**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 660**

**[Docket No. 140904754–5188–02]**

**RIN 0648–BF40**

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

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

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

**SUMMARY:** This final rule announces inseason changes to management measures in the Pacific Coast groundfish fisheries. This action, which is authorized by the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PCGFMP), is intended to prevent exceeding the 2015 Area 2A Pacific halibut quota for incidental retention in the sablefish primary fishery and the Area 2A Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and to prevent exceeding the annual catch limit (ACL) for sablefish north 36° N. lat.

**DATES:** This final rule is effective October 13, 2015.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sarah Williams, phone: 206–526–4646, fax: 206–526–6736, or email: *sarah.williams@noaa.gov.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

## Electronic Access

This rule is accessible via the Internet at the Office of the Federal Register Web site at *https://www.federalregister.gov.* Background information and documents are available at the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Web site at *http://www.pcouncil.org/.* Copies of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) for the Groundfish Specifications and Management Measures for 2015–2016 and Biennial Periods Thereafter are available from Donald McIsaac, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Portland, OR 97220, phone: 503–820–2280.

## Background

### *Closing Incidental Pacific Halibut Retention in the Sablefish Primary Fishery*

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) sets the Pacific halibut total allowable catch (TAC) on an annual basis. A portion of the TAC is available to fisheries in Area 2A (waters off the U.S. West Coast). The Council's Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) guides allocation of the Area 2A portion of the TAC to the various commercial and recreational fisheries in Area 2A. Specifically, it provides that if the Area 2A TAC is greater than 900,000 lb, the portion of the Washington sport allocation that is in excess of 214,110 lb is available to the sablefish primary fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA.

The final Area 2A halibut TAC for 2015 was adopted by the IPHC at their January 26 through January 30, 2015 meeting. Following this meeting, NMFS published two final rules implementing the 2015 halibut TAC and the CSP. The first rule implementing the TAC published on March 17, 2015 (80 FR 13771) and second rule implementing the CSP published on April 1, 2015 (80 FR 17344). The final 2A TAC resulted in an allocation to the limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) sablefish primary fishery of 10,348 lb. The incidental fishery opened on April 1, 2015, with a landing limit of 75 lb dressed weight of halibut per 1,000 lb dressed weight of sablefish, and up to two additional Pacific halibut in excess of this ratio. This ratio is implemented in LEFG sablefish primary fishery regulations at § 660.231(b)(3)(iv).

In late August 2015, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) notified NMFS and IPHC that the incidental Pacific halibut quota was projected to be attained and that a closure was likely before the end of the scheduled season on October 31. Following this notification, NMFS, IPHC, and WDFW met on August 25, 2015, reviewed the catch data, and the IPHC closed incidental Pacific halibut retention in the LEFG sablefish primary fishery at 12:01 a.m. on September 1, 2015. This action was taken consistent with IPHC's inseason authority, as described in section 5 of the annual IPHC regulations and in the CSP.

The Council was notified of the IPHC inseason action at its September 11–16, 2015, meeting. To make clear that retention of incidentally caught Pacific halibut in the LEFG sablefish primary fishery north of Pt. Chehalis, WA, is closed, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing a modification to § 660.231(b)(3)(iv). Currently that regulation states the incidental retention ratio; the modification would state that incidental retention is closed.

### *Closure of the Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access Sablefish Daily Trip Limit Fisheries North of 36° N. Lat.*

The best available fisheries information indicates that catch of sablefish in the commercial non-trawl fisheries north of 36° N. lat. is higher than anticipated. The Council considered updated projections and the status of ongoing groundfish fisheries at its September 11–16, 2015, meeting. Fishery models, updated with the best estimate reports from the Pacific Fishery Information Network through August 31, 2015, project that sablefish landings through the end of the year would exceed the sablefish allocations in both the LEFG and open access (OA) daily trip limit (DTL) fisheries north of 36° N. lat. Projected landings in the LEFG DTL fishery north of 36° N. lat. vary based on assumptions on the price per pound. If no action is taken and this higher than anticipated catch continues in the LEFG DTL fishery, projected landings range from 126 percent of the allocation (low price assumption) to 139 percent of the allocation (high price assumption). Also, if no action is taken and higher than anticipated catch continues in the OA fishery, projected landings are 126 percent of the allocation.

Sablefish is managed, in part, with two-month cumulative limits. Information regarding higher than anticipated catch of sablefish in these fisheries came during the Period 5 two-month cumulative limit period (September–October). It is very likely that most participating vessels will have caught their Period 5 two-month limits by the time a closure could be in effect. Therefore, the Council recommended a closure beginning at the start of the next bi-monthly cumulative limit period (Period 6, November–December), rather than during Period 5. Closing these sablefish fisheries November 1 is projected to reduce the overage of the allocations for both LEFG and OA DTL fisheries. Landings in the LEFG DTL fishery would be reduced to 111 percent—116 percent of the allocation and landings in the OA fishery reduced to 102 percent of the allocation. The Period 6 closure reduces the risk of exceeding the north 36° N. lat. ACL due to the overages in the LEFG and OA DTL allocations, and keeps total projected impacts across all fisheries below the 2015 sablefish north 36° N. lat. ACL (4,608 mt out of a 4,792 mt ACL)

NMFS agrees with the Council recommendation and rationale and is

implementing a closure for sablefish in the LEFG and OA DTL fisheries north of 36° N. lat., beginning November 1, 2015. Starting November 1, it will be prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land sablefish in the LEFG and OA DTL fisheries north 36° N. lat.

**Classification**

This final rule makes routine inseason adjustments to groundfish fishery management measures, based on the best available information, consistent with the PCGFMP and its implementing regulations and the Halibut Act and its implementing regulations.

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

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

NMFS finds good cause to waive prior public notice and comment on the revisions to groundfish management measures under 5 U.S.C. 553(b) because notice and comment would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Also, for the same reasons, NMFS finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), so that this final rule may become effective October 13, 2015.

At the September Council meeting, the Council recommended that these changes be implemented as quickly as possible to make the groundfish regulation consistent with the IPHC inseason action which has already been taken and the sablefish closure based on information available at the September Council meeting. There was not sufficient time after that meeting to draft this document and undergo proposed and final rulemaking before these actions need to be in effect. For the actions to be implemented in this final rule, affording the time necessary for prior notice and opportunity for public comment would prevent NMFS from managing fisheries using the best available science to approach, without exceeding, the halibut allocation to the sablefish fishery and ACLs for federally managed species in accordance with the PCGFMP and applicable law and the halibut allocations implemented under the authority in the Halibut Act. These adjustments to management measures must be implemented in a timely manner to prevent the Area 2A portion of the 2015 halibut TAC and the 2015 sablefish north 36° N. lat. ACL from being exceeded. The elimination of Pacific halibut retention in the LEFG sablefish primary fishery is intended to prevent exceeding the Area 2A portion of the 2015 Pacific halibut TAC and the allocation to the sablefish primary fishery. The closure of the sablefish fishery for LEFG and OA DTL fisheries is intended to prevent exceeding the 2015 sablefish ACL north 36° N. lat. No aspect of this action is controversial, and changes of this nature were anticipated in the groundfish biennial harvest specifications and management measures established for 2015–2016 and the 2015 Pacific halibut final rules.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, NMFS finds good cause to waive prior notice and comment and to waive the delay in effectiveness.

**List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 660**

Fisheries, Fishing, Indian Fisheries.

Dated: October 7, 2015.

**Emily H. Menashes,**

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

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

## PART 660—FISHERIES OFF WEST COAST STATES

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

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

■ 2. In § 660.231, paragraph (b)(3)(iv) is revised to read as follows:

**§ 660.231 Limited entry fixed gear sablefish primary fishery.**

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(3) * * *

(iv) *Incidental halibut retention north of Pt. Chehalis, WA (46°53.30′ N. lat.).* No halibut retention is allowed during the sablefish primary fishery.

* * * * *

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

**Table 2 (North) to Part 660, Subpart E -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 40°10' N. lat.**

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table 9252015

| | | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)[1/]:** | | | | | | | |
| 1 | North of 46°16' N. lat. | shoreline - 100 fm line[1/] | | | | | |
| 2 | 46°16' N. lat. - 42°00' N. lat. | 30 fm line[1/] - 100 fm line[1/] | | | | | |
| 3 | 42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. | 30 fm line[1/] - 100 fm line[1/] | | | | | |
| **See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).** | | | | | | | |
| State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California. | | | | | | | |
| 4 | **Minor Slope Rockfish[2/] & Darkblotched rockfish** | 4,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 5 | **Pacific ocean perch** | 1,800 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 6 | **Sablefish[7/]** | 1,025 lb/ week, not to exceed 3,075 lb/ 2 months | | | 1,125 lb/ week, not to exceed 3,375 lb/ 2 months | | CLOSED |
| 7 | **Longspine thornyhead** | 10,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 8 | **Shortspine thornyhead** | 2,000 lb/ 2 months | | | 2,500 lb/ 2 months | | |
| 9 | **Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish[3/]** | 5,000 lb/ month<br>South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line, are not subject to the RCAs. | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | |
| 15 | **Whiting** | 10,000 lb/ trip | | | | | |
| 16 | **Minor Shelf Rockfish[2/], Shortbelly, Widow & Yellowtail rockfish** | 200 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 17 | **Canary rockfish** | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 18 | **Yelloweye rockfish** | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 19 | **Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish** | | | | | | |
| 20 | North of 42°00' N. lat. | 5,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue rockfish[4/] | | | | | |
| 21 | 42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. | 8,500 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish | | | | 6,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish | |
| 22 | **Lingcod[5/]** | 200 lb/2 months | | 1,200 lb/ 2 months | | | 600 lb/ month / 200 lb/ month |
| 23 | **Pacific cod** | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 24 | **Spiny dogfish** | 200,000 lb/ 2 months | | 150,000 lb/ 2 months | 100,000 lb/ 2 months | | |
| 25 | **Longnose skate** | Unlimited | | | | | |
| 26 | **Other Fish[6/]& Cabezon in Oregon and California** | Unlimited | | | | | |

TABLE 2 (North)

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish and splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish.

3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09.50' N. lat.), and between Destruction Is. (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Pnt. (46°38.17' N. lat.), there is an additional limit of 100 lb or 30 percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip.

5/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) total length North of 42° N. lat. and 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.

6/ "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling, leopard shark, and cabezon in Washington.

7/ Beginning on January 1, 2016, the following trip limits are in effect for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. from January through December 1,275 lb/week, not to exceed 3,375 lb/ 2 months

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

**Table 2 (South) to Part 660, Subpart E -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 40°10' N. lat.**

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

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| | | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)[1/]:** | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat. | 30 fm line[1/] - 150 fm line[1/] | | | | | |
| 2 | South of 34°27' N. lat. | 60 fm line[1/] - 150 fm line[1/] (also applies around islands) | | | | | |
| **See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).** | | | | | | | |
| State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California. | | | | | | | |
| 3 | **Minor Slope rockfish[2/] & Darkblotched rockfish** | 40,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,375 lb may be blackgill rockfish | | | 40,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,600 lb may be blackgill rockfish | | |
| 4 | **Splitnose rockfish** | 40,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 5 | **Sablefish[6/]** | | | | | | |
| 6 | 40°10' N. lat. - 36°00' N. lat. | 1,025 lb/ week, not to exceed 3,075 lb/ 2 months | | | 1,125 lb/ week, not to exceed 3,375 lb/ 2 months | | CLOSED |
| 7 | South of 36°00' N. lat. | 2,000 lb/ week | | | | | |
| 8 | **Longspine thornyhead** | 10,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 9 | **Shortspine thornyhead** | | | | | | |
| 10 | 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat. | 2,000 lb/ 2 months | | | 2,500 lb/ 2 months | | |
| 11 | South of 34°27' N. lat. | 3,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 12 | **Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish[3/]** | 5,000 lb/ month<br>South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line, are not subject to the RCAs. | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | |
| 18 | **Whiting** | 10,000 lb/ trip | | | | | |
| 19 | **Minor Shelf Rockfish[2/], Shortbelly, Widow rockfish (including Bocaccio and Chilipepper between 40°10' - 34°27' N. lat.)** | | | | | | |
| 20 | 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat. | Minor shelf rockfish, shortbelly, widow rockfish, bocaccio & chilipepper: 2,500 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 500 lb may be any species other than chilipepper. | | | | | |
| 21 | South of 34°27' N. lat. | 4,000 lb/ 2 months | CLOSED | 4,000 lb/ 2 months | | | |
| 22 | **Chilipepper** | | | | | | |
| 23 | 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat. | Chilipepper included under minor shelf rockfish, shortbelly, widow rockfish and bocaccio limits - - See above | | | | | |
| 24 | South of 34°27' N. lat. | 2,000 lb/ 2 months, this opportunity only available seaward of the non-trawl RCA | | | | | |
| 25 | **Canary rockfish** | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 26 | **Yelloweye rockfish** | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 27 | **Cowcod** | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 28 | **Bronzespotted rockfish** | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 29 | **Bocaccio** | | | | | | |
| 30 | 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat. | Bocaccio included under Minor shelf rockfish, shortbelly, widow rockfish & chilipepper limits - - See above | | | | | |
| 31 | South of 34°27' N. lat. | 750 lb/ 2 months | CLOSED | 750 lb/ 2 months | | | |

TABLE 2 (South)

*Table 2 (South). Continued*

| | | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 32 | **Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish** | | | | | | | **TABLE 2 (South)** |
| 33 | Shallow nearshore | 600 lb/ 2 months | CLOSED | 800 lb/ 2 months | 900 lb/ 2 months | 800 lb/ 2 months | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | |
| 34 | Deeper nearshore | | | | | | | |
| 35 | 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat. | 700 lb/ 2 months | CLOSED | 700 lb/ 2 months | 900 lb/ 2 months | | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | |
| 36 | South of 34°27' N. lat. | 500 lb/ 2 months | | 600 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 37 | California scorpionfish | 1,200 lb/ 2 months | CLOSED | 1,200 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 38 | **Lingcod[4/]** | 200 lb/ 2 months | CLOSED | 800 lb/ 2 months | | | 400 lb/ month | 200 lb/ month |
| 39 | **Pacific cod** | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | | |
| 40 | **Spiny dogfish** | 200,000 lb/ 2 months | | 150,000 lb/ 2 months | 100,000 lb/ 2 months | | | |
| 41 | **Longnose skate** | Unlimited | | | | | | |
| 42 | **Other Fish[5/] & Cabezon** | Unlimited | | | | | | |

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ POP is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish. Blackgill rockfish have a species specific trip sub-limit within the Minor Slope Rockfish cumulative limit. Yellowtail rockfish are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.

3/ "Other Flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

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

5/ "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling, leopard shark, and cabezon in Washington.

6/ Beginning on January 1, 2016, the following trip limits are in effect for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. from January through December 1,275 lb/week, not to exceed 3,375 lb/ 2 months.

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

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

**Table 3 (North) to Part 660, Subpart F -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears North of 40°10' N. lat.**

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

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| | | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)[1/]:** | | | | | | | |
| 1 | North of 46°16' N. lat. | shoreline - 100 fm line[1/] | | | | | |
| 2 | 46°16' N. lat. - 42°00' N. lat. | 30 fm line[1/] - 100 fm line[1/] | | | | | |
| 3 | 42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. | 30 fm line[1/] - 100 fm line[1/] | | | | | |
| **See §§660.60, 660.330 and 660.333 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).** | | | | | | | |
| State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California. | | | | | | | |
| 4 | **Minor Slope Rockfish[2/] & Darkblotched rockfish** | Per trip, no more than 25% of weight of the sablefish landed | | | | | |
| 5 | **Pacific ocean perch** | 100 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 6 | **Sablefish[7/]** | 300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 900 lb, not to exceed 1,800 lb/ 2 months | | | 350 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,600 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months | | CLOSED |
| 7 | **Shortpine thornyheads and longspine thornyheads** | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 8 | **Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish[3/]** | 3,000 lb/ month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs. | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line are not subject to the RCAs. | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | | |
| 14 | **Whiting** | 300 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 15 | **Minor Shelf Rockfish[2/], Shortbelly, Widow & Yellowtail rockfish** | 200 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 16 | **Canary rockfish** | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 17 | **Yelloweye rockfish** | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 18 | **Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish** | | | | | | |
| 19 | North of 42°00' N. lat. | 5,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish | | | | | |
| 20 | 42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. | 8,500 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish | | | | 6,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish | |
| 21 | **Lingcod[5/]** | 100 lb/ month | | 600 lb/ month | | | 100 lb/ month |
| 22 | **Pacific cod** | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 23 | **Spiny dogfish** | 200,000 lb/ 2 months | | 150,000 lb/ 2 months | 100,000 lb/ 2 months | | |
| 24 | **Longnose skate** | Unlimited | | | | | |
| 25 | **Other Fish[6/] & Cabezon in Oregon and California** | Unlimited | | | | | |

TABLE 3 (North)

*Table 3 (North). Continued*

| | | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *26* | **SALMON TROLL** *(subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish and lingcod, as described below)* | | | | | | |
| *27* | North | Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lb of yellowtail rockfish for every 2 lbs of salmon landed, with a cumulative limit of 200 lb/month, both within and outside of the RCA. This limit is within the 200 lb per month combined limit for minor shelf rockfish, widow rockfish and yellowtail rockfish, and not in addition to that limit. Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lingcod per 15 Chinook per trip, plus 1 lingcod per trip, up to a trip limit of 10 lingcod, on a trip where any fishing occurs within the RCA. This limit only applies during times when lingcod retention is allowed, and is not "CLOSED." This limit is within the per month limit for lingcod described in the table above, and not in addition to that limit. All groundfish species are subject to the open access limits, seasons, size limits and RCA restrictions listed in the table above, unless otherwise stated here. | | | | | |
| *28* | **PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL** *(not subject to RCAs)* | | | | | | |
| *29* | North | **Effective April 1 - October 31:** Groundfish: 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/month; canary, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of these species count toward the per day and per trip groundfish limits and do not have species-specific limits. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed. | | | | | |

**TABLE 3 (North) cont'd**

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod rockfishes are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09.50' N. lat.), and between Destruction Is. (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Pnt. (46°38.17' N. lat.), there is an additional limit of 100 lbs or 30 percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip.

5/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) total length North of 42° N. lat. and 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.

6/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling, leopard shark, and cabezon in Washington.

7/ Beginning on January 1, 2016, the following trip limits are in effect for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. 300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,000 lb, not to exceed 2,000 lb/ 2 months.

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

**Table 3 (South) to Part 660, Subpart F -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears South of 40°10' N. lat.**

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table 9252015

| | | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)[1/]:** | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat. | 30 fm line[1/] - 150 fm line[1/] | | | | | |
| 2 | South of 34°27' N. lat. | 60 fm line[1/] - 150 fm line[1/] (also applies around islands) | | | | | |
| **See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).** | | | | | | | |
| State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California. | | | | | | | |
| 3 | **Minor Slope Rockfish[2/] & Darkblotched rockfish** | 10,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 475 lb may be blackgill rockfish | | | 10,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 550 lb may be blackgill rockfish | | |
| 4 | **Splitnose rockfish** | 200 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 5 | **Sablefish[6/]** | | | | | | |
| 6 | 40°10' N. lat. - 36°00' N. lat. | 300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 900 lb, not to exceed 1,800 lb/ 2 months | | | 350 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,600 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months | | CLOSED |
| 7 | South of 36°00' N. lat. | 300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,600 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 8 | **Shortpine thornyheads and longspine thornyheads** | | | | | | |
| 9 | 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat. | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 10 | South of 34°27' N. lat. | 50 lb/ day, no more than 1,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 11 | **Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish[3/]** | 3,000 lb/ month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs. | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | |
| 13 | | South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line are not subject to the RCAs. | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | |
| 17 | **Whiting** | 300 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 18 | **Minor Shelf Rockfish[2/], Shortbelly, Widow rockfish and Chilipepper** | | | | | | |
| 19 | 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat. | 300 lb/ 2 months | CLOSED | 200 lb/ 2 months | | 300 lb/ 2 months | |
| 20 | South of 34°27' N. lat. | 1500 lb/ 2 months | | 1500 lb/ 2 months | | | |
| 21 | **Canary rockfish** | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 22 | **Yelloweye rockfish** | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 23 | **Cowcod** | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 24 | **Bronzespotted rockfish** | CLOSED | | | | | |
| 25 | **Bocaccio** | | | | | | |
| 26 | 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat. | 200 lb/ 2 months | CLOSED | 100 lb/ 2 months | | 200 lb/ 2 months | |
| 27 | South of 34°27' N. lat. | 250 lb/ 2 months | | 250 lb/ 2 months | | | |

TABLE 3 (South)

*Table 3 (South). Continued*

**TABLE 3 (South) cont'd**

| | | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28 | **Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish** | | | | | | |
| 29 | Shallow nearshore | 600 lb/ 2 months | CLOSED | 800 lb/ 2 months | 900 lb/ 2 months | 800 lb/ 2 months | 1,000 lb/ 2 months |
| 30 | Deeper nearshore | | | | | | |
| 31 | 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat. | 700 lb/ 2 months | CLOSED | 700 lb/ 2 months | 900 lb/ 2 months | | 1,000 lb/ 2 months |
| 32 | South of 34°27' N. lat. | 500 lb/ 2 months | | 600 lb/ 2 months | | | |
| 33 | California scorpionfish | 1,200 lb/ 2 months | CLOSED | 1,200 lb/ 2 months | | | |
| 34 | **Lingcod[4/]** | 100 lb/ month | CLOSED | 400 lb/ month | | | 100 lb/ month |
| 35 | **Pacific cod** | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 36 | **Spiny dogfish** | 200,000 lb/ 2 months | | 150,000 lb/ 2 months | 100,000 lb/ 2 months | | |
| 37 | **Longnose skate** | Unlimited | | | | | |
| 38 | **Other Fish[5/] & Cabezon** | Unlimited | | | | | |
| 39 | **RIDGEBACK PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF 38°57.50' N. LAT., CA HALIBUT AND SEA CUCUMBER NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL** | | | | | | |
| 40 | **NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) for CA Halibut, Sea Cucumber & Ridgeback Prawn:** | | | | | | |
| 41 | *40° 10' N. lat. - 38° 00' N. lat.* | *100 fm line[1/] - 200 fm line[1/]* | *100 fm line[1/] - 150 fm line[1/]* | | | | *100 fm line[1/] - 200 fm line[1/]* |
| 42 | *38° 00' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat.* | *100 fm line[1/] - 150 fm line[1/]* | | | | | |
| 43 | *South of 34° 27' N. lat.* | *100 fm line[1/] - 150 fm line[1/] along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm line[1/] around islands* | | | | | |
| 44 | | Groundfish: 300 lb/trip. Species-specific limits described in the table above also apply and are counted toward the 300 lb groundfish per trip limit. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of the target species landed, except that the amount of spiny dogfish landed may exceed the amount of target species landed. Spiny dogfish are limited by the 300 lb/trip overall groundfish limit. The daily trip limits for sablefish coastwide and thornyheads south of Pt. Conception and the overall groundfish "per trip" limit may not be multiplied by the number of days of the trip. Vessels participating in the California halibut fishery south of 38°57.50' N. lat. are allowed to (1) land up to 100 lb/day of groundfish without the ratio requirement, provided that at least one California halibut is landed and (2) land up to 3,000 lb/month of flatfish, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs, sand sole, starry flounder, rock sole, curlfin sole, or California scorpionfish (California scorpionfish is also subject to the trip limits and closures in line 31). | | | | | |
| 45 | **PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL GEAR** *(not subject to RCAs)* | | | | | | |
| 46 | South | Effective April 1 - October 31: Groundfish: 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/ month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/ month; canary, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of all groundfish species count toward the per day, per trip or other species-specific sublimits described here and the species-specific limits described in the table above do not apply. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed. | | | | | |

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish. Blackgill rockfish have a species specific trip sub-limit within the minor slope rockfish cumulative limits. Yellowtail rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.

3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

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

5/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and includes kelp greenling, leopard shark, and cabezon in Washington.

6/ Beginning on January 1, 2016, the following trip limits are in effect for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. 300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,000 lb, not to exceed 2,000 lb/ 2 months.

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

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