § 660.70. In general, recreational fishing for all groundfish is prohibited within the CCAs, except that fishing for petrale sole, starry flounder, and “Other Flatfish” is permitted within the CCAs as specified in paragraph (c)(3)(iv) of this section. However, recreational fishing for the following species is prohibited seaward of the 40 fm (37 m) depth con-

tour when the season for those species is open south of 34°27′ N lat.: Minor nearshore rockfish, cabezon, kelp greenling, lingcod, California scorpionfish, and shelf rockfish. Retention of yelloweye rockfish, bronzedspotted rockfish and cowcod is prohibited within the CCA. [Note: California state regulations also permit recreational fishing for California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* shoreward of the 40 fm (73 m) depth contour in the CCAs when the season for the RCG complex is open south of 34°27′ N lat.] It is unlawful to take and retain, possess, or land groundfish taken within the CCAs, except for species authorized in this section.

(C) *Cordell Bank.* Recreational fishing for groundfish is prohibited in waters less than 100 fm (183 m) around Cordell Bank as defined by specific latitude and longitude coordinates at § 660.70, subpart C, except that recreational fishing for petrale sole, starry flounder, and “Other Flatfish” is permitted around Cordell Bank as specified in paragraph (c)(3)(iv) of this section.

(D) *Point St. George Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA).* Recreational fishing for groundfish is prohibited within the Point St. George YRCA, as defined by latitude and longitude coordinates at § 660.70, subpart C, on dates when the closure is in effect. The closure is not in effect at this time. This closure may be imposed through inseason adjustment.

(E) *South reef YRCA.* Recreational fishing for groundfish is prohibited within the South Reef YRCA, as defined by latitude and longitude coordinates at § 660.70, subpart C, on dates when the closure is in effect. The closure is not in effect at this time. This closure may be imposed through inseason adjustment.

(F) *Reading Rock YRCA.* Recreational fishing for groundfish is prohibited within the Reading Rock YRCA, as defined by latitude and longitude coordinates at § 660.70, subpart C, on dates when the closure is in effect. The closure is not in effect at this time. This closure may be imposed through inseason adjustment.

(G) *Point Delgada (North) YRCA*. Recreational fishing for groundfish is prohibited within the Point Delgada (North) YRCA, as defined by latitude and longitude coordinates at § 660.70, subpart C, on dates when the closure is in effect. The closure is not in effect at this time. This closure may be imposed through inseason adjustment.

(H) *Point Delgada (South) YRCA*. Recreational fishing for groundfish is prohibited within the Point Delgada (South) YRCA, as defined by latitude and longitude coordinates at § 660.70, subpart C, on dates when the closure is in effect. The closure is not in effect at this time. This closure may be imposed through inseason adjustment.

(I) *Essential fish habitat conservation areas*. The Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Areas (EFHCAs) are closed areas, defined by specific latitude and longitude coordinates at §§ 660.76 through 660.79, subpart C where specified types of fishing are prohibited. Prohibitions applying to specific EFHCAs are found at § 660.12, subpart C.

(ii) *RCG complex*. The California rockfish, cabezon, greenling complex (RCG Complex), as defined in state regulations (Section 1.91, Title 14, California Code of Regulations), includes all rockfish, kelp greenling, rock greenling, and cabezon. This category does not include California scorpionfish, also known as “sculpin”.

(A) *Seasons*. When recreational fishing for the RCG complex is open, it is permitted only outside of the recreational RCAs described in paragraph (c)(3)(i) of this section.

(1) Between 42° N lat. (California/Oregon border) and 40°10' N lat. (North Management Area), recreational fishing for the RCG complex is open from May 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, it's closed from January 1 through April 30).

(2) Between 40°10' N lat. and 38°57.50' N lat. (Mendocino Management Area), recreational fishing for the RCG Complex is open from May 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, it's closed from January 1 through April 30).

(3) Between 38°57.50' N lat. and 37°11' N lat. (San Francisco Management Area), recreational fishing for the RCG complex is open from April 1 through

December 31 (*i.e.*, it's closed from January 1 through March 31).

(4) Between 37°11' N lat. and 34°27' N lat. (Central Management Area), recreational fishing for the RCG complex is open from April 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, it's closed from January 1 through March 31).

(5) South of 34°27' N lat. (Southern Management Area), recreational fishing for the RCG Complex is open from March 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, it's closed from January 1 through the last day in February).

(B) *Bag limits, hook limits*. In times and areas when the recreational season for the RCG Complex is open, there is a limit of 2 hooks and 1 line when fishing for the RCG complex. The bag limit is 10 RCG Complex fish per day coastwide, with a sub-bag limit of 4 fish for vermilion rockfish, 1 fish for quillback rockfish, and 1 fish for copper rockfish. These sub-bag limits count towards the bag limit for the RCG Complex and are not in addition to that limit. Retention of yelloweye rockfish, bronzespotted rockfish, and cowcod is prohibited. Multi-day limits are authorized by a valid permit issued by California and must not exceed the daily limit multiplied by the value of days in the fishing trip.

(C) *Size limits*. The following size limits apply: cabezon may be no smaller than 15 in (38 cm) total length; and kelp and other greenling may be no smaller than 12 in (30 cm) total length.

(D) *Dressing/filleting*. Cabezon, kelp greenling, and rock greenling taken in the recreational fishery may not be filleted at sea. Rockfish skin may not be removed when filleting or otherwise dressing rockfish taken in the recreational fishery.

(iii) *Lingcod*—(A) *Seasons*. When recreational fishing for lingcod is open, it is permitted only outside of the recreational RCAs described in paragraph (c)(3)(i) of this section.

(1) Between 42° N lat. (California/Oregon border) and 40°10' N lat. (Northern Management Area), recreational fishing for lingcod is open from May 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, it's closed from January 1 through April 30).

(2) Between 40°10' N lat. and 38°57.50' N lat. (Mendocino Management Area), recreational fishing for lingcod is open

from May 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, it's closed from January 1 through April 30).

(3) Between 38°57.50' N lat. and 37°11' N lat. (San Francisco Management Area), recreational fishing for lingcod is open from April 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, it's closed from January 1 through March 31).

(4) Between 37°11' N lat. and 34°27' N lat. (Central Management Area), recreational fishing for lingcod is open from April 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, it's closed from January 1 through March 31).

(5) South of 34°27' N lat. (Southern Management Area), recreational fishing for lingcod is open from March 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, it's closed from January 1 through the last day in February).

(B) *Bag limits, hook limits.* In times and areas when the recreational season for lingcod is open, there is a limit of 2 hooks and 1 line when fishing for lingcod. Multi-day limits are authorized by a valid permit issued by California and must not exceed the daily limit multiplied by the number of days in the fishing trip.

(1) The bag limit between 42° N lat. (California/Oregon border) and 40°10' N lat. (Northern Management Area) is 2 lingcod per day.

(2) The bag limit between 40°10' N lat. and the U.S. border with Mexico (Mendocino Management Area, San Francisco Management Area, Central Management Area, and Southern Management Area) is 2 lingcod per day.

(C) *Size limits.* Lingcod may be no smaller than 22 in (56 cm) total length.

(D) *Dressing/filleting.* Lingcod filets may be no smaller than 14 in (36 cm) in length. Each fillet shall bear an intact 1 in (2.6 cm) square patch of skin.

(iv) “*Other Flatfish,*” *petrale sole, and starry flounder.* Coastwide off California, recreational fishing for “*Other Flatfish,*” *petrale sole, and starry flounder,* is permitted both shoreward of and within the closed areas described in paragraph (c)(3)(i) of this section. “*Other Flatfish*” are defined at § 660.11, and include butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole. “*Other Flatfish,*” are subject to the overall 20-fish bag limit for all species of finfish,

of which there may be no more than 10 fish of any one species; there is no daily bag limit for *petrale sole, starry flounder and Pacific sanddab.* There are no size limits for “*Other Flatfish,*” *petrale sole, and starry flounder.* “*Other Flatfish,*” *petrale sole, and starry flounder* may be filleted at sea. Fillets may be of any size, but must bear intact a one-inch (2.6 cm) square patch of skin.

(v) *California scorpionfish.* California scorpionfish predominately occur south of 40°10' N lat.

(A) *Seasons.* When recreational fishing for California scorpionfish is open, it is permitted only outside of the recreational RCAs described in paragraph (c)(3)(i) of this section.

(1) Between 40°10' N lat. and 38°57.50' N lat. (Mendocino Management Area), recreational fishing for California scorpionfish is open from May 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, it's closed from January 1 through April 30).

(2) Between 38°57.50' N lat. and 37°11' N lat. (San Francisco Management Area), recreational fishing for California scorpionfish is open from April 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, it's closed from January 1 through March 31).

(3) Between 37°11' N lat. and 34°27' N lat. (Central Management Area), recreational fishing for California scorpionfish is open from April 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, it's closed from January 1 through March 31).

(4) South of 34°27' N lat. (Southern Management Area), recreational fishing for California scorpionfish is open from January 1 through December 31.

(B) *Bag limits, hook limits.* South of 40°10.00' N lat., in times and areas where the recreational season for California scorpionfish is open there is a limit of 2 hooks and 1 line, the bag limit is 5 California scorpionfish per day. California scorpionfish do not count against the 10 RCG Complex fish per day limit. Multi-day limits are authorized by a valid permit issued by California and must not exceed the daily limit multiplied by the number of days in the fishing trip.

(C) *Size limits.* California scorpionfish may be no smaller than 10 in (25 cm) total length.

(D) *Dressing/Filleting.* California scorpionfish filets may be no smaller



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than 5 in (12.8 cm) and must bear an intact 1 in (2.6 cm) square patch of skin.

(d) *Salmon bycatch*. Recreational fisheries that are not accounted for within pre-season salmon modeling may be closed through automatic action at § 660.60(d)(1)(v) and (vi).

[75 FR 60995, Oct. 1, 2010, as amended at 76 FR 11392, Mar. 2, 2011; 76 FR 27559, May 11, 2011; 76 FR 54714, Sept. 2, 2011; 76 FR 79133, Dec. 21, 2011; 77 FR 12504, Mar. 1, 2012; 77 FR 55158, Sept. 7, 2012; 77 FR 63761, Oct. 17, 2012; 78 FR 642, Jan. 3, 2013; 78 FR 26279, May 6, 2013; 80 FR 12601, Mar. 10, 2015; 80 FR 61766, Oct. 14, 2015; 82 FR 9668, Feb. 7, 2017; 82 FR 21951, May 11, 2017; 82 FR 48666, Oct. 19, 2017; 82 FR 60570, Dec. 21, 2017; 83 FR 13431, Mar. 29, 2018; 83 FR 16008, Apr. 13, 2018; 83 FR 48728, Sept. 27, 2018; 83 FR 64014, Dec. 12, 2018; 84 FR 25720, June 4, 2019; 85 FR 79926, Dec. 11, 2020; 86 FR 14386, Mar. 16, 2021; 86 FR 72873, Dec. 23, 2021]

EDITORIAL NOTE: At 85 FR 79926, Dec. 11, 2020, § 660.360 was amended in part by revising paragraph (c)(2)(i)(D); however, the amendment could not be incorporated because that paragraph did not exist.

### Subpart H—West Coast Salmon Fisheries

#### § 660.401 Purpose and scope.

This subpart implements the Fishery Management Plan for Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries Off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California developed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council. These regulations govern the management of West Coast salmon fisheries in the EEZ.

#### § 660.402 Definitions.

In addition to the definitions in the Magnuson Act and in § 600.10 of this chapter, the terms used in this subpart have the following meanings:

*Barbless hook* means a hook with a single shank and point, with no secondary point or barb curving or projecting in any other direction. Where barbless hooks are specified, hooks manufactured with barbs can be made barbless by forcing the point of the barb flat against the main part of the point.

*Commercial fishing* means fishing with troll fishing gear as defined annually under § 660.408, or fishing for the purpose of sale or barter of the catch.

*Council* means the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

*Dressed, head-off length of salmon* means the shortest distance between the midpoint of the clavicle arch and the fork of the tail, measured along the lateral line while the fish is lying on its side, without resort to any force or mutilation of the fish other than removal of the head, gills, and entrails.

*Dressed, head-off salmon* means salmon that have been beheaded, gilled, and gutted without further separation of vertebrae, and are either being prepared for on-board freezing, or are frozen and will remain frozen until landed.

*Fishery management area* means the EEZ off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California, bounded on the north by the Provisional International Boundary between the United States and Canada, and bounded on the south by the International Boundary between the United States and Mexico. The northeastern, northern, and northwestern boundaries of the fishery management area are as follows:

(1) Northeastern boundary—that part of a line connecting the light on Tatoosh Island, WA, with the light on Bonilla Point on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, southerly of the International Boundary between the United States and Canada (at 48°29'37" N. lat., 124°43'33" W. long.), and northerly of the point where that line intersects with the boundary of the U.S. territorial sea.

(2) Northern and northwestern boundary is a line<sup>1</sup> connecting the following coordinates:

N. lat.	W. long.
48°29'37.19"	124°43'33.19"
48°30'11"	124°47'13"
48°30'22"	124°50'21"
48°30'14"	124°52'52"
48°29'57"	124°59'14"
48°29'44"	125°00'06"
48°28'09"	125°05'47"
48°27'10"	125°08'25"
48°26'47"	125°09'12"
48°20'16"	125°22'48"
48°18'22"	125°29'58"
48°11'05"	125°53'48"
47°49'15"	126°40'57"

<sup>1</sup>The line joining these coordinates is the provisional international boundary of the U.S. EEZ as shown on NOAA/NOS Charts #18480 and #18002.