DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 021209300–3048–02; I.D. 100303B]

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

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

ACTION: Inseason adjustments to trip limits and rockfish conservation areas; corrections; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces changes to trip limits and trawl rockfish conservation areas (RCAs) for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery. Trip limit adjustments include changes to the limited entry trawl Dover sole, thornyhead, and sablefish (DTS) limits coastwide; limits for limited entry midwater trawl widow rockfish coastwide and yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10 N. lat.; and the limited entry fixed gear and open access sablefish limits north of 36° N. lat. This inseason action also implements coordinates for the previously scheduled western, seaward boundary line for the trawl RCA which approximates the 200–fm depth contour as modified to accommodate petrale sole fishing grounds during November and December. For the trawl ''A'' platoon, trip limit adjustments and RCAs will be effective November 1, 2003. Inseason adjustments to trip limits and RCAs for the trawl ''B'' platoon will be effective November 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. This action also contains a correction to the trip limits for the limited entry midwater trawl fishery for widow rockfish and whiting.

DATES: Changes to management measures are effective 0001 hours (local time) October 24, 2003, until the 2004 annual specifications and management measures are effective, unless modified, superseded, or rescinded through a publication in the **Federal Register**.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 November 24, 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: Jamie Goen or Carrie Nordeen (Northwest Region, NMFS), phone: 206–526–6140; fax: 206–526–6736; and e-mail: *jamie.goen@noaa.gov* or *carrie.nordeen@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), at 68 FR 32680 (June 2, 2003), at 68 FR 35575 (June 16, 2003), at 68 FR 40187 (July 7, 2003), at 68 FR 42643 (July 18, 2003), at 68 FR 43473 (July 23, 2003), and at 68 FR 52703 (September 5, 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 September 8–12, 2003, meeting in Seattle, WA. 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.

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 for the November and December fishing period. Limited entry landed catch data through August 15, 2003, in the Pacific Fisheries Information Network (PacFIN) database, indicate that shortspine thornyhead catch was at 68 percent of the annual target (514 mt landed out of a 751 mt landed catch OY). Based on the reported landed catch through August 2003 and anticipated landed catch for the remainder of 2003 (Exhibit C.2.b, Supplemental NMFS Report, from the September 2003 Pacific Council meeting), approximately another 41 percent of the shortspine thornyhead catch (308 mt projected landings out of a 751–mt landed catch OY) is forecast to be taken over the remainder of the year. If landed catch continues as projected, shortspine thornyhead landings could be at 822 mt out of a 751–mt landed catch OY, exceeding the 2003 OY by 71 mt. For the other three species in the DTS complex, Dover sole, longspine thornyhead and sablefish, reported landed catch through August 2003 and anticipated landed catch for the remainder of 2003 (Exhibit C.2.b, Supplemental NMFS Report, from the September 2003 Pacific Council meeting) are under the OYs set for those species in 2003. Thus, shortspine thornyhead is the constraining species in the DTS complex at this time. Since the four species in the DTS complex are caught together, trip limits for all DTS complex species are being reduced during November and December to slow the catch of shortspine thornyhead in 2003. Trip limits north of 40°10′ N. lat. are larger for vessels using large footrope gear than for vessels using small footrope gear because large footrope gear is only permitted offshore of the RCAs, where DTS complex species are less likely to co-occur with overfished groundfish species.

Therefore, the limited entry trawl Dover sole limit north of 40°10′ N. lat. is decreased from the previously scheduled limit of 34,000 lb (15,422 kg)

per 2 months to 30,000 lb (13,608 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) is decreased from the previously scheduled limit of 12,500 lb (5,670 kg) per 2 months to 11,000 lb (4,990 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 34,000 lb (15,422 kg) per 2 months to 30,000 lb (13,608 kg) per 2 months. The limited entry trawl shortspine thornyhead limit north of 40°10′ N. lat. is decreased from the previously scheduled limit of 2,400 lb (1,089 kg) per 2 months to 900 lb (408 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 of south, seaward or shoreward of the RCA) during the entire limit period) is decreased from the previously scheduled limit of 1,000 lb (454 kg) per 2 months to 300 lb (136 kg) per 2 months. South of 40°10′ N. lat., the limited entry trawl shortspine thornyhead limit is decreased from the previously scheduled limit 2,400 lb (1,089 kg) per 2 months to 900 lb (408 kg) per 2 months.

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 11,500 lb (5,216 kg) per 2 months to 4,500 lb (2,041 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 decreased from the previously scheduled 5,000 lb (2,268 kg) per 2 months to 2,000 lb (907 kg) per 2 months. South of 40°10′ N. lat., the limited entry trawl longspine thornyhead limit is decreased from the previously scheduled limit of 11,500 lb (5,216 kg) per 2 months to 4,500 lb (2,041 kg) per 2 months. The limited entry trawl sablefish limit north of 40°10′ N. lat. is decreased from the previously scheduled limit of 9,000 lb (4,082 kg) per 2 months to 7,000 lb (3,175 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) is decreased from the previously scheduled limit of 3,000 lb (1,361 kg) per 2 months to 2,300 lb (1,043 kg) per 2 months. South of 40°10′ N. lat., the limited entry trawl sablefish limit is decreased from the previously scheduled limit of 9,000 lb (4,082 kg) per 2 months to 7,000 lb (3,175 kg) per 2 months.

Limited Entry Midwater Trawl Widow Rockfish Coastwide and Yellowtail Rockfish North of 40°10′ N. Lat.

Retention of widow rockfish coastwide and yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10′ N. lat. in the limited entry midwater trawl fisheries is being prohibited during November and December to reduce the potential for incidental catch of canary rockfish. Limited entry landed catch data through August 15, 2003, in PacFIN, indicate that the catch of canary rockfish was at 29 percent of the annual target (4 mt landed out of a 14 mt landed catch OY). However, total mortality of canary rockfish in all commercial, recreational, and experimental fisheries, including the trip limit adjustments in this inseason action, is estimated to be 43.5 mt out of a 44–mt total catch OY by the end of the year. Because canary rockfish co-occur with yellowtail and widow rockfish, opportunities for directed midwater widow and yellowtail rockfish fisheries are being eliminated to keep the total estimated mortality of canary rockfish within its total catch OY for 2003.

Therefore, limited entry midwater trawl fisheries for widow rockfish coastwide are being reduced during November and December from the previously scheduled 12,000 lb (5,443 kg) per 2 months to no retention (i.e., closed). Limited entry midwater trawl fisheries for yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10′ N. lat. are being reduced during November and December from the previously scheduled 18,000 lb (8,165 kg) per 2 months to no retention (i.e., closed).

Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access Sablefish Limits North of 36° N. Lat.

Landed catch in the daily trip limit (DTL) fishery for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. is tracking behind schedule (i.e., the fishery will not attain the OY for 2003 if cumulative limits remain as previously scheduled). Total fleet landed catch data through September 12, 2003, in PacFIN, indicate that the non-trawl DTL sablefish fishery combined with the non-trawl primary sablefish fishery was at 66 percent of the annual target (1,667 mt landed out of a 2,518 mt landed catch OY). With an estimated 851 mt of the OY available for non-trawl sablefish fisheries and with the primary sablefish fishery ending on October 31, 2003, there is room for additional harvest opportunity in the DTL sablefish fishery. Thus, because sablefish catch in the DTL fishery is tracking behind schedule for the year and because the impact of this fishery on shortspine thornyhead is likely minimal, the DTL sablefish fishery north of 36° N. lat. will be increased during November and December from the previously scheduled 300 lb (136 kg) per day or one landing per week of up to 800 lb (363 kg), not to exceed 3,200 lb (1,452 kg) per 2 months to 300 lb (136 kg) per day or one landing per week of up to 900 lb (408 kg), not to exceed 3,600 lb (1,633 kg) per 2 months.

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

At their September 8–12, 2003 meeting, the Pacific Council recommended increasing limited entry fixed gear and open access trip limits for minor deeper nearshore rockfish as soon as practicable after the Pacific Council meeting. The Pacific Council recommended the increase because commercial landings of minor deeper nearshore rockfish south of 40°10′ N. lat. were lower than expected in 2003. Minor deeper nearshore rockfish are managed within an overall harvest guideline for minor nearshore rockfish. The minor nearshore rockfish harvest guideline is shared between the commercial and recreational sectors. In addition, the minor nearshore rockfish harvest guideline is included as a subset of the minor rockfish OY. There are two minor rockfish OYs, one for the area north of 40°10′ N. lat. and one for the area south of 40°10′ N. lat.

Subsequent to the Pacific Council meeting, the Pacific Council's Groundfish Management Team (GMT) held a meeting in Seattle, WA, October 14–16, 2003. The GMT discussed

information from the Recreational Fisheries Information Network (RecFIN) at that meeting, which showed landings of minor nearshore rockfish in the recreational fishery south of 40°10′ N. lat. during July and August, the first two months open to recreational groundfish fishing, have exceeded the projected recreational landings of minor nearshore rockfish for the remainder of the year. The GMT raised concerns over the accuracy of RecFIN's catch estimates since the estimates for July and August were substantially higher than in recent years. The GMT has requested that the RecFIN program review its estimates reported for the 2003 California recreational fishery.

While landings in the commercial sector south of 40°10′ N. lat. continue to remain lower than expected in 2003 (landed catch data through October 10, 2003, indicate that minor deeper nearshore rockfish catch was at 44 percent of the annual target 21 mt landed out of a 48 mt commercial total catch OY), combined recreational and commercial landings are still estimated to have exceeded the minor nearshore harvest guideline, even if RecFIN estimates are adjusted downward. The state of California intends to close recreational fishing for nearshore rockfish at the beginning of November.

In light of this new information, NMFS is not approving the Pacific Council's September recommendation to increase minor deeper nearshore rockfish trip limits for the commercial sector (limited entry fixed gear and open access) south of 40°10′ N. lat. Because of the recent receipt of this information, NMFS does not have time to fully consider the information, determine what additional actions may be appropriate, and incorporate any additional actions into this **Federal Register** Notice. Attempting to incorporate additional actions into this notice would delay the other inseason adjustments contained in this action, which need to be implemented as soon as possible. However, NMFS will review the new information, and determine what additional action, if any, should be taken. Therefore, the limited entry fixed gear and open access minor deeper nearshore rockfish limit south of 40°10′ N. lat. remains as scheduled for the remainder of the September through October cumulative limit period at 300 lb (136 kg) per 2 months. During the months of November through December, the limited entry fixed gear and open access minor deeper nearshore rockfish limit south of 40°10′ N. lat. also remains as previously scheduled at 200 lb (91 kg) per 2 months, unless it is adjusted through a subsequent action.

Corrections

The limited entry midwater trawl fishery for widow rockfish during the primary season north of 40°10′ N. lat., Table 3 (North), is corrected in this inseason action to allow retention of widow rockfish during September through October up to the limits previously specified in the table for May though August. This allowance for widow rockfish retention during the primary whiting season was intended to be for May through October, the same time frame as the yellowtail rockfish allowance during the primary whiting season. This inseason action corrects Table 3 (North) for the limited entry midwater trawl fishery for widow rockfish north of 40°10′ N. lat. May through October to read, ''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.''

Similarly, the primary season for whiting is corrected coastwide (Table 3 (North) and Table 3 (South)) to reflect that it may extend from May through October, the same time frame as the yellowtail rockfish allowance during the primary whiting season. The primary whiting season begins on different dates for different sectors of the fishery, but generally extends from approximately April through quota attainment. Currently the mothership and catcher/ processor sectors remain open with quota available. Therefore, to more accurately reflect the open season for the primary whiting season, this inseason action corrects Table 3 (North) and Table 3 (South) for whiting during May through October to read, ''Primary Season (only mid-water trawl permitted within the RCA).''

NMFS Actions

For the reasons stated herein, NMFS concurs with all of the Pacific Council's recommendations, except the recommendation to increase minor deeper nearshore limits south of 40°10′ N. lat., implemented herein and hereby announces the following changes to the 2003 specifications and 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, at 68 FR 32680, June 2, 2003, at 68 FR 35575, June 16, 2003), at 68 FR 40187, July 7, 2003, at 68 FR 42643, July 18, 2003, at 68 FR 43473, July 23, 2003, and at 68 FR 52703, September 5, 2003, to read as follows:

1. In section IV., under A. General Definitions and Provisions, paragraph (19)(e), section (xviii) is added to read as follows:

* * * * *

(xviii) The 200–fm (366–m) depth contour used between the U.S. border with Canada and the U.S. border with Mexico as a western boundary for the trawl RCA, modified to allow fishing for petrale in the winter months of January, February, November, and December, is defined by straight lines connecting all of the following points in the order stated:

(1) 48°14.75′ N. lat., 125°41.73′ W. long.;
(2) 48°12.85′ N. lat., 125°38.06′ W. long.;
(3) 48°11.52′ N. lat., 125°39.45′ W. long.;
(4) 48°10.14′ N. lat., 125°42.81′ W. long.;
(5) 48°08.96′ N. lat., 125°42.08′ W. long.;
(6) 48°08.33′ N. lat., 125°44.91′ W. long.;
(7) 48°07.19′ N. lat., 125°45.87′ W. long.;
(8) 48°05.66′ N. lat., 125°44.79′ W. long.;
(9) 48°05.91′ N. lat., 125°42.16′ W. long.;
(10) 48°04.11′ N. lat., 125°40.17′ W. long.;
(11) 48°04.07′ N. lat., 125°36.96′ W. long.;
(12) 48°03.05′ N. lat., 125°36.38′ W. long.;
(13) 48°01.98′ N. lat., 125°37.41′ W. long.;
(14) 48°01.46′ N. lat., 125°39.61′ W. long.;
(15) 47°57.00′ N. lat., 125°37.00′ W. long.;
(16) 47°55.50′ N. lat., 125°28.50′ W. long.;
(17) 47°57.88′ N. lat., 125°25.61′ W. long.;
(18) 48°01.63′ N. lat., 125°23.75′ W. long.;
(19) 48°02.21′ N. lat., 125°22.43′ W. long.;
(20) 48°03.60′ N. lat., 125°21.84′ W. long.;
(21) 48°03.98′ N. lat., 125°20.65′ W. long.;
(22) 48°03.26′ N. lat., 125°19.76′ W. long.;
(23) 48°01.49′ N. lat., 125°18.80′ W. long.;
(24) 48°01.03′ N. lat., 125°20.12′ W. long.;
(25) 48°00.04′ N. lat., 125°20.26′ W. long.;
(26) 47°58.10′ N. lat., 125°18.91′ W. long.;
(27) 47°58.17′ N. lat., 125°17.50′ W. long.;
(28) 47°52.28′ N. lat., 125°16.06′ W. long.;

(29) 47°51.92′ N. lat., 125°13.89′ W. long.;
(30) 47°49.20′ N. lat., 125°10.67′ W. long.;
(31) 47°48.69′ N. lat., 125°06.50′ W. long.;
(32) 47°46.54′ N. lat., 125°07.68′ W. long.;
(33) 47°47.24′ N. lat., 125°05.38′ W. long.;
(34) 47°45.95′ N. lat., 125°04.61′ W. long.;
(35) 47°44.58′ N. lat., 125°07.12′ W. long.;
(36) 47°42.24′ N. lat., 125°05.15′ W. long.;
(37) 47°38.54′ N. lat., 125°06.76′ W. long.;
(38) 47°34.86′ N. lat., 125°04.67′ W. long.;
(39) 47°30.75′ N. lat., 124°57.52′ W. long.;
(40) 47°28.51′ N. lat., 124°56.69′ W. long.;
(41) 47°29.15′ N. lat., 124°54.10′ W. long.;
(42) 47°28.43′ N. lat., 124°51.58′ W. long.;
(43) 47°24.13′ N. lat., 124°47.51′ W. long.;
(44) 47°18.31′ N. lat., 124°46.17′ W. long.;
(45) 47°19.57′ N. lat., 124°51.01′ W. long.;
(46) 47°18.12′ N. lat., 124°53.66′ W. long.;
(47) 47°17.59′ N. lat., 124°52.94′ W. long.;
(48) 47°17.71′ N. lat., 124°51.63′ W. long.;
(49) 47°16.90′ N. lat., 124°51.23′ W. long.;
(50) 47°16.10′ N. lat., 124°53.67′ W. long.;
(51) 47°14.24′ N. lat., 124°53.02′ W. long.;
(52) 47°12.16′ N. lat., 124°56.77′ W. long.;
(53) 47°13.35′ N. lat., 124°58.70′ W. long.;
(54) 47°09.53′ N. lat., 124°58.32′ W. long.;
(55) 47°09.54′ N. lat., 124°59.50′ W. long.;
(56) 47°05.87′ N. lat., 124°59.29′ W. long.;
(57) 47°03.65′ N. lat., 124°56.26′ W. long.;
(58) 47°00.91′ N. lat., 124°59.73′ W. long.;
(59) 46°58.74′ N. lat., 124°59.40′ W. long.;
(60) 46°58.55′ N. lat., 125°00.70′ W. long.;
(61) 46°55.57′ N. lat., 125°01.61′ W. long.;
(62) 46°55.77′ N. lat., 124°55.04′ W. long.;
(63) 46°53.16′ N. lat., 124°53.69′ W. long.;
(64) 46°52.39′ N. lat., 124°55.24′ W. long.;
(65) 46°44.88′ N. lat., 124°51.97′ W. long.;
(66) 46°33.28′ N. lat., 124°36.96′ W. long.;
(67) 46°33.20′ N. lat., 124°30.64′ W. long.;
(68) 46°27.85′ N. lat., 124°31.95′ W. long.;
(69) 46°18.16′ N. lat., 124°39.39′ W. long.;
(70) 46°16.48′ N. lat., 124°27.41′ W. long.;
(71) 46°16.73′ N. lat., 124°23.20′ W. long.;
(72) 46°14.13′ N. lat., 124°26.26′ W. long.;
(73) 46°12.81′ N. lat., 124°33.73′ W. long.;
(74) 46°12.86′ N. lat., 124°38.65′ W. long.;
(75) 46°10.81′ N. lat., 124°39.54′ W. long.;
(76) 46°09.78′ N. lat., 124°41.27′ W. long.;
(77) 46°06.44′ N. lat., 124°41.08′ W. long.;
(78) 46°03.79′ N. lat., 124°47.94′ W. long.;
(79) 46°02.31′ N. lat., 124°48.59′ W. long.;
(80) 45°59.01′ N. lat., 124°44.40′ W. long.;
(81) 45°46.91′ N. lat., 124°43.57′ W. long.;
(82) 45°44.05′ N. lat., 124°45.85′ W. long.;
(83) 45°39.96′ N. lat., 124°40.10′ W. long.;
(84) 45°38.27′ N. lat., 124°40.47′ W. long.;
(85) 45°34.80′ N. lat., 124°32.25′ W. long.;
(86) 45°13.00′ N. lat., 124°21.98′ W. long.;
(87) 45°09.59′ N. lat., 124°23.33′ W. long.;
(88) 45°11.35′ N. lat., 124°38.37′ W. long.;
(89) 45°00.22′ N. lat., 124°29.24′ W. long.;
(90) 44°55.28′ N. lat., 124°31.70′ W. long.;
(91) 44°41.42′ N. lat., 124°49.13′ W. long.;
(92) 44°21.46′ N. lat., 124°49.29′ W. long.;
(93) 44°12.43′ N. lat., 124°56.56′ W. long.;
(94) 43°58.92′ N. lat., 124°54.42′ W. long.;
(95) 43°50.76′ N. lat., 124°52.75′ W. long.;
(96) 43°47.22′ N. lat., 124°45.70′ W. long.;
(97) 43°43.11′ N. lat., 124°39.85′ W. long.;
(98) 43°20.19′ N. lat., 124°43.28′ W. long.;
(99) 43°13.29′ N. lat., 124°47.09′ W. long.;
(100) 43°13.17′ N. lat., 124°52.77′ W. long.;
(101) 43°05.65′ N. lat., 124°52.96′ W. long.;
(102) 43°00.03′ N. lat., 124°53.71′ W. long.;
(103) 42°53.90′ N. lat., 124°54.49′ W. long.;
(104) 42°49.50′ N. lat., 124°53.15′ W. long.;
(105) 42°47.50′ N. lat., 124°50.28′ W. long.;
(106) 42°46.21′ N. lat., 124°44.55′ W. long.;
(107) 42°41.30′ N. lat., 124°44.38′ W. long.;
(108) 42°38.83′ N. lat., 124°43.02′ W. long.;
(109) 42°31.92′ N. lat., 124°46.17′ W. long.;
(110) 42°32.11′ N. lat., 124°43.49′ W. long.;
(111) 42°31.03′ N. lat., 124°43.75′ W. long.;
(112) 42°28.42′ N. lat., 124°49.08′ W. long.;
(113) 42°20.36′ N. lat., 124°42.43′ W. long.;
(114) 42°15.35′ N. lat., 124°38.86′ W. long.;
(115) 42°09.59′ N. lat., 124°38.13′ W. long.;
(116) 42°04.56′ N. lat., 124°38.86′ W. long.;
(117) 42°04.45′ N. lat., 124°36.72′ W. long.;
(118) 41°59.98′ N. lat., 124°36.70′ W. long.;
(119) 41°47.85′ N. lat., 124°30.41′ W. long.;
(120) 41°43.34′ N. lat., 124°29.89′ W. long.;
(121) 41°23.47′ N. lat., 124°30.29′ W. long.;
(122) 41°21.30′ N. lat., 124°29.36′ W. long.;
(123) 41°13.53′ N. lat., 124°24.41′ W. long.;
(124) 41°06.72′ N. lat., 124°23.3′ W. long.;
(125) 40°54.67′ N. lat., 124°28.13′ W. long.;
(126) 40°49.02′ N. lat., 124°28.52′ W. long.;
(127) 40°40.45′ N. lat., 124°32.74′ W. long.;
(128) 40°37.11′ N. lat., 124°38.03′ W. long.;
(129) 40°34.22′ N. lat., 124°41.13′ W. long.;
(130) 40°32.90′ N. lat., 124°41.83′ W. long.;
(131) 40°31.30′ N. lat., 124°40.97′ W. long.;
(132) 40°29.63′ N. lat., 124°38.04′ W. long.;
(133) 40°24.99′ N. lat., 124°36.37′ W. long.;

(134) 40°22.23′ N. lat., 124°31.78′ W. long.;
(135) 40°16.95′ N. lat., 124°31.93′ W. long.;
(136) 40°17.59′ N. lat., 124°45.23′ W. long.;
(137) 40°13.25′ N. lat., 124°32.36′ W. long.;
(138) 40°10.16′ N. lat., 124°24.57′ W. long.;
(139) 40°6.43′ N. lat., 124°19.19′ W. long.;
(140) 40°7.07′ N. lat., 124°17.75′ W. long.;
(141) 40°5.53′ N. lat., 124°18.02′ W. long.;
(142) 40°4.71′ N. lat., 124°18.10′ W. long.;
(143) 40°2.35′ N. lat., 124°16.57′ W. long.;
(144) 40°1.53′ N. lat., 124°9.82′ W. long.;
(145) 39°58.28′ N. lat., 124°13.51′ W. long.;
(146) 39°56.60′ N. lat., 124°12.02′ W. long.;
(147) 39°55.20′ N. lat., 124°07.96′ W. long.;
(148) 39°52.55′ N. lat., 124°09.40′ W. long.;
(149) 39°42.68′ N. lat., 124°02.52′ W. long.;
(150) 39°35.96′ N. lat., 123°59.49′ W. long.;
(151) 39°34.62′ N. lat., 123°59.59′ W. long.;
(152) 39°33.78′ N. lat., 123°56.82′ W. long.;
(153) 39°33.02′ N. lat., 123°57.07′ W. long.;
(154) 39°32.21′ N. lat., 123°59.13′ W. long.;
(155) 39°7.85′ N. lat., 123°59.07′ W. long.;
(156) 39°00.90′ N. lat., 123°57.88′ W. long.;
(157) 38°59.95′ N. lat., 123°56.99′ W. long.;
(158) 38°56.82′ N. lat., 123°57.74′ W. long.;
(159) 38°56.40′ N. lat., 123°59.41′ W. long.;
(160) 38°50.23′ N. lat., 123°55.48′ W. long.;
(161) 38°46.77′ N. lat., 123°51.49′ W. long.;
(162) 38°45.28′ N. lat., 123°51.56′ W. long.;
(163) 38°42.76′ N. lat., 123°49.76′ W. long.;
(164) 38°41.54′ N. lat., 123°47.76′ W. long.;
(165) 38°40.98′ N. lat., 123°48.07′ W. long.;
(166) 38°38.03′ N. lat., 123°45.78′ W. long.;
(167) 38°37.20′ N. lat., 123°44.01′ W. long.;
(168) 38°33.44′ N. lat., 123°41.75′ W. long.;
(169) 38°29.45′ N. lat., 123°38.42′ W. long.;
(170) 38°27.89′ N. lat., 123°38.38′ W. long.;
(171) 38°23.68′ N. lat., 123°35.40′ W. long.;
(172) 38°19.63′ N. lat., 123°33.98′ W. long.;
(173) 38°16.23′ N. lat., 123°31.83′ W. long.;
(174) 38°14.79′ N. lat., 123°29.91′ W. long.;
(175) 38°14.12′ N. lat., 123°26.29′ W. long.;
(176) 38°10.85′ N. lat., 123°25.77′ W. long.;
(177) 38°13.15′ N. lat., 123°28.18′ W. long.;
(178) 38°12.28′ N. lat., 123°29.81′ W. long.;
(179) 38°10.19′ N. lat., 123°29.04′ W. long.;
(180) 38°07.94′ N. lat., 123°28.45′ W. long.;
(181) 38°06.51′ N. lat., 123°30.89′ W. long.;
(182) 38°04.21′ N. lat., 123°31.96′ W. long.;
(183) 38°02.07′ N. lat., 123°31.3′ W. long.;
(184) 38°00.00′ N. lat., 123°29.55′ W. long.;
(185) 37°58.13′ N. lat., 123°27.21′ W. long.;
(186) 37°55.01′ N. lat., 123°27.46′ W. long.;
(187) 37°51.40′ N. lat., 123°25.18′ W. long.;
(188) 37°43.97′ N. lat., 123°11.49′ W. long.;
(189) 37°36.00′ N. lat., 123°02.25′ W. long.;
(190) 37°13.65′ N. lat., 122°54.18′ W. long.;
(191) 37°00.66′ N. lat., 122°37.84′ W. long.;
(192) 36°57.40′ N. lat., 122°28.25′ W. long.;
(193) 36°59.25′ N. lat., 122°25.54′ W. long.;
(194) 36°56.88′ N. lat., 122°25.42′ W. long.;
(195) 36°57.40′ N. lat., 122°22.62′ W. long.;
(196) 36°55.43′ N. lat., 122°22.43′ W. long.;
(197) 36°52.29′ N. lat., 122°13.18′ W. long.;
(198) 36°47.12′ N. lat., 122°07.56′ W. long.;
(199) 36°47.10′ N. lat., 122°02.11′ W. long.;
(200) 36°43.76′ N. lat., 121°59.11′ W. long.;
(201) 36°38.85′ N. lat., 122°02.20′ W. long.;
(202) 36°23.41′ N. lat., 122°00.11′ W. long.;
(203) 36°19.68′ N. lat., 122°06.93′ W. long.;
(204) 36°14.75′ N. lat., 122°01.51′ W. long.;
(205) 36°09.74′ N. lat., 121°45.00′ W. long.
(206) 36°06.67′ N. lat., 121°41.06′ W. long.;
(207) 35°57.07′ N. lat., 121°34.32′ W. long.;
(208) 35°52.31′ N. lat., 121°32.45′ W. long.;
(209) 35°51.21′ N. lat., 121°30.91′ W. long.;
(210) 35°46.32′ N. lat., 121°30.30′ W. long.;
(211) 35°33.74′ N. lat., 121°20.10′ W. long.;
(212) 35°31.37′ N. lat., 121°15.23′ W. long.;
(213) 35°23.32′ N. lat., 121°11.44′ W. long.;
(214) 35°15.28′ N. lat., 121°04.45′ W. long.;
(215) 35°07.08′ N. lat., 121°00.3′ W. long.;
(216) 34°57.46′ N. lat., 120°58.23′ W. long.;
(217) 34°44.25′ N. lat., 120°58.29′ W. long.;
(218) 34°32.30′ N. lat., 120°50.22′ W. long.;
(219) 34°19.08′ N. lat., 120°31.21′ W. long.;
(220) 34°17.72′ N. lat., 120°19.26′ W. long.;
(221) 34°22.45′ N. lat., 120°12.81′ W. long.;
(222) 34°21.36′ N. lat., 119°54.88′ W. long.;
(223) 34°09.95′ N. lat., 119°46.18′ W. long.;
(224) 34°09.08′ N. lat., 119°57.53′ W. long.;
(225) 34°07.53′ N. lat., 120°06.35′ W. long.;
(226) 34°10.54′ N. lat., 120°19.07′ W. long.;
(227) 34°14.68′ N. lat., 120°29.48′ W. long.;
(228) 34°09.51′ N. lat., 120°38.32′ W. long.;
(229) 34°03.06′ N. lat., 120°35.54′ W. long.;
(230) 33°56.39′ N. lat., 120°28.47′ W. long.;
(231) 33°50.25′ N. lat., 120°09.43′ W. long.;
(232) 33°37.96′ N. lat., 120°00.08′ W. long.;
(233) 33°34.52′ N. lat., 119°51.84′ W. long.;
(234) 33°35.51′ N. lat., 119°48.49′ W. long.;
(235) 33°42.76′ N. lat., 119°47.77′ W. long.;
(236) 33°53.62′ N. lat., 119°53.28′ W. long.;
(237) 33°57.61′ N. lat., 119°31.26′ W. long.;
(238) 33°56.34′ N. lat., 119°26.4′ W. long.;

(239) 33°57.79′ N. lat., 119°26.85′ W. long.;

(240) 33°58.88′ N. lat., 119°20.06′ W. long.;

(241) 34°02.65′ N. lat., 119°15.11′ W. long.;

(242) 33°59.02′ N. lat., 119°02.99′ W. long.;

(243) 33°57.61′ N. lat., 118°42.07′ W. long.;

(244) 33°50.76′ N. lat., 118°37.98′ W. long.;

(245) 33°38.41′ N. lat., 118°17.03′ W. long.;

(246) 33°37.14′ N. lat., 118°18.39′ W. long.;

(247) 33°35.51′ N. lat., 118°18.03′ W. long.;

(248) 33°30.68′ N. lat., 118°10.35′ W. long.;

(249) 33°32.49′ N. lat., 117°51.85′ W. long.;

(250) 32°58.87′ N. lat., 117°20.36′ W. long.; and

(251) 32°35.53′ N. lat., 117°29.67′ W. long.

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

Table 3 (North). 2003 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

10/2003

	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.		7,000 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 2,300 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.		4,500 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 2,000 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.		900 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 300 lb/2 months

Table 3 (North). Continued

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.	30,000 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 11,000 lb/ 2 months
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 months.	
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/]
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	CLOSED[6/]
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). 2003 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

10/2003

	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area[10/] (RCA):			
40°10' - 38° N. lat.	60 fm - 200 fm	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	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	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	7,000 lb/ 2 months
9	Longspine thornyhead	11,500 lb/ 2 months	4,500 lb/ 2 months
10	Shortspine thornyhead	2,400 lb/ 2 months	900 lb/ 2 months
11	Dover sole	34,000 lb/ 2 months	30,000 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
17	**Whiting[5/]**	Primary Season (only mid-water trawl permitted within the RCA)	10,000 lb/ trip
18	**Other Fish[9/]**	Not limited	

Table 3 (South). Continued

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/]	
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). 2003 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 10/2003

		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		300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 900 lb, not to exceed 3,600 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		

Table 4 (North). Continued

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). 2003 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 10/2003

		JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
	Rockfish Conservation Area[7/] (RCA):			
	40°10' - 34°27' N. lat.	20 fm - 150 fm		
	South of 34°27' N. lat.	20 fm - 150 fm (also applies around islands) (See footnote 8 for description of Pt. Fermin/Newport South Jetty open area)	30 fm - 150 fm (also applies around islands)	
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		300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 900 lb, not to exceed 3,600 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/]		

Table 4 (South). Continued

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	400 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		

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 lingcod and all rockfish other than California scorpionfish, with hook&line and/or trap (or pot) gear may operate from shore to a seaward boundary line which approximates 50 fm.

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

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3. On pages 11224–11225, in section IV., under C. Trip Limits in the Open Access Fishery, Table 5 (North) and Table 5 (South) are revised to read as follows:

* * * * *

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 10/2003

		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		300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 900 lb, not to exceed 3,600 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 10/2003

		JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
	Rockfish Conservation Area[7/] (RCA):			
	40°10' - 34°27' N. lat.	20 fm - 150 fm		
	South of 34°27' N. lat.	20 fm - 150 fm (also applies around islands) (See footnote 8 for description of Pt. Fermin/Newport South Jetty open area)	30 fm - 150 fm (also applies around islands)	
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		300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 900 lb, not to exceed 3,600 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/]		
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	400 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		

Table 5 (South). Continued

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).

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 lingcod and all rockfish other than California scorpionfish, with hook&line and/or trap (or pot) gear may operate from shore to a seaward boundary line which approximates 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)(3)(B), because providing prior notice and opportunity for comment would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The data upon which these recommendations were based was provided to the Pacific Council and the Pacific Council made its recommendations at its September 8–12, 2003 meeting in Seattle, WA. There was not sufficient time after that meeting to draft this notice and undergo proposed and final rulemaking before these actions need to be in effect as explained below. For the actions to be implemented in this notice, prior notice and opportunity for comment would be impracticable because affording prior notice and opportunity for public comment would take too long, thus impeding the Agency's function of managing fisheries to approach without exceeding the OYs for federally managed species. For November through December, the trip limit adjustments in this document include both increases and decreases from previously scheduled trip limits, as well as implementation of a trawl RCA boundary line which approximates the 200–fm depth contour as modified to incorporate petrale sole fishing grounds. Trip limit decreases must be implemented in a timely manner to protect overfished groundfish species, such as canary rockfish, and slow the harvest of other groundfish species, such as shortspine thornyhead, thereby, ensuring harvesting opportunities without exceeding the OY for those species throughout the remainder of the year. Additionally, trip limit increases are intended to allow harvest opportunity for fisheries targeting more abundant groundfish stocks with little or no impact on overfished stocks. Implementation of the coordinates for the trawl RCA boundary line which approximates the 200–fm depth contour, as modified to allow access to the petrale sole fishing grounds during the winter months (November and December), is intended to allow fishermen access to fishing grounds in areas when and where petrale sole tend to aggregate. These are also the times and areas where flatfish trawl tows are less likely to intercept overfished groundfish species. 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 must be implemented by the beginning of the next cumulative trip limit period (November 1, 2003). Otherwise, for species for which the trip limits are being reduced, fishers may be able to take the entire 2–month cumulative limit before the new lower limits are in place, thereby eliminating the conservation benefit anticipated from the lower trip limits in November and December and possibly exceeding the OY for some species. For the increases to trip limits to be effective November 1, 2003, the increased trip limits 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.

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 relieve restrictions by allowing fishermen to harvest more fish than would have been allowed under the limits previously scheduled for the remainder of the year; 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 660.323(b)(1) and are exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: October 21, 2003.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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