restriction of 12.8 kilometers (8.0 miles) north at petitioners' requested site. The coordinates for Channel 282A at Fletcher are 35–32–28 North Latitude and 82–32–32 West Longitude. The coordinates for Channel 260C at Old Fort are 35–25–32 North Latitude and 82–45–25 West Longitude. Additionally, the modified reference coordinates for Channel 282A at Surgoinsville are 36–33–11 North Latitude and 82–51–23 West Longitude; and the modified reference coordinates for Channel 282C at Augusta are 33–34–24 North Latitude and 81–54–17 West Longitude.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. *See* 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, *see* 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio, Radio broadcasting.

■ Part 73 of title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 73—RADIO BROADCAST SERVICES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 73 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 154, 303, 334 and 336.

§ 73.202 [Amended]

■ 2. Section 73.202(b), the Table of FM Allotments under North Carolina, is amended by removing Asheville, Channel 260C, by adding Fletcher, Channel 282A, by removing Channel 282A and by adding Channel 260C at Old Fort.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Assistant Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 03–16957 Filed 7–3–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[DA 03–1935; MM Docket No. 02–56; RM–10391, RM–10581*]

Radio Broadcasting Services; DeRidder, DeQuincy, and Merryville, LA, and Newton, TX

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: In response to a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making,* 67 FR 16350 (April 5, 2002) this document reallots Channel 221C3 from DeRidder, Louisiana, to DeQuincy, Louisiana and provides DeQuincy with its first local aural transmission service. The coordinates for Channel 221C3 at Dequincy are 30–26–54 North Latitude and 93–26–37 West Longitude. The initial rulemaking request to reallot Channel 221C3 from DeRidder to Merryville, Louisiana, was superseded by a counterproposal to reallot Channel 221C3 from De Ridder to DeQuincy, Louisiana. A portion of that counterproposal, which proposed the allotment of Channel 224A to Newton, Texas, was rejected for failure to provide city-grade coverage of the entire town of Newton.

DATES: Effective August 4, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: R. Barthen Gorman, Media Bureau, (202) 418–2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Report and Order, MM Docket No. 02–56, adopted June 18, 2003, and released June 20, 2003. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC's Reference Information Center at Portals II, CY–A257, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC. This document may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractors, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY–B402, Washington, DC, 20554, telephone 202–863–2893, facsimile 202–863-2898, or via e-mail *qualexint@aol.com.*

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio, Radio broadcasting.

■ Part 73 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 73—RADIO BROADCAST SERVICES

■ 1. The authority citation for Part 73 reads as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 154, 303, 334 and 336.

§ 73.202 [Amended]

■ 2. Section 73.202(b), the Table of FM Allotments under Louisiana, is amended by adding DeQuincy, Channel 221C3, and removing Channel 221C3 at DeRidder.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Assistant Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 03–16959 Filed 7–3–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 021209300–3048–02; I.D. 062703A]

Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Annual Specifications and Management Measures; Trip Limit Adjustments

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

ACTION: Inseason adjustments to trip limits and the trawl rockfish conservation area boundaries; correction to trawl rockfish conservation area boundaries; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces changes to trip limits and the trawl rockfish conservation area (RCA) for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery. Trip limit adjustments include changes to the limited entry trawl (Dover sole, thornyhead, sablefish) (DTS) limits coastwide and the limited entry fixed gear and open access minor nearshore rockfish limits coastwide. Changes to the trawl RCA during the months of July and August will restore nearshore fishing opportunities by moving the eastern boundary of the trawl RCA into deeper waters. For the trawl ''A'' platoon, trip limit adjustments and changes to the trawl RCA will be effective July 1, 2003. Inseason adjustments to trip limits and the trawl RCA for the trawl ''B'' platoon will be effective July 16, 2003. These actions, which are authorized by the Pacific

Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), will allow fisheries access to more abundant groundfish stocks while protecting overfished and depleted stocks.

DATES: Changes to management measures are effective 0001 hours (local time) July 1, 2003, until the 2004 annual specifications and management measures are effective, unless modified, superseded, or rescinded through a publication in the **Federal Register**. Comments on this rule will be accepted through July 31, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to D. Robert Lohn, Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115–0070; or Rod McInnis, Acting Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carrie Nordeen or Jamie Goen (Northwest Region, NMFS), phone: 206–526–6140; fax: 206–526–6736; and e-mail: *carrie.nordeen@noaa.gov* or *jamie.goen@noaa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

This **Federal Register** document is available on the Government Printing Office's website at: *http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/ca/docs/aces/aces140.html*. Background information and documents are available at the NMFS Northwest Region website at: *http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1sustfsh/gdfsh01.htm* and at the Pacific Fishery Management Council's website at: *http://www.pcouncil.org*.

Background

The Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 660, subpart G, regulate fishing for over 80 species of groundfish off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. Annual groundfish specifications and management measures are initially developed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council), and are implemented by NMFS. The specifications and management measures for the 2003 fishing year (January 1 - December 31, 2003) were initially published in the **Federal Register** as an emergency rule for January 1 - February 28, 2003 (68 FR 908, January 7, 2003) and as a proposed rule for March 1 - December 31, 2003 (68 FR 936, January 7, 2003). The emergency rule was amended at 68 FR 4719, January 30, 2003, and the final rule for March 1 - December 31, 2003 was published in the **Federal Register** on March 7, 2003 (68 FR 11182). The final rule has been subsequently amended at 68 FR 18166 (April 15, 2003), at 68 FR 23901 (May 6, 2003), at 68 FR 23924 (May 6, 2003), and at 68 FR 32680 (June 2, 2003).

The following changes to current groundfish management measures were recommended by the Pacific Council, in consultation with Pacific Coast Treaty Tribes and the States of Washington, Oregon, and California, at its June 16–20, 2003, meeting in Foster City, CA. Pacific Coast groundfish landings will be monitored throughout the year, and further adjustments will be made as necessary to allow achievement of or avoid exceeding the 2003 optimum yields (OYs) and allocations.

Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) North of 40°10′ N. Lat.

When the 2003 specifications and management measures were developed for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery in the fall of 2002, the Pacific Council's Groundfish Management Team (GMT) developed a bycatch scorecard to project and track estimated mortality of overfished groundfish species during 2003. This scorecard is updated throughout the year as catch data become available. At the Pacific Council's June meeting, the scorecard was updated for canary rockfish, an overfished species, with catch data based on projected harvest under inseason adjustments for the May - June cumulative period, catch in Oregon's recreational fishery, catch under Washington's spiny dogfish shark and walleye pollock exempted fishing permits (EFPs), and information on vessel participation and target species by depth from 2002 fish tickets and logbooks. Based on these data, an additional 3.5 mt of canary rockfish is available to be harvested as incidental catch, in order to allow the access to more abundant species, during 2003 without exceeding the canary rockfish OY.

In order to provide additional fishing opportunity for the trawl fishery that has been severely restricted to reduce the incidental catch of canary rockfish, the size of the trawl RCA (the area closed to most fishing with trawl gear) is being decreased during the months of July and August. At their April 7–11, 2003, meeting in Vancouver, WA, the Pacific Council recommended that preliminary observer-based trawl bycatch rates be incorporated into the bycatch model used to develop inseason adjustments to trip limits and area closures. These observer-based trawl bycatch rates indicated that canary rockfish bycatch in the trawl fishery north of 40°10′ N. lat. is higher than previously estimated. Based on that new information, in May 2003, the trawl RCA was shifted to better align with areas where canary rockfish were encountered (between latitude and longitude coordinates that approximate the 50–fm (91–m) and 200–fm (366–m) depth contours) to slow that catch of canary rockfish. Using 2.85 mt (2,850 kg) of the additional 3.5 mt (3,500 kg) of canary rockfish available for harvest during 2003, this inseason action will restore trawl fishing opportunity by returning the eastern trawl RCA boundary to latitude and longitude coordinates approximating the 75–fm (137–m) depth contour. In addition to providing fishing opportunity, moving the eastern trawl RCA boundary out into deeper waters during July and August is expected to decrease interactions between the trawl fleet and molting, soft-shelled Dungeness crab found shoreward of 50–fm (91–m). In short, during the months of July and August, the trawl RCA will extend between latitude and longitude coordinates approximating the 75–fm (137–m) and 200–fm (366–m) depth contours. During the months of September - December, the trawl RCA will remain as previously scheduled, extending between coordinates approximating the 50–fm (91–m) and 200–fm (366–m) depth contours, with a western boundary modified to incorporate petrale fishing areas during November and December.

In the final rule announcing Pacific Coast annual specifications and management measures for March - December (68 FR 11182, March 7, 2003), a correction was made to the 75–fm (137–m) RCA boundary to prevent it from intersecting with the 100–fm (183–m) RCA boundary north of 40°10′ N. lat. This correction proved to be too coarse, resulting in the 75–fm (137–m) RCA boundary not closely following the 75–fm (137–m) depth contour in one section of the coast off Washington. Therefore, this inseason action will also correct the 75–fm (137–m) RCA boundary to better align it with the 75–fm (137–m) depth contour.

Limited Entry Trawl Limits for the DTS (Dover Sole, Thornyhead, Sablefish) Fishery Coastwide

In an effort to provide for fishing opportunity along the coast while keeping groundfish species within their respective 2003 OYs, the Pacific Council recommended trip limit adjustments for the DTS fishery. The GMT and the Pacific Council's Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) weighed the expected catch of canary rockfish and DTS species associated with previously scheduled DTS trip limits and RCA boundaries

against the expected catch of canary rockfish and DTS species associated with moving the eastern boundary of the trawl RCA south of 40°10′ N. lat. into deeper water (discussed below) when making DTS trip limit adjustments. Their goal was to provide adequate fishing opportunity while keeping the harvest of DTS species on track for the year and keeping the total mortality of canary rockfish within amounts forecast in the bycatch scorecard and within the canary rockfish OY.

Landed catch data through May 24, 2003, indicate that sablefish trawl catch was at 28 percent of the annual target with greater than 50 percent forecast to be taken within the last half of the year. There is a great deal of uncertainty in observer-based discard rates for sablefish. Should the final analysis of the observer-based discard rates result in higher estimates being used in 2003, the calculated harvest of sablefish may be greater than currently projected. Because new observer data will be available in September, the Pacific Council chose to slow the catch of sablefish during July and August, to ensure harvest opportunities through the end of the year, with the intent of increasing sablefish trawl trip limits later in the year, if possible. Therefore, the limited entry trawl sablefish limit north of 40°10′ N. lat. is decreased from the previously scheduled limit of 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) per 2 months to 9,000 lb (4,082 kg) per 2 months, providing that only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used to land any groundfish species during the entire limit period. The limited entry small footrope trawl sablefish limit, (i.e., if small footrope gear is used at any time in any area (north or south, seaward or shoreward of the RCA) during the entire limit period) remains unchanged at 3,000 lb (1,361 kg) per 2 months. South of 40°10′ N. lat., the limited entry trawl sablefish limit is decreased from the previously scheduled limit of 12,000 lb (5,443 kg) per 2 months to 9,000 lb (4,082 kg) per 2 months.

Landed catch data through May 24, 2003, indicate that Dover sole catch was at 38 percent of the annual target. North of 40°10′ N. lat., the Pacific Council recommended that Dover sole trip limits increase to allow for Dover sole retention by those vessels fishing seaward of the RCA. South of 40°10′ N. lat., Dover sole limits were previously scheduled to increase during July and August in compensation for lack of nearshore fishing opportunity. Because nearshore fishing opportunity was restored by moving the eastern trawl RCA boundary into deeper water, Dover sole trip limits were decreased to minimize the incidental catch of overfished species. Therefore, the limited entry trawl Dover sole limit north of 40°10′ N. lat. is increased from the previously scheduled limit of 31,000 lb (14,061 kg) per 2 months to 34,000 lb (15,513 kg) per 2 months, providing that only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used to land any groundfish species during the entire limit period. The limited entry small footrope trawl Dover sole limit, (i.e., if small footrope gear is used at any time in any area (north or south, seaward or shoreward of the RCA) during the entire limit period) remains unchanged at 12,500 lb (5,670 kg) per 2 months. South of 40°10′ N. lat., the limited entry trawl Dover sole limit is decreased from the previously scheduled limit of 35,000 lb (15,876 kg) per 2 months to 34,000 lb (15,513 kg) per 2 months.

Landed catch data indicate that shortspine thornyhead catch is higher than expected (44 percent of the annual target through May 24, 2003). Shortspine thornyhead is a long-lived species that cannot sustain aggressive harvest rates. This makes it a constraining species for the DTS complex fishery, because coincidental catch of shortspine thornyhead may prevent the harvest of Dover sole and longspine thornyhead. In order to keep the shortspine thornyhead catch within its 2003 OY while allowing for shortspine thornyhead retention during pursuit of sablefish or Dover sole with small footrope trawl gear, the Pacific Council recommended an adjustment to shortspine thornyhead trip limits. Therefore, the limited entry trawl shortspine thornyhead limit north of 40°10′ N. lat. is decreased from the previously scheduled limit of 2,800 lb (1,270 kg) per 2 months to 2,400 lb (1,089 kg) per 2 months, providing that only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used to land any groundfish species during the entire limit period. The limited entry small footrope trawl shortspine thornyhead limit, (i.e., if small footrope gear is used at any time in any area (north or south, seaward or shoreward of the RCA) during the entire limit period) is increased from the previously scheduled zero retention limit to 1,000 lb (454 kg) per 2 months. South of 40°10′ N. lat., the limited entry trawl shortspine thornyhead limit is decreased from the previously scheduled limit of 3,100 lb (1,406 kg) per 2 months to 2,400 lb (1,089 kg) per 2 months.

Landed catch data through May 24, 2003, indicate that longspine thornyhead catch was at 32 percent of the annual target. Because of the coincidental catch of shortspine thornyhead with longspine thornyhead in combination with moving the eastern boundary of the trawl RCA into deeper water during July and August, the catch ratio of shortspine to longspine thornyheads is expected to increase. In response to reduced trip limits for shortspine thornyhead and the need to maintain the catch ratio of 5 lb (2.27 kg) longspine thornyhead to 1 lb (0.45 kg) shortspine thornyhead, the Pacific Council also recommended an adjustment in longspine thornyhead trip limits. Therefore, the limited entry trawl longspine thornyhead limit north of 40°10′ N. lat. is decreased from the previously scheduled limit of 14,000 lb (6,350 kg) per 2 months to 11,500 lb (5,216 kg) per 2 months, providing that only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used to land any groundfish species during the entire limit period. The limited entry small footrope trawl longspine thornyhead limit, (i.e., if small footrope gear is used at any time in any area (north of south, seaward or shoreward of the RCA) during the entire limit period) is increased from the previously scheduled zero retention limit to 5,000 lb (2,268 kg) per 2 months. South of 40°10′ N. lat., the limited entry trawl longspine thornyhead limit is decreased from the previously scheduled limit 16,000 lb (7,257 kg) per 2 months to 11,500 lb (5,216 kg) per 2 months.

Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access Minor Nearshore Rockfish Limits North of 40°10′ N. Lat.

Landed catch of nearshore rockfish in the limited entry fixed gear and open access fisheries off northern California is lower than anticipated through May 24, 2003. In an effort to enable the northern California fishery to achieve its nearshore rockfish harvest guideline, the trip limits for minor nearshore rockfish are increased from the previously scheduled limit of 3,000 lb (1,361 kg) per 2 months, no more than 900 lb (408 kg) of which may be species other than black or blue rockfish, to 4,000 lb (1,814 kg) per 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb (544 kg) of which may be species other than black or blue rockfish. This trip limit increase is consistent with Oregon's plans to proceed toward their nearshore rockfish catch cap. However, because the Oregon fishery is proceeding on schedule with their harvest of black and blue rockfish, this trip limit increase may require Oregon to take independent, State action at a later date to constrain their nearshore rockfish fishery in order to stay within their black rockfish catch cap.

Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access Minor Nearshore Rockfish Limits South of 40°10′ N. Lat.

Because landings of minor nearshore rockfish south of 40°10′ N. lat. are higher than expected, there is concern whether this fishery will remain open the entire year. In order to ensure fishing opportunity later in the year, when market values for nearshore rockfish species are high, the Pacific Council recommended a decrease in the shallow nearshore rockfish limit. Therefore, the limited entry fixed gear and open access shallow minor nearshore rockfish limit south of 40°10′ N. lat. is decreased during the months of July and August from the previously scheduled limit of 500 lb (227 kg) per 2 months to 400 lb (181 kg) per 2 months. During the months of September and October, the limited entry fixed gear and open access shallow minor nearshore rockfish limit south of 40°10′ N. lat. is similarly decreased from the previously scheduled limit of 400 lb (181 kg) per 2 months to 300 lb (136 kg) per 2 months.

Landings of deeper nearshore rockfish species are not accumulating as rapidly as the landings of shallow nearshore rockfish. In order to keep landings on track for the year and provide harvest opportunity during summer months when participation in this fishery is high, the Pacific Council recommended that deeper nearshore rockfish trip limits be increased. Therefore, the limited entry fixed gear and open access deeper minor nearshore rockfish limit south of 40°10′ N. lat. is increased during the months of July and August from the previously scheduled limit of 400 lb (181 kg) per 2 months to 500 lb (227 kg) per 2 months. During the months of September and October, the limited entry fixed gear and open access deeper minor nearshore rockfish limit south of 40°10′ N. lat. is similarly increased from the previously scheduled limit of 200 lb (91 kg) per 2 months to 300 lb (136 kg) per 2 months.

Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) South of 40°10′ N. Lat.

In exchange for higher limited entry trawl DTS trip limits scheduled during May - August 2003, the trawl RCA was scheduled to extend from the shoreline to latitude and longitude coordinates approximating the 200–fm (366–m) depth contour during the months of July and August. This scheduled placement of the RCA was designed to reduce nearshore fishing opportunity during those months, thereby, slowing the incidental catch of overfished rockfish species (bocaccio and canary rockfish). However, based on Pacific Council actions at their June meeting, this scheduled reduction of nearshore fishing opportunity will not be necessary for three reasons. The first reason is that an adequate amount of canary rockfish was made available on the Pacific Council's bycatch scorecard, as discussed above, to accommodate a modest nearshore fishing opportunity (expected to result in an additional 0.05 mt (500 kg) of catch) while still remaining within the canary rockfish OY. The second reason is that the GMT and GAP agreed to reduce limited entry trawl DTS trip limits coastwide from the previously scheduled limits, during the months of July and August, to allow for this additional nearshore fishing opportunity. The third reason is that an adequate amount of bocaccio was available on the bycatch scorecard to allow for this adjustment, which is expected to result in an additional 0.8 mt (800 kg) of catch. Therefore, the eastern boundary of the trawl RCA will move from the shoreline to latitude and longitude coordinates that approximate the 60–fm (110–m) depth contour between 40°10′ N. lat. and 34°27′ N. lat. and the 100–fm (183–m) depth contour between 34°27′ N. lat. and the U.S. boundary with Mexico for the months of July and August. Therefore, during the months of July and August, the trawl RCA between 40°10′ N. lat. and 34°27′ N. lat. will extend between latitude and longitude coordinates that approximate the 60–fm (110–m) and 200–fm (366- m) depth contours, and the trawl RCA between 34°27′ N. lat. and the U.S. border with Mexico will extend between latitude and longitude coordinates that approximate the 100–fm (183–m) and 200–fm (366–m) depth contours. The trawl RCA around southern California islands and seamounts will remain as previously scheduled, extending between the shoreline and latitude and longitude coordinates that approximate the 200–fm (366–m) depth contour. During the months of September - December, the trawl RCA will remain as previously scheduled, extending between eastern boundary coordinates approximating either the 60–fm (110- m) or 100–fm (183–m) depth contour and western boundary coordinates approximating the 200–fm (366–m) depth contour, with a western boundary for limited entry trawl modified to incorporate petrale fishing areas during November and December.

Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) and Recreational Fisheries Boundary South of 40°10′ N. Lat.

During 2003, the limited entry fixed gear fleet in California has been severely constrained by low trip limits and limited nearshore fishing opportunities, with the non-trawl RCA (the area closed to most fishing with non-trawl gear) extended from the 20–fm (37–m) depth contour to latitude and longitude coordinates approximating the 150–fm (274–m) depth contour. These management measures were designed to limit the incidental take of bocaccio rockfish and keep the catch of bocaccio within is 2003 OY of less than 20 mt (20,000 kg). The recreational fishing fleet in California has been similarly constrained, by a reduced season length (July - December) and limited nearshore fishing opportunities, generally shoreward of the 20–fm (37–m) depth contour, to minimize the incidental take of bocaccio. Based on a new stock assessment and rebuilding analysis that was available at the June meeting, the Pacific Council adopted a range of rebuilding OYs (199 mt (199,000 kg) to 526 mt (526,000kg)) for bocaccio in 2004. Taking into account this more recent stock assessment information (as compared with the OY of less than 20 mt (20,000 kg) for 2003) and the economic hardship resulting from restrictive management measures necessary to keep the incidental catch of bocaccio within its 2003 OY, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) proposed to the Pacific Council that the 2003 bocaccio OY be flexible enough to allow for a modest increase in nearshore fishing opportunity. Specifically, CDFG proposed that during the months of September - December the eastern boundary for the non-trawl RCA and recreational fisheries between 34°27′ N. lat. and the U.S. border with Mexico be moved from the 20 fm (37 m) depth contour out to the 30 fm (55 m) depth contour. This boundary change was recommended by the Pacific Council because it would provide much needed harvest opportunity and economic relief for limited entry fixed gear and recreational fishers with an expected incidental take of an additional 2.22 mt (2,220 kg) of bocaccio. The projected incidental take of bocaccio associated with moving the eastern trawl RCA boundary (the portion south of 40°10′ N. lat.) into deeper water during July and August, as discussed earlier and implemented with this **Federal Register** document, is not expected to result in the total mortality of bocaccio exceeding its 2003 OY. However, the projected catch associated

with changing the eastern boundary of the trawl RCA in combination with the projected incidental catch of 2.22 mt (2,200 kg) associated with moving the eastern non-trawl RCA/recreational boundary (the portion south of 34°27′ N. lat.) into deeper water during September - December, is expected to result in the bocaccio total mortality exceeding the 2003 bocaccio OY by approximately 2 mt (2,000 kg). Because of the additional complexities of this proposal, and because it does not need to be implemented on July 1, NMFS is not implementing the eastern non-trawl RCA and/or recreational fishing boundary change with this **Federal Register** document so as not to delay the July 1 inseason adjustment. However, NMFS is considering CDFG's request and the Pacific Council's recommendation and any action to change the eastern non-trawl RCA/recreational boundary to accommodate CDFG's request and the Pacific Council's recommendation will occur in a future action published in the **Federal Register**.

NMFS Actions

For the reasons stated herein, NMFS concurs with the Pacific Council's recommendations implemented herein and hereby announces the following changes to the 2003 management measures (68 FR 11182, March 7, 2003, as amended at 68 FR 18166, April 15, 2003, at 68 FR 23901, May 6, 2003, at 68 FR 23925, May 6, 2003, and at and at 68 FR 32680, June 2, 2003) to read as follows:

1. On page 11206, in section IV., under A. General Definitions and Provisions, paragraph (19)(e)(ii) is revised to read as follows:

(ii) The 75 fm (137 m) depth contour used north of 40°10′ N. lat. as an eastern boundary for the trawl RCA is defined by straight lines connecting all of the following points in the order stated:

(1) 48°16.08′ N. lat., 125°34.90′ W. long.;
(2) 48°14.50′ N. lat., 125°29.50′ W. long.;
(3) 48°12.08′ N. lat., 125°28.00′ W. long.;
(4) 48°09.00′ N. lat., 125°28.00′ W. long.;
(5) 48°07.80′ N. lat., 125°31.70′ W. long.;
(6) 48°04.28′ N. lat., 125°29.00′ W. long.;
(7) 48°02.50′ N. lat., 125°25.70′ W. long.;
(8) 48°10.00′ N. lat., 125°20.19′ W. long.;
(9) 48°21.70′ N. lat., 125°17.56′ W. long.;
(10) 48°23.12′ N. lat., 125°10.25′ W. long.;
(11) 48°21.99′ N. lat., 125°02.59′ W. long.;
(12) 48°23.05′ N. lat., 124°48.80′ W. long.;
(13) 48°17.10′ N. lat., 124°54.82′ W. long.;
(14) 48°05.10′ N. lat., 124°59.40′ W. long.;
(15) 48°04.50′ N. lat., 125°02.00′ W. long.;
(16) 48°04.70′ N. lat., 125°04.08′ W. long.;
(17) 48°05.20′ N. lat., 125°04.90′ W. long.;
(18) 48°06.80′ N. lat., 125°06.15′ W. long.;
(19) 48°05.91′ N. lat., 124°08.30′ W. long.;
(20) 48°07.00′ N. lat., 124°09.80′ W. long.;
(21) 48°06.93′ N. lat., 124°11.48′ W. long.;
(22) 48°04.98′ N. lat., 124°10.02′ W. long.;
(23) 47°54.00′ N. lat., 125°04.98′ W. long.;
(24)47°44.52′ N. lat., 125°00.00′ W. long.;
(25)47°42.00′ N. lat., 124°58.98′ W. long.;
(26)47°35.52′ N. lat., 124°55.50′ W. long.;
(27)47°22.02′ N. lat., 124°44.40′ W. long.;
(28)47°16.98′ N. lat., 124°45.48′ W. long.;
(29)47°10.98′ N. lat., 124°48.48′ W. long.;
(30)47°04.98′ N. lat., 124°49.02′ W. long.;
(31)46°57.98′ N. lat., 124°46.50′ W. long.;
(32)46°54.00′ N. lat., 124°45.00′ W. long.;
(33)46°48.48′ N. lat., 124°44.52′ W. long.;
(34)46°40.02′ N. lat., 124°36.00′ W. long.;
(35)46°34.09′ N. lat., 124°27.03′ W. long.;
(36)46°24.64′ N. lat., 124°30.33′ W. long.;
(37)46°19.98′ N. lat., 124°36.00′ W. long.;
(38) 46°18.14′ N. lat., 124°34.26′ W. long.;
(39) 46°18.72′ N. lat., 124°22.68′ W. long.;
(40) 46°14.64′ N. lat., 124°22.54′ W. long.;
(41) 46°11.08′ N. lat., 124°30.74′ W. long.;
(42) 46°04.28′ N. lat., 124°31.49′ W. long.;
(43) 45°55.97′ N. lat., 124°19.95′ W. long.;
(44) 45°44.97′ N. lat., 124°15.96′ W. long.;
(45) 45°43.14′ N. lat., 124°21.86′ W. long.;
(46) 45°34.44′ N. lat., 124°14.44′ W. long.;
(47) 45°15.49′ N. lat., 124°11.49′ W. long.;
(48) 44°57.31′ N. lat., 124°15.03′ W. long.;
(49) 44°43.90′ N. lat., 124°28.88′ W. long.;
(50) 44°28.64′ N. lat., 124°35.67′ W. long.;
(51) 44°25.31′ N. lat., 124°43.08′ W. long.;
(52) 44°17.15′ N. lat., 124°47.98′ W. long.;
(53) 44°13.67′ N. lat., 124°54.41′ W. long.;
(54) 43°56.85′ N. lat., 124°55.32′ W. long.;
(55) 43°57.50′ N. lat., 124°41.23′ W. long.;
(56) 44°01.79′ N. lat., 124°38.00′ W. long.;
(57) 44°02.16′ N. lat., 124°32.62′ W. long.;
(58) 43°58.15′ N. lat., 124°30.39′ W. long.;
(59) 43°53.25′ N. lat., 124°31.39′ W. long.;
(60) 43°35.56′ N. lat., 124°28.17′ W. long.;
(61) 43°21.84′ N. lat., 124°36.07′ W. long.;
(62) 43°19.73′ N. lat., 124°34.86′ W. long.;
(63) 43°09.38′ N. lat., 124°39.30′ W. long.;
(64) 43°07.11′ N. lat., 124°37.66′ W. long.;
(65) 42°56.27′ N. lat., 124°43.29′ W. long.;
(66) 42°45.00′ N. lat., 124°41.50′ W. long.;
(67) 42°39.72′ N. lat., 124°39.11′ W. long.;
(68) 42°32.88′ N. lat., 124°40.13′ W. long.;
(69) 42°32.30′ N. lat., 124°39.04′ W. long.;
(70) 42°26.96′ N. lat., 124°44.31′ W. long.;
(71) 42°24.11′ N. lat., 124°42.16′ W. long.;
(72) 42°21.10′ N. lat., 124°35.46′ W. long.;
(73) 42°14.72′ N. lat., 124°32.30′ W. long.;
(74) 42°09.24′ N. lat., 124°32.04′ W. long.;
(75) 42°01.89′ N. lat., 124°32.70′ W. long.;
(76) 42°00.03′ N. lat., 124°32.02′ W. long.;
(77) 42°00.00′ N. lat., 124°32.02′ W. long.;
(78) 41°46.18′ N. lat., 124°26.60′ W. long.;
(79) 41°29.22′ N. lat., 124°28.04′ W. long.;

(80) 41°09.62′ N. lat., 124°19.75′ W. long.;

(81) 40°50.71′ N. lat., 124°23.80′ W. long.;

(82) 40°43.35′ N. lat., 124°29.30′ W. long.;

(83) 40°40.24′ N. lat., 124°29.86′ W. long.;

(84) 40°37.50′ N. lat., 124°28.68′ W. long.;

(85) 40°34.42′ N. lat., 124°29.65′ W. long.;

(86) 40°34.74′ N. lat., 124°34.61′ W. long.;

(87) 40°31.70′ N. lat., 124°37.13′ W. long.;

(88) 40°25.03′ N. lat., 124°34.77′ W. long.;

(89) 40°23.58′ N. lat., 124°31.49′ W. long.;

(90) 40°23.64′ N. lat., 124°28.35′ W. long.;

(91) 40°22.53′ N. lat., 124°24.76′ W. long.;

(92) 40°21.46′ N. lat., 124°24.86′ W. long.;

(93) 40°21.74′ N. lat., 124°27.63′ W. long.;

(94) 40°19.76′ N. lat., 124°28.15′ W. long.;

(95) 40°18.00′ N. lat., 124°25.38′ W. long.;

(96) 40°18.54′ N. lat., 124°22.94′ W. long.;

(97) 40°15.55′ N. lat., 124°25.75′ W. long.;

(98) 40°16.06′ N. lat., 124°30.48′ W. long.;

(99) 40°15.75′ N. lat., 124°31.69′ W. long.; and

(100) 40°10.00′ N. lat., 124°21.28′ W. long.

* * * * *

2. On pages 11218–11221, in section IV., under B. Limited Entry Fishery, at the end of paragraph (1), Table 3 (North), Table 3 (South, Table 4 (North), and Table 4 (South) are revised to read as follows:

IV. NMFS Actions

B. Limited Entry Fishery

(1) * * *

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

Table 3 (North). Trip Limits and Gear Requirements[1/] for Limited Entry Trawl Gear North of 40°10' N. Latitude[2/]

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections IV. A. and B. NMFS Actions before using this table

	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area[10/] (RCA): North of 40°10' N. lat.	75 fm - 200 fm	50 fm - 200 fm	50 fm - 200 fm (line modified to incorporate petrale sole fishing grounds)
Small footrope or midwater trawl gear is required shoreward of the RCA; all trawl gear (large footrope, midwater trawl, and small footrope gear) is permitted seaward of the RCA.			
A vessel may have more than one type of limited entry bottom trawl gear on board, but the most restrictive trip limit associated with the gear on board applies for that trip and will count toward the cumulative trip limit for that gear. A vessel may not have limited entry bottom trawl gear on board if that vessel also has trawl gear on board that is permitted for use within a RCA, including limited entry midwater trawl gear, regardless of whether the vessel is intending to fish within a RCA on that fishing trip. **See IV.A.(14)(iv) for details.**			

1	**Minor slope rockfish[3/]**	1,800 lb/ 2 months
2	**Pacific ocean perch**	3,000 lb/ 2 months
3	**DTS complex**	
4	Sablefish	9,000 lb/ 2 months, providing that only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used to land any groundfish species during the entire limit period. If small footrope gear is used at any time in any area (North or South, shoreward or seaward of RCA) during the entire limit period, then the sablefish limit is 3,000 lb/2 months.
5	Longspine thornyhead	11,500 lb/ 2 months, providing that only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used to land any groundfish species during the entire limit period. If small footrope gear is used at any time in any area (North or South, shoreward or seaward of RCA) during the entire limit period, then the longspine thornyhead limit is 5,000 lb/ 2 months.
6	Shortspine thornyhead	2,400 lb/ 2 months, providing that only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used to land any groundfish species during the entire limit period. If small footrope gear is used at any time in any area (North or South, shoreward or seaward of RCA) during the entire limit period, then the shortspoine thornyheads limit is 1,000 lb/2 months.
7	Dover sole	34,000 lb/ 2 months, providing that only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used to land any groundfish species during the entire limit period. If small footrope gear is used at any time in any area (North or South, shoreward or seaward of RCA) during the entire limit period, then the Dover sole limit is 12,500 lb/ 2 months.

Table 3 (North) continued

8	**Flatfish**			
9	All other flatfish[4/]	All other flatfish plus petrale & rex sole: 100,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 30,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole providing that only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used to land any groundfish species during the entire limit period. If small footrope gear is used at any time in any area (North or South, inshore or offshore of RCA) during the entire limit period, then 20,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 10,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.		100,000 lb/ 2 months
10	Petrale sole			Not limited
11	Rex sole	Included in all other flatfish		
12	Arrowtooth flounder	200,000 lb/ 2 months providing that only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used to land any groundfish species during the entire limit period. If small footrope gear is used at any time in any area (North or South, inshore or offshore of RCA) during the entire limit period, then 5,000 lb/2 mo.		
13	**Whiting**[5/]	Primary Season (only mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA)	10,000 lb/ trip	
14	**Other Fish**[9/]	Not limited		
15	**Use of small footrope bottom trawl**[7/] **or mid-water trawl is required for landing all of the following species:**			
16	**Minor shelf rockfish and widow rockfish**[3/]	1,000 lb/ month, no more than 200 lb/ month of which may be yelloweye rockfish		300 lb/ month
17	**Widow rockfish**			
18	mid-water trawl - permitted within the RCA	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	CLOSED[6/]	12,000 lb/ 2 months
19	**Canary rockfish**	300 lb/ month	100 lb/ month	

Table 3 (North) continued

20	**Yellowtail**		
21	mid-water trawl - permitted within the RCA	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	18,000 lb/ 2 months
22	small footrope trawl[7/]	In landings without flatfish, 1,000 lb/ month. As flatfish bycatch, per trip limit is the sum of 33% (by weight) of all flatfish except arrowtooth flounder, plus 10% (by weight) of arrowtooth flounder. Total yellowtail landings not to exceed 10,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,000 lb of which may be landed without flatfish.	
23	**Minor nearshore rockfish**	300 lb/ month	
24	**Lingcod**[8/]	1,000 lb/ 2 months	800 lb/ 2 months

1/ Gear requirements and prohibitions are explained above. See IV. A.(14).

2/ "North" means 40°10' N. lat. to the U.S.-Canada border. 40°10' N. lat. is about 20 nm south of Cape Mendocino, CA.

3/ Bocaccio and chilipepper are included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish and splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

4/ "Other" flatfish means all flatfish at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 3 with species specific management measures, including trip limits.

5/ The whiting "per trip" limit in the Eureka area shoreward of 100 fm is 10,000 lb/ trip throughout the year. Outside Eureka area, the 20,000 lb/ trip limit applies. See IV. B.(3).

6/ Closed means that it is prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land the designated species in the time or area indicated. See IV. A.(7).

7/ Small footrope trawl means a bottom trawl net with a footrope no larger than 8 inches (20 cm) in diameter.

8/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

9/ Other fish are defined at 50 CFR 660.302, as those groundfish species or species groups for which there is no trip limit, size limit, quota, or harvest guideline.

10/ The "Rockfish Conservation Area" is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours but specifically defined by lat/long coordinates set out at IV. A.(19)(e), that may vary seasonally.

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

Table 3 (South). Trip Limits and Gear Requirements[1/] for Limited Entry Trawl Gear South of 40°10' N. Latitude[2/]

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections IV. A. and B. NMFS Actions before using this table

		JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area[10/] (RCA):				
	40°10' - 38° N. lat.	60 fm - 200 fm		60 fm - 200 fm (line modified to incorporate petrale sole fishing grounds)
	38° - 34°27' N. lat.	60 fm - 200 fm		60 fm - 200 fm (line modified to incorporate petrale sole fishing grounds)
	South of 34°27' N. lat.	100 fm - 200 fm along the mainland coast; shoreline - 200 fm around islands		100 fm - 200 fm along the mainland coast; shoreline - 200 fm around islands (line modified to incorporate petrale sole fishing grounds)
Small footrope or midwater trawl gear is required shoreward of the RCA; all trawl gear (large footrope, midwater trawl, and small footrope gear) is permitted seaward of the RCA.				
A vessel may have more than one type of limited entry bottom trawl gear on board, but the most restrictive trip limit associated with the gear on board applies for that trip and will count toward the cumulative trip limit for that gear. A vessel may not have limited entry bottom trawl gear on board if that vessel also has trawl gear on board that is permitted for use within a RCA, including limited entry midwater trawl gear, regardless of whether the vessel is intending to fish within a RCA on that fishing trip. **See IV.A.(14)(iv) for details.**				
1	**Minor slope rockfish[3/]**			
2	40°10' - 38° N. lat.	1,800 lb/ 2 months		
3	South of 38° N. lat.	30,000 lb/ 2 months		
4	**Splitnose**			
5	40°10' - 38° N. lat.	1,800 lb/ 2 months		
6	South of 38° N. lat.	30,000 lb/ 2 months		
7	**DTS complex**			
8	Sablefish	9,000 lb/ 2 months		
9	Longspine thornyhead	11,500 lb/ 2 months		
10	Shortspine thornyhead	2,400 lb/ 2 months		
11	Dover sole	34,000 lb/ 2 months		
12	**Flatfish**			
13	All other flatfish[4/]	All other flatfish plus petrale & rex sole: 70,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 20,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole		70,000 lb/ 2 months
14	Petrale sole			No limit
15	Rex sole	Included in all other flatfish		
16	Arrowtooth flounder	1,000 lb/ 2 months		No limit

Table 3 (South) continued

17	**Whiting**[5/]	Primary Season (only mid-water trawl permitted within the RCA)	10,000 lb/ trip	
18	**Other Fish**[9/]	Not limited		
19	**Use of small footrope bottom trawl**[7/] **or mid-water trawl is required for landing all of the following species:**			
20	**Minor shelf rockfish, widow, and chilipepper rockfish**[3/]	300 lb/ month		
21	**Widow rockfish**			
22	mid-water trawl - permitted within the RCA	CLOSED[6/]		12,000 lb/ 2 months
23	**Canary rockfish**	300 lb/ month	100 lb/ month	
24	**Bocaccio**	CLOSED[6/]		
25	**Cowcod**	CLOSED[6/]		
26	**Minor nearshore rockfish**	300 lb/ month		
27	**Lingcod**[8/]	1,000 lb/ 2 months	800 lb/ 2 months	

1/ Gear requirements and prohibitions are explained above. See IV. A.(14).

2/ "South" means 40°10' N. lat. to the U.S.-Mexico border. 40°10' N. lat. is about 20 nm south of Cape Mendocino, CA.

3/ Yellowtail is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish and POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

4/ "Other" flatfish means all flatfish at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 3 with species specific management measures, including trip limits.

5/ The whiting "per trip" limit in the Eureka area shoreward of 100 fm is 10,000 lb/ trip throughout the year. Outside Eureka area, the 20,000 lb/ trip limit applies. See IV. B.(3).

6/ Closed means that it is prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land the designated species in the time or area indicated. See IV. A.(7).

7/ Small footrope trawl means a bottom trawl net with a footrope no larger than 8 inches (20 cm) in diameter.

8/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

9/ Other fish are defined at 50 CFR 660.302, as those groundfish species or species groups for which there is no trip limit, size limit, quota, or harvest guideline.

10/ The "Rockfish Conservation Area" is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours but specifically defined by lat./long. coordinates set out at IV. A.(19)(e), that may vary seasonally.

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

Table 4 (North). Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 40°10' N. Latitude[1/]

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections IV. A. and B. NMFS Actions before using this table

		JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area[8/] (RCA):				
	North of 46°16' N. lat.	shoreline - 100 fm		
	46°16' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	27 fm - 100 fm		
1	**Minor slope rockfish[4/]**	No more than 25% of the weight of sablefish landed/ trip		1,800 lb/ 2 months
2	**Pacific ocean perch**	1,800 lb/ 2 months		
3	**Sablefish**	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 800 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months		
4	**Longspine thornyhead**	9,000 lb/ 2 months		
5	**Shortspine thornyhead**	2,000 lb/ 2 months		
6	**Dover sole**	5,000 lb/ month		
7	**Arrowtooth flounder**			
8	**Petrale sole**			
9	**Rex sole**			
10	**All other flatfish[2/]**			
11	**Whiting[3/]**	10,000 lb/ trip		
12	**Minor shelf rockfish, widow, and yellowtail rockfish[4/]**	200 lb/ month		
13	**Canary rockfish**	CLOSED[5/]		
14	**Yelloweye rockfish**	CLOSED[5/]		
15	**Cowcod**	CLOSED[5/]		
16	**Minor nearshore rockfish**	4,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black or blue rockfish[6/]		
17	**Lingcod[7/]**	400 lb/ month		CLOSED[5/]
18	**Other fish[9/]**	Not limited		

1/ "North" means 40°10' N. lat. to the U.S.-Canada border. 40°10' N. lat. is about 20 nm south of Cape Mendocino, CA.

2/ "Other flatfish" means all flatfish at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 4 with species specific management measures, including trip limits.

3/ The whiting "per trip" limit in the Eureka area shoreward of 100 fm is 10,000 lb/ trip throughout the year. Outside Eureka area, the 20,000 lb/ trip limit applies. See IV. B.(3).

4/ Bocaccio and chilipepper are included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish and splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

5/ Closed means that it is prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land the designated species in the time or area indicated. See IV. A.(7).

6/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09'30" N. lat.), and between Destruction Island (47°40'00" N. lat.) and Leadbetter Point (46°38'10" 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.

7/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

8/ The "Rockfish Conservation Area" is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours but specifically defined by lat./long. coordinates set out at IV. A.(19)(e), that may vary seasonally.

9/ Other fish are defined at 50 CFR 660.302, as those groundfish species or species groups for which there is no trip limit, size limit, quota, or harvest guideline.

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

Table 4 (South). Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 40°10' N. Latitude[1/]

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections IV. A. and B. NMFS Actions before using this table

		JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
	Rockfish Conservation Area[7/] (RCA): South of 40°10' N. lat.	20 fm - 150 fm (See footnote 9 for description of Pt. Fermin/Newport South Jetty open area)	20 fm - 150 fm	
1	**Minor slope rockfish[4/]**			
2	40°10' - 38° N. lat.	No more than 25% of weight of sablefish landed/ trip		1,800 lb/ 2 months
3	South of 38° N. lat.	30,000 lb/ 2 months		
4	**Splitnose**			
5	40°10' - 38° N. lat.	1,800 lb/ 2 months		
6	South of 38° N. lat.	20,000 lb/ 2 months		
7	**Sablefish**			
8	40°10' - 36° N. lat.	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 800 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months		
9	South of 36° N. lat.	350 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,050 lb		
10	**Longspine thornyhead**	9,000 lb/ 2 months		
11	**Shortspine thornyhead**	2,000 lb/ 2 months		
12	**Dover sole**	5,000 lb/ month When fishing for Pacific sanddabs, vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 11 mm (0.44 inches) point to shank, and up to 1 lb (0.45 kg) of weight per line are not subject to the RCAs.		
13	**Arrowtooth flounder**			
14	**Petrale sole**			
15	**Rex sole**			
16	**All other flatfish[2/]**			
17	**Whiting[3/]**	10,000 lb/ trip		
18	**Minor shelf rockfish, widow, and yellowtail rockfish[4/]**	250 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months	100 lb/ 2 months
19	**Canary rockfish**	CLOSED[5/]		
20	**Yelloweye rockfish**	CLOSED[5/]		
21	**Cowcod**	CLOSED[5/]		
22	**Bocaccio**	CLOSED[5/]		
23	**Minor nearshore rockfish**			
24	Shallow nearshore	400 lb/ 2 months	300 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months
25	Deeper nearshore	500 lb/ 2 months	300 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months
26	California scorpionfish	800 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED[5/]	
27	**Lingcod[6/]**	400 lb/ month, when nearshore open		CLOSED[5/]
28	**Other fish[8/]**	Not limited		

Table 4 (South) continued

1/ "South" means 40°10' N. lat. to the U.S.-Mexico border. 40°10' N. lat. is about 20 nm south of Cape Mendocino, CA.

2/ "Other flatfish" means all flatfish at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 4 with species specific management measures, including trip limits.

3/ The whiting "per trip" limit in the Eureka area shoreward of 100 fm is 10,000 lb/ trip throughout the year. Outside Eureka area, the 20,000 lb/ trip limit applies. See IV. B.(3).

4/ Chilipepper rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish and POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

5/ Closed means that it is prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land the designated species in the time or area indicated. See IV. A.(7).

6/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

7/ The "Rockfish Conservation Area" is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours but specifically defined by lat/long coordinates set out at IV. A.(19)(e) that may vary seasonally.

8/ Other fish are defined at 50 CFR 660.302, as those groundfish species or species groups for which there is no trip limit, size limit, quota, or harvest guideline.

9/ During July-August, between a line drawn due south from Point Fermin (33° 42' 30" N. lat.; 118° 17' 30" W. long.) and a line drawn due west from the Newport South Jetty (33° 35' 37" N .lat.; 117° 52' 50" W. long.,) vessels fishing for all federal groundfish species, except all rockfish and lingcod, with hook&line and/or trap (or pot) gear may operate from shore to a boundary line approximating 50 fm.

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

3. On page 11225, in section IV., under C. Trip Limits in the Open Access Fishery, at the end of paragraph (1), Table 5 (South) is revised to read as follows:

IV. NMFS Actions

C. Trip Limits in the Open Access Fishery

(1) * * *

Table 5 (North). 2003 Trip Limits for Open Access Gears North of 40°10' N. Latitude[1/]

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections IV. A. and C. NMFS Actions before using this table

		JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area[8/] (RCA):				
	North of 46°16' N. lat.	0 fm - 100 fm		
	46°16' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	27 fm - 100 fm		
1	**Minor slope rockfish[2/]**	Per trip, no more than 25% of weight of the sablefish landed		
2	**Pacific ocean perch**	100 lb/ month		
3	**Sablefish**	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 800 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months		
4	**Thornyheads**	CLOSED[5/]		
5	**Dover sole**	3,000 lb/month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs.		
6	**Arrowtooth flounder**			
7	**Petrale sole**			
8	**Rex sole**			
9	**All other flatfish[3/]**			
10	**Whiting**	300 lb/ month		
11	**Minor shelf rockfish, widow and yellowtail rockfish[2/]**	200 lb/ month		
12	**Canary rockfish**	CLOSED[5/]		
13	**Yelloweye rockfish**	CLOSED[5/]		
14	**Cowcod**	CLOSED[5/]		
15	**Minor nearshore rockfish**	4,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black or blue rockfish[4/]		
16	**Lingcod[6/]**	300 lb/ month		CLOSED[5/]
17	**Other Fish[7/]**	Not limited		
18	**PINK SHRIMP EXEMPTED TRAWL** *(not subject to RCAs)*			
19	North	**Effective April 1 - October 31, 2003:** 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 5 (North) continued

20	**PRAWN EXEMPTED TRAWL** *(not subject to RCAs)*	
21	North	Groundfish 300 lb/trip. Limits and closures in this table 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 the overall groundfish "per trip" limit may not be multiplied by the number of days of the trip.
22	**SALMON TROLL**	
23	North	Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1lb 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. All groundfish species are subject to the open access limits, seasons and RCA restrictions listed in the table above.

1/ "North" means 40°10' N. lat. to the U.S.-Canada border. 40°10' N. lat. is about 20 nm south of Cape Mendocino, CA.

2/ Bocaccio and chilipepper rockfishes 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" means all flatfish at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 5 with species specific management measures, including trip limits.

4/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09'30" N. lat.), and between Destruction Island (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Point (46°38'10" 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/ Closed means that it is prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land the designated species in the time or area indicated. See IV. A.(7).

6/ The size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

7/ Other fish are defined at 50 CFR 660.302, as those groundfish species or species groups for which there is no trip limit, size limit, quota, or harvest guideline.

8/ The "Rockfish Conservation Area" is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours, but specifically defined by lat./long. coordinates set out at IV. A.(19)(e), that may vary seasonally.

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

Table 5 (South). 2003 Trip Limits for Open Access Gears South of 40°10' N. Latitude[1/]

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections IV. A. and C. NMFS Actions before using this table

		JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
	Rockfish Conservation Area[7/] (RCA):			
	South of 40°10' N. lat.	20 fm - 150 fm (See footnote 8 for description of Pt. Fermin/Newport South Jetty open area)	20 fm - 150 fm	
1	**Minor slope rockfish[2/]**			
2	40°10' - 38° N. lat.	Per trip, no more than 25% of weight of the sablefish landed		
3	South of 38° N. lat.	10,000 lb/ 2 months		
4	**Splitnose**	200 lb/ month		
5	**Sablefish**			
6	40°10' - 36° N. lat.	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 800 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months		
7	South of 36° N. lat.	350 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,050 lb		
8	**Thornyheads**			
9	40°10' - 34°27' N. lat.	CLOSED[5/]		
10	South of 34°27' N. lat.	50 lb/ day, no more than 2,000 lb/ 2 months		
11	**Dover sole**	3,000 lb/month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs. When fishing for Pacific sanddabs, vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 11 mm (0.44 inches) point to shank, and up to 1 lb of weight per line are not subject to the RCAs.		
12	**Arrowtooth flounder**			
13	**Petrale sole**			
14	**Rex sole**			
15	**All other flatfish[3/]**			
16	**Whiting**	300 lb/ month		
17	**Minor shelf rockfish, widow and chilipepper rockfish[2/]**	250 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months	100 lb/ 2 months
18	**Canary rockfish**	CLOSED[5/]		
19	**Yelloweye rockfish**	CLOSED[5/]		
20	**Cowcod**	CLOSED[5/]		
21	**Bocaccio**	CLOSED[5/]		

Table 5 (South) contined

22	**Minor nearshore rockfish**			
23	Shallow nearshore	400 lb/ 2 months	300 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months
24	Deeper nearshore	500 lb/ 2 months	300 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months
25	California scorpionfish	800 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED[5/]	
26	**Lingcod**[4/]	300 lb/ month, when nearshore open		CLOSED[5/]
27	**Other Fish**[6/]	Not limited		
28	**PINK SHRIMP EXEMPTED TRAWL GEAR** *(not subject to RCAs)*			
29	South	**Effective April 1 - October 31, 2003:** 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.		
30	**PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF 38°57'30" N. LAT., CALIFORNIA HALIBUT AND SEA CUCUMBER EXEMPTED TRAWL**			
31	**EXEMPTED TRAWL Rockfish Conservation Area**[7/] **(RCA):**			
32	40°10' - 38° N. lat.	60 fm - 200 fm		
33	38° - 34°27' N. lat.	60 fm - 200 fm		
34	South of 34°27' N. lat.	100 fm - 200 fm along the mainland coast; shoreline - 200 fm around islands		
35		Groundfish 300 lb/trip. Trip limits in this table 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°57'30" 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, curlfin sole, or California scorpionfish (California scorpionfish is also subject to the trip limits and closures in line 25.)		

Table 5 (South) contined

1/ "South" means 40°10' N. lat. to the U.S.-Mexico border. 40°10' N. lat. is about 20 nm south of Cape Mendocino, CA.

2/ Yellowtail rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish and POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

3/ "Other flatfish" means all flatfish at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 5 with species specific management measures, including trip limits.

4/ The size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

5/ Closed means that it is prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land the designated species in the time or area indicated. See IV. A.(7).

6/ Other fish are defined at 50 CFR 660.302, as those groundfish species or species groups for which there is no trip limit, size limit, quota, or harvest guideline.

7/ The "Rockfish Conservation Area" is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours, but specifically defined by lat./long. coordinates set out at IV. A.(19)(e), that may vary seasonally.

8/ During July-August, between a line drawn due south from Point Fermin (33° 42' 30" N. lat.; 118° 17' 30" W. long.) and a line drawn due west from the Newport South Jetty (33° 35' 37" N .lat.; 117° 52' 50" W. long.,) vessels fishing for all federal groundfish species, except all rockfish and lingcod, with hook&line and/or trap (or pot) gear may operate from shore to a boundary line approximating 50 fm.

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

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Classification

These actions are authorized by the Pacific Coast groundfish FMP and its implementing regulations, and are based on the most recent data available. The aggregate data upon which these actions are based are available for public inspection at the Office of the Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, (see **ADDRESSES**) during business hours.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries (AA), NMFS, finds good cause to waive the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment on this action pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), because providing prior notice and opportunity for comment would be impracticable. It would be impracticable because the cumulative trip limit period for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery begins July 1, 2003, and affording prior notice and opportunity for public comment would impede the Agency's function of managing fisheries to approach without exceeding the OYs for federally managed species. The trip limit adjustments in this document include both increases and decreases from previously scheduled trip limits, along with simultaneous shifts in the closed areas, or RCAs. Trip limit decreases must be implemented in a timely manner to protect overfished groundfish species and slow the harvest of other groundfish species, thereby, ensuring harvesting opportunities throughout the remainder of the year. Additionally, trip limit increases and shifts to the RCA are intended to allow harvest opportunity for fisheries targeting more abundant groundfish stocks with little or no impact on overfished stocks. Because the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery is managed by trip limits and area closures, most of which are based on a 2 month cumulative period (January-February, March-April, May-June, July-August, September-October, November-December), these actions should be implemented by the beginning of the next cumulative trip limit period (July 1, 2003) otherwise, for species for which the trip limits are being reduced, fishers may be able to take the entire two-month cumulative limit before the new lower limits are in place, thereby eliminating the conservation benefit anticipated from the lower trip limits in July and August. The increases to trip limits and reductions to the RCA in this inseason action allow fishers to access groundfish allocations without exceeding the OY for those species or the OYs of overfished or depleted stocks and delaying the increase could prevent the industry from obtaining the intended benefit of increased harvest opportunity. In addition, the affected public had the opportunity to comment on these actions at the June 16 20, 2003, Pacific Council meeting. For these reasons, good cause also exists to waive the 30 day delay in effectiveness requirement under 5 U.S.C. 553 (d)(3). In addition, the increased trip limits and reduced RCAs relieve restrictions by providing greater harvest opportunities than were previously scheduled for the July - August period and thus they are not subject to a 30 day delay in effectiveness under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1).

These actions are taken under the authority of 50 CFR 300.63(a)(3) and 660.323(b)(1), and are exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: July 1, 2003.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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