

squid are available to the fishery. As noted above, the SSC concluded that previous landings of up to 26,000 mt has not resulted in harm to the stock and would not likely result in overfishing. An unnecessary delay in implementing this increase would forgo such benefits to affected entities without any conservation benefits to the stock. Therefore, it is in the public interest to implement this final action and associated increase in the 2019 *Illex* squid ABC as soon as possible to avoid an unnecessary closure of the *Illex* squid fishery, achieve optimum yield in the fishery, and maximize benefits to fishery participants.

This final rule is exempt from review under E.O. 12866. This final rule is not an Executive Order 13771 regulatory action because this final rule is exempt from E.O. 12866.

The Chief Counsel for Regulation of the Department of Commerce certified to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration during the proposed rule stage that this action would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The factual basis for the certification was published in the proposed rule and is not repeated here. No comments were received regarding this certification and no other information has been obtained that suggests any other conclusion. As a result, a regulatory flexibility analysis was not required and none was prepared.

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

Dated: July 29, 2019.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-16484 Filed 8-1-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 180625576-8999-02]

RIN 0648-BJ11

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2019–2020 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
routine inseason adjustments to
management measures in commercial
groundfish fisheries. This action is
intended to allow commercial fishing
vessels to access more abundant
groundfish stocks while protecting
overfished and depleted stocks.

DATES: This final rule is effective August
2, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Karen Palmigiano, phone: 206-526-
4491 or email: karen.palmigiano@noaa.gov.

Electronic Access

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery
Management Plan (PCGFMP) and its
implementing regulations at title 50 in
the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR),
part 660, subparts C through G, regulate
fishing for over 90 species of groundfish
off the coasts of Washington, Oregon,
and California. The Pacific Fishery
Management Council (Council)
develops groundfish harvest
specifications and management
measures for two-year periods (*i.e.*, a
biennium). NMFS published the final
rule to implement harvest specifications
and management measures for the
2019–2020 biennium for most species
managed under the PCGFMP on
December 12, 2018 (83 FR 63970). In
general, the management measures set at
the start of the biennial harvest
specifications cycle help the various
sectors of the fishery attain, but not
exceed, the catch limits for each stock.
The Council, in coordination with
Pacific Coast Treaty Indian Tribes and
the States of Washington, Oregon, and
California, recommends adjustments to
the management measures during the
fishing year to achieve this goal.

At its June 19–25, 2019 meeting, the
Council recommended four adjustments
to the 2019 commercial groundfish
fishery management measures,
including: (1) Increasing the limited
entry fixed gear (LEFG) trip limits for

bocaccio between 40°10' North latitude
(N lat.) and 34°27' N lat.; (2) increasing
the shorebased individual fishing quota
(IFQ) fishery trip limits for big skate; (3)
increasing the open access (OA) trip
limits for sablefish both north and south
of 36° N lat., and (4) increasing the
amount of Pacific halibut that vessels in
the sablefish primary fishery north of
Point Chehalis may take incidentally.

Pacific Coast groundfish fisheries are
managed using harvest specifications or
limits (*e.g.*, overfishing limits [OFL],
acceptable biological catch [ABC],
annual catch limits [ACL] and harvest
guidelines [HG]) recommended
biennially by the Council and based on
the best scientific information available
at that time (50 CFR 660.60(b)). During
development of the harvest
specifications, the Council also
recommends mitigation measures (*e.g.*,
trip limits, area closures, and bag limits)
that are meant to mitigate catch so as
not to exceed the harvest specifications.
The harvest specifications and
mitigation measures developed for the
2019–2020 biennium used data through
the 2017 fishing year. Each of the
adjustments to mitigation measures
discussed below are based on updated
fisheries information that was
unavailable when the analysis for the
current harvest specifications was
completed. As new fisheries data
becomes available, adjustments to
mitigation measures are projected so as
to help harvesters achieve but not
exceed the harvest limits.

LEFG Trip Limits for Bocaccio Between 40°10' N Lat. and 34°27' N Lat.

Bocaccio is managed with stock-
specific harvest specifications south of
40°10' N lat. and within the Minor Shelf
Rockfish complex north of 40°10' N lat.
NMFS declared bocaccio overfished in
1999, and implemented a rebuilding
plan for the stock in 2000. NMFS
declared bocaccio officially rebuilt in
2017. New, higher catch limits resulting
from their rebuilt status were
implemented for bocaccio for the first
time in 2019. For example, the non-
trawl allocation of bocaccio increased
from 442.3 mt in 2018 to 1,250 mt in
2019.

For 2019, the bocaccio ACL south of
40°10' N lat. is 2,097 mt with a fishery
HG of 2,051 mt. The non-trawl
allocation is 1,250 mt. The supporting
analysis for the 2019–2020 harvest
specifications used landings data
through the 2017 fishing year to
determine appropriate mitigation
measures (*e.g.*, commercial trip limits
and recreational bag limits) to ensure
catch reaches but does not exceed the
bocaccio ACL for south of 40°10' N lat.

At the June 2019 Council meeting, members of the Groundfish Advisory SubPanel (GAP) notified the Council and the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) of increased interactions with bocaccio for vessels targeting chilipepper rockfish. The current trip limits for bocaccio between 40°10' N lat. and 34°27' N lat., coupled with these increased interactions, can result in higher bocaccio discard rates in the LEFG fishery. Because the most recent bocaccio attainment estimates for 2019 suggest that around 11 percent or 134.6 mt of bocaccio will be attained out of the 1,250 mt non-trawl allocation for south of 40°10' N lat., the GAP requested the GMT examine potential increases to the bocaccio trip limits for the LEFG fishery only between 40°10' N lat. and 34°27' N lat. The GMT did not receive a request to examine trip limit increases for bocaccio south of 34°27' N lat.

To assist the Council in evaluating potential trip limit increases for bocaccio between 40°10' N lat. and 34°27' N lat., the GMT analyzed projected attainment under the current status quo trip limit of 1,000 pounds (lb) (454 kilograms [kg]) per two months and under the proposed trip limit increase, 1,500 lb (680 kg) per two months, and compared it to the projected catch in the analysis for the 2019–20 harvest specifications. In 2018, when the bocaccio trip limits were established for the 2019–20 harvest specifications, bocaccio had only just been rebuilt and

few data points existed to provide projected annual catch data under the current trip limits. Based on that limited data, at the time, bocaccio catch in the non-trawl commercial fishery between 40°10' N lat. and 34°27' N lat. was projected to be around 4.5 mt of the 1,250-mt non-trawl allocation.

The GMT updated the projected attainments under the current status quo trip limits and examined potential impacts under alternative trip limits with additional catch data from the 2017 and 2018 fishing years. Based on updated model projections under the current status quo trip limit of 1,000 lb (454 kg) per two months, total coastwide bocaccio catch in the LEFG and OA fisheries is projected to be 134.6 mt, or 11 percent of the non-trawl HG and six percent of the bocaccio ACL for south of 40°10' N lat. Increasing the trip limits to 1,500 lb (680 kg) per two months for the remainder of the fishing year for vessels fishing in the LEFG fishery in the area between 40°10' N lat. and 34°27' N lat., which would align them with the trip limits already in place south of 34°27' N lat., is projected to increase total mortality by less than 0.1 mt, and the overall total mortality of bocaccio is projected to remain at around 11 percent of the non-trawl HG and four percent of the ACL south of 40°10' N lat.

Trip limit increases for bocaccio are intended to allow for increased attainment of the non-trawl allocation (1,250 mt), while also providing the incentive for vessels targeting co-

occurring species, such as chilipepper rockfish, to land their bocaccio catch instead of discarding. Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing, by modifying Table 2 (South) to part 660, Subpart E, an increase to the bocaccio trip limits for the LEFG fishery between 40°10' N lat. and 34°27' N lat. The trip limits for bocaccio in this area will increase from “1,000 lb (454 kg) per per two months” to “1,500 lb (680 kg) per two months” beginning in period 4 (July–August) through the end of the year.

Shorebased IFQ Fishery Trip Limits for Big Skate

Previously managed as an ecosystem component species, big skate was moved “into the fishery” through the 2017–18 harvest specifications because large landings off Oregon suggested vessels in the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery are targeting big skate. Big skate is the only non-IFQ species managed coast-wide with bimonthly trip limits in the IFQ fishery. For 2019, the ACL for big skate is 494 mt with a fishery harvest guideline of 452 mt. The trawl allocation is 95 percent or 429.5 mt. An additional 41 mt was deducted from the trawl allocation to account for bycatch in the at-sea sector and shorebased IFQ discard mortality resulting in a landing target of 388.5 mt for the trawl sector. Current trip limits for big skate for vessels in the IFQ fishery can be found in Table 1.

TABLE 1—BIG SKATE TRIP LIMITS FOR THE 2019 FISHING YEAR

Jan–Feb	Mar–Apr	May–Jun	Jul–Aug	Sep–Oct	Nov–Dec
5,000 lb (2,258 kg)/2 months.	25,000 lb (11,340 kg)/2 months.	30,000 lb (13,608 kg)/2 months.	35,000 lb (15,876 kg)/2 months.	10,000 lb (4,536 kg)/2 months.	5,000 lb (2,258 kg)/2 months.

At the June 2019 Council meeting, the GAP requested the Council consider increasing the big skate trip limits due to lower than projected catch in 2019, which industry suggested is likely due to several fishermen who targeted big skate retiring in recent years. During development of the 2019–20 harvest specifications, the GMT analysis used relatively high 2016–2017 landings and projected attainment would be around 98 percent of the landings targets in 2019. However, landings decreased dramatically in 2018 (218 mt out of 494 mt ACL with the shorebased IFQ sector harvesting 128 mt) and the same trend has continued into 2019. Under the current trip limits (Table 1), landings as of late June 2019 were at 73.3 mt or 20 percent of the landing target (388.5 mt). If the current trend continues, landings

are projected to be 160.4 mt of the 388.5 mt landing target by the end of the year due to continued low landings in the shorebased IFQ sector.

Therefore, the GMT analyzed two alternatives that would allow the Council to increase trip limits for vessels targeting big skate in the IFQ fishery. Under Alternative 1, the trip limits for periods 4 (July and August), 5 (September and October), and 6 (November and December) would each increase by 10,000 lb (4,565 kg) which is projected to increase landings of big skate by 21.3 mt from 160.4 mt under the current limits to 181.7 mt. Under Alternative 2, big skate trip limits in periods 4 and 5 would increase by 100 percent of the current limit for each period and would increase by 300 percent for period 6 resulting in a

projected total attainment of 55 percent or 215.1 mt of the 388.5 mt target amount.

Therefore, in order to maximize opportunities for vessels targeting big skate in the shorebased IFQ fishery, the Council recommended, and NMFS is implementing, by modifying Tables 1 (North and South) to part 660, subpart D, the following trip limits for big skate in the IFQ program, for period 4: 70,000 lb (31,751 kg) per two months, period 5: 20,000 lb (9,072 kg) per two months, and period 6: 20,000 lb (9,072 kg) per two months.

OA Trip Limits for Sablefish North and South of 36° N Lat.

Sablefish is an important commercial species on the west coast with vessels targeting sablefish with both trawl and

fixed gear (longlines and pots/traps). Sablefish is managed with a coast-wide ACL that is apportioned north and south of 36° N lat. with 73.8 percent going to the north and 26.2 percent going to the south. In 2019, the portion of the ACL for sablefish north of 36° N lat. is 5,606 mt with a fishery HG of 5,007 mt. The fishery HG north of 40°10' N lat. is further divided between the limited entry and OA sectors with 90.6 percent, or 4,537 mt, going to the limited entry sector and 9.4 percent, or 471 mt, going to the OA sector. The 2019 portion of ACL for sablefish south of 36° N lat. is 1,990 mt with a fishery HG of 1,986 mt. South of 36° N lat., the fishery HG is further divided between the trawl

(limited entry) and non-trawl (LEFG and OA) sectors with 42 percent or 834 mt going to the trawl sector, and the remaining 58 percent or 1,152 mt going to the fixed gear sector.

At the June 2019 Council meeting, the GMT received requests from industry members and members of the GAP to examine the potential to increase sablefish trips limits for the OA fisheries north and south of 36° N lat. The intent of increasing trip limits is to increase harvest opportunities for vessels targeting sablefish in the OA fishery which have been trending low in recent years, particularly for OA south of 36° N lat. To evaluate potential increases to sablefish trip limits, the GMT made model-based landings projections under

current regulations and alternative sablefish trip limits, including the limits ultimately recommended by the Council, for the OA fisheries through the remainder of the year. Table 2 shows the projected sablefish landings, the sablefish allocations, and the projected attainment percentage by fishery under both the current trip limits and the Council's recommended adjusted trip limits. These projections were based on the most recent catch information available through late June 2019. Industry did not request changes to sablefish trip limits for the LEFG fishery south of 36° N lat. Therefore, NMFS and the Council did not consider trip limit changes for this fishery at this time.

TABLE 2—PROJECTED LANDINGS OF SABLEFISH, SABLEFISH ALLOCATION, AND PROJECTED PERCENTAGE OF SABLEFISH ATTAINED THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR BY TRIP LIMIT AND FISHERY

Fishery	Trip limits	Projected landings (round weight) (mt)	Allocation (mt)	Projected percentage attained
OA North of 36° N lat	Current: 300 lb (136 kg)/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,200 lb (544 kg), not to exceed 2,400 lb (1,089 kg)/2 months.	303.9–418.4	449	67.7–93.1
	Recommended: 300 lb (136 kg)/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,400 lb (635 kg), not to exceed 2,800 lb (1,179 kg)/2 months.	352.8–497.3		78.6–110.7
OA South of 36° N lat	Current: 300 lb (136 kg)/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,600 lb (726 kg), not to exceed 3,200 lb (1,451 kg)/2 months.	23.7	338	7.0
	Recommended: 300 lb (136 kg)/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,600 lb (726 kg), not to exceed 4,800 lb (2,177 kg)/2 months.	23.7		7.0

As shown in Table 2, under the current trip limits, the model predicts catches of sablefish will be at or below 94 percent for OA fishery north of 36° N lat. and around seven percent for OA south of 36° N lat. Under the Council's recommended trip limits, sablefish attainment is projected to increase in the OA fisheries north of 36° N lat. up to 110.7 percent. However, to date in 2019, the model has overestimated landings by an average of 38 percent. Assuming this trend continues for 2019, the percentage attainment would likely be closer to the lower bound (78.6 percent or 352.8 mt) for OA north of 36° N lat. Due to a lack of participation and variance in trip limits in the OA fishery south of 36° N lat., the model was unable to detect any estimated change in attainment for this fishery even with the proposed increase in trip limits.

Trip limit increases for sablefish are intended to increase attainment of the non-trawl HG. The proposed trip limit increases do not change projected impacts to co-occurring overfished

species compared to the impacts anticipated in the 2019–20 harvest specifications because the projected impacts to those species assume that the entire sablefish ACL is harvested. Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing, by modifying Table 3 (North) to part 660, subpart E, trip limit changes for the OA sablefish fishery north of 36° N lat. to increase the limits from “300 lb (136 kg) per day, or one landing per week up to 1,200 lb (544 kg), not to exceed 2,400 lb (1,089 kg) per two months” to “300 lb (136 kg) per day, or one landing per week of up to 1,400 lb (590 kg), not to exceed 2,800 lb (1,179 kg) per two months” starting with period 4 (July through August) through the end of the year. The trip limits for sablefish in the OA sablefish fishery south of 36° N lat. will increase from “300 lb (136 kg) per day, or one landing per week of up to 1,600 lb (726 kg), not to exceed 3,200 lb (907 kg) per two months” to “300 lb (136 kg) per day, or one landing per week of up to 1,600 lb (726 kg), not to

exceed 4,800 lb (1,179 kg) per two months” beginning in period 4 (July through August) through the end of the year.

Increase Incidental Halibut Retention in the Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish Primary Fishery

The Council developed a Catch Sharing Plan for the International Pacific Halibut Commission Regulatory Area 2A, as provided for in the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982. The Catch Sharing Plan allocates the Area 2A annual total allowable catch (TAC) among fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California. Pacific halibut is generally a prohibited species for vessels fishing in Pacific coast groundfish fisheries, unless explicitly allowed in groundfish regulations. In years where the Pacific halibut TAC is above 900,000 lb (408 mt), the Catch Sharing Plan recommends the sablefish primary fishery an incidental retention limit for Pacific halibut north of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.30' N lat.). On

April 29, 2019, NMFS implemented a 2019 Area 2A TAC of 1,500,000 lb (680.4 mt) and a 2019 incidental catch limit of 70,000 lb (31.8 mt) for the limited entry fixed gear sablefish primary fishery north of Pt. Chehalis, WA (84 FR 17960; April 29, 2019).

Current regulations at § 660.231(b)(3)(iv) provide for halibut retention by vessels fishing in the sablefish primary fishery from April 1 through October 31 with a landing ratio of 200 lb (91 kg) dressed weight of halibut, for every 1,000 lb (454 kg) dressed weight of sablefish landed, and up to an additional two halibut in excess of this ratio. These limits, recommended by the Council at its September 2018 meeting, and subsequently implemented by NMFS on October 9, 2018 (83 FR 50510), were intended to allow the total catch of Pacific halibut to approach, but not exceed, the 2018 allocation for the sablefish primary fishery north of Pt. Chehalis, Washington (WA) and provide greater opportunity for industry to attain a higher percentage of the sablefish primary fishery allocation. Even after NMFS increased the halibut to sablefish ratio, the sablefish primary fishery only took 43,716 net weight (nt. wt.) lb (19,829 kg), or 87 percent of their Pacific halibut incidental catch limit in 2018.

As of the June 2019 Council meeting, the GMT was informed that the sablefish primary fishery north of Pt. Chehalis, WA had taken 5,881 nt. wt. lb of the 70,000 lb (31,751 kg) allowance for Pacific halibut. Under the current ratio, projected halibut landings in the sablefish primary fishery for 2019 are 47,878 nt. wt. lb, or 68.4 percent of the 70,000 lb (31,751 kg) allowance. Therefore, industry requested the GMT analyze the potential to increase the landing ratio for Pacific halibut in the sablefish primary fishery. The GMT analyzed two alternatives for the Council to consider. Alternative 1 would increase the ratio from 200 lb (91 kg) dressed weight of halibut, for every 1,000 lb (454 kg) dressed weight of sablefish landed to 220 lb (100 kg) dressed weight of halibut for every 1,000 lb (454 kg) dressed weight of sablefish landed and would maintain the same two halibut allowance beyond the ratio. Under alternative 1, projected attainment of Pacific halibut in the sablefish primary fishery would be 72.4 percent or 50,694 lb (22,994 kg); an increase of 4 percent or 2,816 lb (1,277 kg) of Pacific halibut. Under Alternative 2, the ratio would increase further to 250 lb (113 kg) dressed weight of halibut, for every 1,000 lb (454 kg) dressed weight of sablefish landed and would maintain the same two halibut

allowance beyond the ratio, resulting in projected attainment of 54,214 lb (24,591 kg) or 77.4 percent of the 70,000 lb (31,751 kg) allocation.

Therefore, in order to allow increased incidental halibut catch in the sablefish primary fishery, the Council recommended and NMFS is revising incidental halibut retention regulations at § 660.231(b)(3)(iv) to increase the catch ratio to “250 lb (113 kg) dressed weight of halibut for every 1,000 lb (454 kg) dressed weight of sablefish landed and up to two additional halibut in excess of the 250 lb (113 kg) per 1,000 lb (454 kg) ratio per landing.” This increase would allow total catch of Pacific halibut to approach, but not exceed, the 2019 allocation for the sablefish primary fishery north of Pt. Chehalis, WA (70,000 lb [31,751 kg] or 68.4 mt) and provide greater opportunity for industry to attain a higher percentage of the sablefish primary fishery allocation.

Classification

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

This action is taken under the authority of 50 CFR 660.60(c) and the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

The aggregate data upon which these actions are based are available for public inspection by contacting Karen Palmigiano in NMFS West Coast Region (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, above), or view at the NMFS West Coast Groundfish website: <http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/groundfish/index.html>.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b), NMFS finds good cause to waive prior public notice and an opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The adjustments to management measures in this document ease restrictive trip limits and retention limits on commercial fisheries in Washington, Oregon, and California. No aspect of this action is controversial, and changes of this nature were anticipated in the final rule for the 2019–2020 harvest specifications and management measures which published on December 12, 2018 (83 FR 63970).

At its June 2019 meetings, the Council recommended increases to the commercial trip limits be implemented as soon as possible so that harvesters may be able to take advantage of these higher limits before the end of their

fishing year, which for vessels in the primary sablefish fishery is October 31 and for other fisheries is the end of the calendar year. Each of the adjustments to commercial management measures in this rule will create more harvest opportunity and allow fishermen to better attain species that are currently under attained without causing any additional impacts to the fishery. Each of these recommended adjustments also rely on new catch data that were not available and thus not considered during the 2019–2020 biennial harvest specifications process. New catch information through the end of the 2018 fishing year shows that attainment of these target species (sablefish, Pacific halibut, bocaccio, and big skate) has been below their respective management points (*i.e.*, HG, ACL, and non-trawl allocation) in 2018 and would likely remain below their state catch targets under status quo limits in 2019 and 2020.

These adjustments to management measures could provide up to an additional \$1 million in ex-vessel revenue to harvesters; the majority of which would come from increasing trip limits in the sablefish primary fishery (about \$800,000). Increasing the big skate trip limits could provide an additional \$48,000 in revenue to harvesters. Increasing Pacific halibut retention in the primary sablefish fishery is likely to provide an additional \$34,000 in ex-vessel revenue, while an additional up to \$11,000 in revenue is expected, dependent upon the price, for the increase in bocaccio trip limits. Additional economic benefits would also be seen for processors and the fishing support businesses; however, these are more difficult to quantify. Delaying implementation to allow for public comment would likely reduce the economic benefits to the commercial fishing industry and the businesses that rely on that industry because much of the fishing season would be over before the new regulations could be implemented. For example, the primary sablefish fishery takes place from April 15 to October 31. If the notice and comment rulemaking process took 90 days to complete, the increase in the Pacific halibut ratio would only be in place for 1–2 months not allowing for the full economic benefit of the proposed action. Therefore, providing a comment period for this action could significantly limit the economic benefits to the fishery, and would hamper the achievement of optimum yield from the affected fisheries.

Therefore, the NMFS finds reason to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1) so that

this final rule may become effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**. The adjustments to management measures in this document affect commercial fisheries by increasing opportunity and relieving participants of the more restrictive trip limits. These adjustments were requested by the Council's advisory bodies, as well as members of industry during the Council's June 2019 meetings, and recommended unanimously by the Council. No aspect of this action is controversial, and changes of this nature were anticipated in the biennial harvest specifications

and management measures established through a notice and comment rulemaking for 2019–2020 (82 FR 63970).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 660

Fisheries, Fishing, and Indian Fisheries.

Dated: July 30, 2019.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

*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. Revise Tables 1 (North) and 1 (South) to part 660, subpart D to read as follows:

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

Table 1 (North) to Part 660, Subpart D -- Limited Entry Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Landing Allowances for non-IFQ Species and Pacific Whiting North of 40°10' N. Lat.

This table describes Rockfish Conservation Areas for vessels using groundfish trawl gear. This table describes incidental landing allowances for vessels registered to a Federal limited entry trawl permit and using groundfish trawl or groundfish non-trawl gears to harvest individual fishing quota (IFQ) species.

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read § 660.10 - § 660.399 before using this table

07/25/2019

TABLE 1 (North)

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) ^{1/} :							
1	North of 45°46' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}					
2	45°46' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - modified ^{2/} 200 fm line ^{1/}					
See provisions at § 660.130 for gear restrictions and requirements by area. Vessels fishing groundfish trawl quota pounds with groundfish non-trawl gears, under gear switching provisions at § 660.140, are subject to the limited entry groundfish trawl fishery landing allowances in this table, regardless of the type of fishing gear used. Vessels fishing groundfish trawl quota pounds with groundfish non-trawl gears, under gear switching provisions at § 660.140, are subject to the limited entry fixed gear non-trawl RCA, as described in Tables 2 (North) and 2 (South) to Part 660, Subpart E.							
See § 660.60, § 660.130, and § 660.140 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, YRCA, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).							
State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than federal trip limits, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.							
Minor Nearshore Rockfish, Washington							
3	Black rockfish & Oregon Black/blue/deacon rockfish	300 lb/ month					
4	Whiting ^{3/}						
5	midwater trawl	Before the primary whiting season: CLOSED. -- During the primary season: mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.131 for season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: CLOSED.					
6	large & small footrope gear	Before the primary whiting season: 20,000 lb/trip. -- During the primary season: 10,000 lb/trip. -- After the primary whiting season: 10,000 lb/trip.					
7	Oregon Cabezon/Kelp Greenling complex	50 lb/ month					
8	Cabezon in California	50 lb/ month					
9	Shortbelly rockfish	Unlimited					
10	Spiny dogfish	60,000 lb/ month					
11	Big skate	5,000 lb/ 2 months	25,000 lb/ 2 months	30,000 lb/ 2 months	70,000 lb/ 2 months	20,000 lb/ 2 months	20,000 lb/ 2 months
12	Longnose skate	Unlimited					
13	Other Fish ^{4/}	Unlimited					

TABLE 1 (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, 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 the RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ The "modified" fathom lines are modified to exclude certain petrale sole areas from the RCA.

3/ As specified at §660.131(d), when fishing in the Eureka Area, no more than 10,000 lb of whiting may be taken and retained, possessed, or landed by a vessel that, at any time during the fishing trip, fished in the fishery management area shoreward of 100 fm contour.

4/ "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

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

Table 1 (South) to Part 660, Subpart D -- Limited Entry Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Landing Allowances for non-IFQ Species and Pacific Whiting South of 40°10' N. Lat.

This table describes Rockfish Conservation Areas for vessels using groundfish trawl gear. This table describes incidental landing allowances for vessels registered to a Federal limited entry trawl permit and using groundfish trawl or groundfish non-trawl gears to harvest individual fishing quota (IFQ) species.

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read § 660.10 - § 660.399 before using this table

07/25/2019

01/23/2019

			JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) ^{1/} :								
1		South of 40°10' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/2/}					
See provisions at § 660.130 for gear restrictions and requirements by area. Vessels fishing groundfish trawl quota pounds with groundfish non-trawl gears, under gear switching provisions at § 660.140, are subject to the limited entry groundfish trawl fishery landing allowances in this table, regardless of the type of fishing gear used. Vessels fishing groundfish trawl quota pounds with groundfish non-trawl gears, under gear switching provisions at § 660.140, are subject to the limited entry fixed gear non-trawl RCA, as described in Tables 2 (North) and 2 (South) to Part 660, Subpart E. See § 660.60, § 660.130, and § 660.140 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, YRCA, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs). State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than federal trip limits, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.								
2	Longspine thornyhead							
3		South of 34°27' N. lat.	24,000 lb/ 2 months					
4	Minor Nearshore Rockfish, California Black rockfish, & Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon rockfish		300 lb/ month					
5	Whiting							
6		midwater trawl	During the Primary whiting season: allowed seaward of the trawl RCA. Prohibited within and shoreward of the trawl RCA.					
7		large & small footrope gear	Before the primary whiting season: 20,000 lb/trip. -- During the primary season: 10,000 lb/trip. -- After the primary whiting season: 10,000 lb/trip.					
8	Cabazon		50 lb/ month					
9	Shortbelly rockfish		Unlimited					
10	Spiny dogfish		60,000 lb/ month					
11	Big skate		5,000 lb/ 2 months	25,000 lb/ 2 months	30,000 lb/ 2 months	70,000 lb/ 2 months	20,000 lb/ 2 months	20,000 lb/ 2 months
12	Longnose skate		Unlimited					
13	California scorpionfish		Unlimited					
14	Other Fish ^{3/}		Unlimited					

TABLE 1 (South)

TABLE 1 (South)

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, 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 the RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ South of 34°27' N. lat., the RCA is 100 fm line - 150 fm line along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm line around islands.

3/ "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

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

BILLING CODE 3510-22-C

* * * * *

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

§ 660.231 Limited entry fixed gear sablefish primary fishery.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(3) * * *

(iv) Incidental Pacific halibut retention north of Pt. Chehalis, WA (46°53.30' N lat.). From April 1 through October 31, vessels authorized to participate in the sablefish primary fishery, licensed by the International Pacific Halibut Commission for commercial fishing in Area 2A (waters

off Washington, Oregon, California), and fishing with longline gear north of Pt. Chehalis, WA (46°53.30' N lat.) may possess and land up to the following cumulative limits: 250 pounds (113 kg) dressed weight of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 pounds (454 kg) dressed weight of sablefish landed and up to 2 additional Pacific halibut in excess of

the 250-pounds-per-1,000-pound ratio per landing. “Dressed” Pacific halibut in this area means halibut landed eviscerated with their heads on. Pacific halibut taken and retained in the

sablefish primary fishery north of Pt. Chehalis may only be landed north of Pt. Chehalis and may not be possessed or landed south of Pt. Chehalis.

* * * * *

■ 4. Revise Tables 2 (North) and 2 (South) to part 660, subpart E to read as follows:

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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									07/25/2019
		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 month							
5	Pacific ocean perch	1,800 lb/ 2 months							
6	Sablefish	1,300 lb/week, not to exceed 3,900 lb/ 2 months							
7	Longspine thornyhead	10,000 lb/ 2 months							
8	Shortspine thornyhead	2,000 lb/ 2 months				2,500 lb/ 2 months			
9									
10	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish ^{3/}	5,000 lb/ month 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									
15	Whiting	10,000 lb/ trip							
16	Minor Shelf Rockfish ^{2/} , Shortbelly, & Widow rockfish	200 lb/ month							
17	Yellowtail rockfish	1,000 lb/ month							
18	Canary rockfish	300 lb/ 2 months							
19	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED							
20	Minor Nearshore Rockfish, Washington Black rockfish & Oregon Black/blue/deacon rockfish								
21	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/deacon rockfish ^{4/}							
22	42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	8,500 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish			7,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,500 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish				
23	Lingcod ^{5/}								
24	North of 42°00' N. lat.	2,000 lb/ 2 months							
25	42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	1,400 lb/2 months							
26	Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months							
27	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months		100,000 lb/ 2 months			
28	Longnose skate	Unlimited							
29	Other Fish ^{6/} & Cabezon in California	Unlimited							
30	Oregon Cabezon/Kelp Greenling	Unlimited							
31	Big skate	Unlimited							

TABLE 2 (North)

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 off California and leopard shark.

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						07/25/2019	
		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.	40 fm line ^{1/} - 125 fm line ^{1/}					
2	South of 34°27' N. lat.	75 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 4,000 lb may be blackgill rockfish			
4	Splitnose rockfish	40,000 lb/ 2 months					
5	Sablefish						
6	40°10' N. lat. - 36°00' N. lat.	1,300 lb/week, not to exceed 3,900 lb/ 2 months					
7	South of 36°00' N. lat.	2,000 lb/ week					
8	Longspine thornyhead	10,000 lb/ 2 months					
9	Shortspine thornyhead						
10	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	2,000 lb/ 2 months			2,500 lb/ 2 months		
11	South of 34°27' N. lat.	3,000 lb/ 2 months					
12	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish^{3/}	5,000 lb/ month					
13		South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line, are not subject to the RCAs.					
16							
17							
18	Whiting	10,000 lb/ trip					
19	Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}, Shortbelly rockfish, Widow rockfish (including Chilipepper between 40°10' - 34°27' N. lat.)						
20	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	Minor shelf rockfish, shortbelly, widow rockfish, & 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 and widow rockfish 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						
26	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	300 lb/ 2 months					
27	South of 34°27' N. lat.	300 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	300 lb/ 2 months			
28	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED					
29	Cowcod	CLOSED					
30	Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED					
31	Bocaccio						
32	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	1,000 lb/ 2 months			1,500 lb/ 2 months		
33	South of 34°27' N. lat.	1,500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lb/ 2 months			
34	Minor Nearshore Rockfish, California Black rockfish, & Oregon Black/Blue/Dracon rockfish						
35	Shallow nearshore ^{4/}	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,200 lb/ 2 months			
36	Deeper nearshore ^{5/}	1,000 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,200 lb/ 2 months			
37	California Scorpionfish	1,500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lb/ 2 months			
38	Lingcod^{6/}	200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,200 lb/ 2 months			
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^{7/} & Cabezon in California	Unlimited					
43	Big Skate	Unlimited					

TABLE 2 (South)

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, curfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

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

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

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

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

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

TABLE 2 (South)

■ 5. Revise Tables 3 (North) and 3 (South) to part 660, subpart F 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

07/10/2019

01/10/2017

	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 Bank, 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		500 pounds/month			
5	Pacific ocean perch		100 lb/ month			
6	Sablefish		300 lb/ day; or one landing per week up to 1,200 lb, not to exceed 2,400 lb/ 2 months	300 lb/ day; or one landing per week up to 1,400 lb, not to exceed 2,800 lb/ 2 months		
7	Shortpine thornyheads		50 lb/ month			
8	Longspine thornyheads		50 lb/ month			
9	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.			
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.						
15	Whiting		300 lb/ month			
16	Minor Shelf Rockfish ^{2/} , Shortbelly rockfish, & Widow rockfish		200 lb/ month			
17	Yellowtail rockfish		500 lb/ month			
18	Canary rockfish		300 lb/ 2 months			
19	Yelloweye rockfish		CLOSED			
20	Minor Nearshore Rockfish, Washington Black rockfish, & Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon rockfish					
21	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/deacon rockfish			
22	42° 00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat.		8,500 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish	7,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,500 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish		
23	Lingcod ^{5/}					
24	North of 42° 00' N. lat.		900 lb/ month			
25	42° 00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat.		600 lb/ month			
26	Pacific cod		1,000 lb/ 2 months			
27	Spiny dogfish		200,000 lb/ 2 months	150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months	
28	Longnose skate		Unlimited			
29	Big skate		Unlimited			
30	Other Fish ^{6/} & Cabezon in California		Unlimited			
31	Oregon Cabezon/Kelp Greenling		Unlimited			

TABLE 3 (North)

TABLE 3 (North)

Table 3 (North). Continued

07/25/2019

32	SALMON TROLL (subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish and lingcod, as described below)	
33	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 5 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.
34	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL (not subject to RCAs)	
35	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 off California and leopard shark.
- 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

07/25/2019

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.99 before using this table		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:							
1	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	40 fm line ^{1/} - 125 fm line ^{1/}					
2	South of 34°27' N. lat.	75 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 800 lb may be blackgill rockfish			
4	Splitnose rockfish	200 lb/ month					
5	Sablefish						
6	40°10' N. lat. - 36°00' N. lat.	300 lb/ day; or one landing per week up to 1,200 lb, not to exceed 2,400 lb/ 2 months			300 lb/ day; or one landing per week up to 1,400 lb, not to exceed 2,800 lb/ 2 months		
7	South of 36°00' N. lat.	300 lb/ day, or one landing per week of up to 1,600 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months			300 lb/ day, or one landing per week of up to 1,600 lb, not to exceed 4,800 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		South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line are not subject to the RCAs.					
13							
14							
15							
16							
17	Whiting	300 lb/ month					
18	Minor Shelf Rockfish ^{2/} , Shortbelly, Widow rockfish and Chilipepper						
19	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	400 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	400 lb/ 2 months			
20	South of 34°27' N. lat.	1,500 lb/ 2 months		1,500 lb/ 2 months			
21	Canary rockfish	300 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	300 lb/ 2 months			
22	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED					
23	Cowcod	CLOSED					
24	Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED					
25	Bocaccio	500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	500 lb/ 2 months			
26	Minor Nearshore Rockfish, California Black rockfish, & Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon rockfish						
27	Shallow nearshore ^{4/}	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,200 lb/ 2 months			
28	Deeper nearshore ^{5/}	1,000 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,200 lb/ 2 months			
29	California scorpionfish	1,500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lb/ 2 months			
30	Lingcod ^{6/}	300 lb/ month	CLOSED	500 lb/ month			
31	Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
32	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months		
33	Longnose skate	Unlimited					
34	Big skate	Unlimited					
35	Other Fish ^{7/} & Cabezon in California	Unlimited					

TABLE 3 (South)

TABLE 3 (South)

Table 3 (South). Continued

07/25/2019

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
36	RIDGEBACK PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF 38°57.50' N. LAT., CA HALIBUT AND SEA CUCUMBER NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL						
37	NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) for CA Halibut, Sea Cucumber & Ridgeback Prawn:						
38	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/}
39	38° 00' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}					
40	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					
41		Groundfish: 300 lb/trip. Species-specific limits described in the table above also apply and are counted toward the 300 lb groundfish per trip limit. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of the target species landed, except that the amount of spiny dogfish landed may exceed the amount of target species landed. Spiny dogfish are limited by the 300 lb/trip overall groundfish limit. The daily trip limits for sablefish coastwide and thornyheads south of Pt. Conception and the overall groundfish "per trip" limit may not be multiplied by the number of days of the trip. Vessels participating in the California halibut fishery south of 38°57.50' N. lat. are allowed to (1) land up to 100 lb/day of groundfish without the ratio requirement, provided that at least one California halibut is landed and (2) land up to 3,000 lb/month of flatfish, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs, sand sole, starry flounder, rock sole, curfin sole, or California scorpionfish (California scorpionfish is also subject to the trip limits and closures in line 29).					
42	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL GEAR (not subject to RCAs)						
43	South	Effective April 1 - October 31: Groundfish: 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/ month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/ month; canary rockfish, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of all groundfish species count toward the per day, per trip or other species-specific sublimits described here and the species-specific limits described in the table above do not apply. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.					
1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.							
2/ POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish. Blackgill rockfish have a species specific trip sub-limit within the minor slope rockfish cumulative limits. Yellowtail rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.							
3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.							
4/ "Shallow Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(1).							
5/ "Deeper Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(2).							
6/ The commercial minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.							
7/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and includes kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.							
To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.							

TABLE 3 (South) cont'd

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