

J. Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations and Executive Order 14096: Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All

Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994) directs Federal agencies, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, to make environmental justice part of their mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on communities with environmental justice concerns.

The EPA believes that this action does not concern human health or environmental conditions and therefore cannot be evaluated with respect to potentially disproportionate and adverse effects on communities with environmental justice concerns. This action does not change the underlying standards that have an impact on human health and the environment.

K. Congressional Review Act (CRA)

This action is subject to the CRA, and the EPA will submit a rule report to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. This action is not a "major rule" as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 63

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Hazardous substances, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Michael S. Regan,
Administrator.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) amends Title 40, chapter I, of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) as follows:

PART 63—NATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS FOR SOURCE CATEGORIES

- 1. The authority citation for part 63 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Subpart HH—National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants From Oil and Natural Gas Production Facilities

- 2. Section 63.760 is amended by adding paragraph (i) to read as follows:

§ 63.760 Applicability and designation of affected source.

* * * * *

- (i) Emissions standards in this subpart apply at all times.

§ 63.761 [Amended]

- 3. Section 63.761 is amended by removing the definition "Affirmative defense".

§ 63.762 [Removed and Reserved]

- 4. Section 63.762 is removed and reserved.

Subpart HHH—National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants From Natural Gas Transmission and Storage Facilities

- 5. Section 63.1270 is amended by adding paragraph (g) to read as follows.

§ 63.1270 Applicability and designation of affected source.

* * * * *

- (g) Emissions standards in this subpart apply at all times.

§ 63.1271 [Amended]

- 6. Section 63.1271 is amended by removing the definition "Affirmative defense".

§ 63.1272 [Removed and Reserved]

- 7. Section 63.1272 is removed and reserved.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 221206–0261]

RIN 0648–BN32

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2023–2024 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 fishing vessels to access more abundant groundfish stocks while protecting rebuilding stocks.

DATES: This final rule is effective October 22, 2024.

ADDRESSES: *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 <https://www.pcouncil.org/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Sean Matson, phone: 206–526–6187 or email: sean.matson@noaa.gov.

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 seaward of Washington, Oregon, and California. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) develops groundfish harvest specifications and management measures for 2-year periods (biennia). NMFS published the final rule to implement harvest specifications and management measures for the 2023–2024 biennium for most species managed under the PCGFMP on December 16, 2022 (87 FR 77007). 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 September 2024 meeting, the Council recommended an assortment of modifications that included corrections and adjustments, to commercial fixed gear trip limits and incidental catch limits, for limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) fisheries for the remainder of 2024. Stocks and complexes with recommended changes included the other fish complex south of 40°10' N lat., minor nearshore rockfish south of 40°10' N lat., and cabezon in California. Potential changes were analyzed and ultimately recommended after updated information regarding projected catch and attainment became available, as well as requests from industry.

Pacific Coast groundfish fisheries are managed using harvest specifications or limits (e.g., overfishing limits,

acceptable biological catch, annual catch limits and harvest guidelines) 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 management measures (e.g., trip limits, area closures, and bag limits) that are meant to control catch so as not to exceed the harvest specifications. The harvest specifications and management

measures developed for the 2023–2024 biennium used data through the 2021 fishing year. Each of the adjustments to management 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 management measures are projected so as to help harvesters achieve but not exceed the harvest limits.

Other Fish Limited Entry Trip Limit South of 40°10' N Lat. (Correction)

In the September 2024 meeting, the Council recommended that the trip limit for the “other fish” complex be changed from zero pounds (lb) per 2 months, to unlimited for the limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) fishery south of 40°10' N lat. during November and December of 2024 (table 1), to correct an inadvertent change made in the inseason action from November 2023, which became effective in January 2024.

TABLE 1—TRIP LIMIT STRUCTURE FOR LE FG “OTHER FISH” COMPLEX SOUTH OF 40°10' N LAT., IN CURRENT REGULATION AND RECOMMENDED BY COUNCIL IN SEPTEMBER 2024

Option	January–October	November–December
Current regulation	0 lb (0 kg)/2 months	0 lb (0 kg)/2 months.
Recommended	0 lb (0 kg)/2 months	Unlimited.

LEFG and OA Minor Nearshore Rockfish South of 40°10' N Lat., and Cabezon in California

The Council recommended at their September 2024 meeting, in agreement with analyses by the Council’s Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), discussion with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel and enforcement consultants, to change the management lines on LEFG and open access (OA) trip limits in Federal regulation for cabezon in California, as

well as shallow and deeper nearshore rockfish (within the minor nearshore rockfish south of 40°10' N lat. complex) from 36° N lat. to 37°07' N lat. (tables 2 and 3). This was done to align trip limits with current non-trawl rockfish conservation area boundaries (implemented April 1, 2024), align State and Federal regulations, prevent regulatory and enforcement confusion, and to better serve conservation needs of quillback rockfish (recently designated as overfished), while minimizing corresponding constraints to fishery participants by utilizing more

spatially precise management measures. Similar changes were recommended in March 2024 (implemented April 2024) for lingcod, shelf rockfish, and other flatfish, to allow more spatially precise management measures, for both better quillback conservation, and better concurrent access to other target species. CDFW has taken State action to move their latitude line for quillback related closures from 36° to 37°07' N lat. for the same reasons (State/Federal coordination, and benefits of spatially precise management).

TABLE 2—TRIP LIMIT STRUCTURE FOR LEFG AND OA MINOR NEARSHORE ROCKFISH SOUTH OF 40°10' N LAT., IN CURRENT REGULATION AND RECOMMENDED BY COUNCIL IN SEPTEMBER 2024

Option	Habitat	Management area	Trip limits
Current regulation.	Shallow nearshore	40°10' N lat.–36° N lat	0 lb (0 kg)/2 months.
		South of 36° N lat	2,000 lb (907 kg)/2 months.
	Deeper nearshore	40°10' N lat.–36° N lat	0 lb (0 kg)/2 months.
		South of 36° N lat	2,000 lb (907 kg)/2 months, of which no more than 75 lb (34 kg) may be copper rockfish.
Council recommended.	Shallow nearshore	40°10' N lat.–37°07' N lat ...	0 lb (0 kg)/2 months.
		South of 37°07' N lat	2,000 lb (907 kg)/2 months.
	Deeper nearshore	40°10' N lat.–37°07' N lat ...	0 lb (0 kg)/2 months.
		South of 37°07' N lat	2,000 lb (907 kg)/2 months, of which no more than 75 lb (34 kg) may be copper rockfish.

TABLE 3—TRIP LIMIT STRUCTURE FOR LE FG AND OA CABEZON IN CALIFORNIA, SOUTH OF 40°10' N LAT., IN CURRENT REGULATION AND RECOMMENDED BY COUNCIL IN SEPTEMBER 2024

Option	Management area	Trip limits
Current regulation	40°10' N lat.–36° N lat	0 lb (0 kg)/2 months.
	South of 36° N lat	Unlimited.
Council recommended	40°10' N lat.–37°07' N lat	0 lb (0 kg)/2 months.
	South of 37°07' N lat	Unlimited.

Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing, by modifying table 2 South to part 660,

subpart E, and table 3 South to part 660, subpart F, changes to the management lines on LEFG and OA trip limits in

Federal regulation for cabezon in California, as well as shallow and deeper nearshore rockfish (both part of

the minor nearshore rockfish south of 40°10' N lat. complex) from 36° N lat. to 37°07' N lat. (tables 2 and 3). These changes will start with Period 5 (November and December) and remain in place through the end of 2024 and beyond, unless otherwise modified.

Retention Limits for Incidental Catch of Pacific Halibut North of Pt. Chehalis

Pacific halibut is internationally managed by the International Pacific Halibut Commission and NMFS. A catch sharing plan is published each

year by NMFS; the 2024 plan (89 FR 19275, March 18, 2024) states that the non-treaty incidental catch in sablefish fishery (north of Pt. Chehalis) is 50,000 lb (22.7 metric tons). At the September 2024 meeting, the Council recommended to increase retention limits for the remainder of 2024, for incidental catch of Pacific halibut in the primary sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis. This would represent an increase from the current limit in regulation of 130 lb (59 kg) of halibut

per 1,000 lb (454 kg) of dressed sablefish plus two halibut, to 150 lb (68 kg) of halibut per 1,000 lb (454 kg) of dressed sablefish plus two halibut. This action was requested in order to help sablefish fishers north of Pt. Chehalis increase the utilization of their sablefish allocation without exceeding the halibut allocation. The GMT projected an inconsequential increase in already low attainment of the incidental halibut limit, from 52 to 55 percent, if the measure were implemented (table 4).

TABLE 4—PROJECTED INCIDENTAL PACIFIC HALIBUT LANDINGS IN THE PRIMARY SABLEFISH FISHERY NORTH OF POINT CHEHALIS UNDER CURRENT REGULATION AND COUNCIL RECOMMENDED INCIDENTAL TRIP LIMITS

Option	Landing ratio	Projected landings (net wt. lb) through December 7	Allocation (net wt. lb)	Attainment (%)
Status Quo	130 lb (59 kg) halibut per 1,000 lb sablefish landed and up to 2 halibut in excess of limit.	25,871 (11,735 kg)	50,000 lb (22,680 kg).	52
Alternative 1	150 lb (68 kg) halibut per 1,000 lb sablefish landed and up to 2 halibut in excess of limit.	27,609 (12,523 kg)		55

Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing, by modifying regulation text in § 660.60, paragraph (b)(3)(iv) to read as follows: “Incidental Pacific halibut retention north of Pt. Chehalis, WA (46°53.30' N lat.). From April 1 through the closure date set by the International Pacific Halibut Commission for Pacific halibut in all commercial fisheries, 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 150 lb (68 kg) dressed weight of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 lb (454 kg) dressed weight of sablefish landed, and up to two additional Pacific halibut in excess of the 150-lb-per-1,000-lb limit per landing. NMFS publishes the International Pacific Halibut Commission’s regulations setting forth annual management measures, including the closure date for Pacific halibut in all commercial fisheries, in the **Federal Register** by March 15 each year, 50 CFR 300.62. “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.”

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 is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

The aggregate data upon which these actions are based, are available for public inspection by contacting Dr. Sean Matson in NMFS West Coast Region (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, above), or view at the NMFS West Coast Groundfish website: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/west-coast-groundfish>.

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 update management line designations on trip limits for cabezon in California, and minor nearshore rockfish south of 40°10' N lat., and allow additional incidental retention of bycaught Pacific halibut north of Pt. Chehalis to allow additional economic opportunity while keeping catch within allocations established by the 2023–2024 harvest specifications, and the 2024 halibut catch sharing plan, respectively.

The latitude line changes on trip limits in the LE and OA sectors are

necessary to enable and spatially precise management for adequate conservation, and to minimize catch of quillback rockfish, which was recently determined to be overfished (NMFS notified the Council of the overfished status determination for quillback rockfish on December 14, 2023), while allowing fishing for other species to continue in areas where it may otherwise need to be closed if the changes were not made. The changes also are necessary to enable effective enforcement by aligning spatial management for these species across State and Federal waters boundaries. Increases to retention of incidentally caught halibut are necessary to enable more effective attainment of the sablefish allocation without exceeding the halibut allocation.

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 it is unlikely the new regulations would publish and could be implemented in time to realize the projected benefits to fishing communities and the resource. A delay in implementation could also contribute to unnecessarily discarded and largely wasted fish, which could otherwise be landed to provide food and revenue, and responsible use of the resource. 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 fisheries by increasing opportunity and allowing greater economic benefit. These adjustments were requested by the Council's advisory bodies, as well as members of industry during the Council's September 2024 meeting, 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 2023–2024 (87 FR 77007).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 660

Fisheries, Fishing, Indian fisheries.

Dated: October 16, 2024.

Karen H. Abrams,

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

For the reasons set out in the preamble, NMFS amends 50 CFR part 660 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, revise paragraph (b)(3)(iv) to read as follows:

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(3) * * *

(iv) *Incidental Pacific halibut retention north of Pt. Chehalis, WA (46°53.30' N lat.)*. From April 1 through the closure date set by the International Pacific Halibut Commission for Pacific halibut in all commercial fisheries, 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 150 lb (68 kg) dressed weight of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 lb (454 kg) dressed weight of sablefish landed, and up to two additional Pacific halibut in excess of the 150-lb-per-1,000-lb limit per landing. NMFS publishes the International Pacific Halibut Commission's regulations setting forth annual management measures, including the closure date for Pacific halibut in all commercial fisheries, in the **Federal Register** by March 15 each year, 50 CFR 300.62. "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.

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- 3. Revise table 2 (South) to part 660, subpart E, to read as follows:

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

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

11/1/2024

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:							
1	40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.	Shoreward EEZ ^{1/} - 75 fm line ^{1/}					
2	37°07' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	50 fm line ^{1/} - 75 fm line ^{1/}					
3	South of 34°27' N lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} (also applies around islands and banks)					
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, Farallon Islands, Cordell Bank, and EFHCAs).							
4	Minor Slope rockfish^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish	40,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 6,000 lb may be blackgill rockfish					
5	Splitnose rockfish	40,000 lb/ 2 months					
6	Sablefish						
7	40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat.	4,500 lb/ week, not to exceed 9,000 lb /2 months			7,000 lb/ week, not to exceed 14,000 lb /2 months		
8	South of 36°00' N lat.	2,500 lb/ week					
9	Longspine thornyhead	10,000 lb/ 2 months					
10	Shortspine thornyhead						
11	40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	2,000 lb/ 2 months			2,500 lb/ 2 months		
12	South of 34°27' N lat.	3,000 lb/ 2 months					
13	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder	10,000 lb/ month					
14	Other Flatfish^{3/}						
15	40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.	10,000 lb/ month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/month inside the non-trawl RCA					
16	South of 37°07' N lat.	10,000 lb/ month					
17	Whiting	10,000 lb/ trip					
18	Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}						
19	40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.	6,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 500 lb may be vermillion/sunset					
20	37°07' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	8,000 lb /2 month period, of which no more than 500 lb may be vermillion/sunset					
21	South of 34°27' N lat.	5,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 3,000 lb may be vermillion/sunset					
22	Widow rockfish						
23	40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	10,000 lb/ 2 months					
24	South of 34°27' N lat.	8,000 lb/ 2 months					
25	Chilipepper rockfish						
26	40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	10,000 lb. / 2 months					
27	South of 34°27' N lat.	8,000 lb. / 2 months					
28	Canary rockfish	3,500 lb/ 2 months					
29	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED					
30	Quillback rockfish	0 lb/ 2 months					
31	Cowcod	CLOSED					
32	Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED					
33	Bocaccio	8,000 lb/ 2 months					
34	Minor Nearshore Rockfish						
35	40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat. Shallow nearshore ^{4/}	0 lb/ 2 months					
36	South of 37°07' N lat. Shallow nearshore ^{4/}	2,000 lb/ 2 months					
37	40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat. Deeper nearshore ^{5/}	0 lb/ 2 months					
38	South of 37°07' N lat. Deeper nearshore ^{5/}	2,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 75 lb may be copper rockfish					
39	California Scorpionfish	3,500 lb/ 2 months					
40	Lingcod^{6/}						
41	40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.	1,600 lb / 2 months seaward of the Non-Trawl RCA; 0 lb / 2 months inside the non-trawl RCA					
42	South of 37°07' N lat.	1,600 lb / 2 months					
43	Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
44	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months		100,000 lb/ 2 months	
45	Longnose skate	Unlimited					
46	Other Fish^{7/}	0 lb / 2 months					Unlimited
47	Cabazon in California						
48	40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.	0 lb/ 2 months					
49	South of 37°07' N lat.	Unlimited					
50	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. LEFG vessels may be allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using non-bottom contact hook and line only. See § 660.230 (d) of the regulations for more information.

2/ Minor Shelf and Slope Rockfish complexes are defined at § 660.11. Pacific ocean perch 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/ "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 22 inches (56 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.

■ 4. Revise table 3 (South) to part 660, subpart F, to read as follows:

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

11/1/2024

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:							
1	40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.	Shoreward EEZ ^{1/} - 75 fm line ^{1/}					
2	37°07' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	50 fm line ^{1/} - 75 fm line ^{1/}					
3	South of 34°27' N lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} (also applies around islands and banks)					
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, Farallon Islands, Cordell Bank, and EFHCAs).							
4	Minor Slope Rockfish ^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish	10,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 2,500 lb may be blackgill rockfish					
5	Splitnose rockfish	200 lb/ month					
6	Sablefish						
7		40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat.	3,000 lb/ week, not to exceed 6,000 lb/ 2 months			3,500 lb/ week, not to exceed 7,000 lb/ 2 months	
8		South of 36°00' N lat.	2,000 lb/ week, not to exceed 6,000 lb/ 2 months				
9	Shortpine thornyheads						
10		40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	50 lb/ month				
11	Longspine thornyheads						
12		40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	50 lb/ month				
13	Shortpine thornyheads and longspine thornyheads						
14		South of 34°27' N lat.	100 lb/ day, no more than 1,000 lb/ 2 months				
15	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder ^{3&/}	5,000 lb/ month					
16	Other Flatfish ^{3/}						
17		40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.	5,000 lb/ month seaward of the Non-Trawl RCA; 0 lb/month inside the Non-Trawl RCA				
18		South of 37°07' N lat.	5,000 lb/ month				
19	Whiting	300 lb/ month					
20	Minor Shelf Rockfish ^{2/}						
21		40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.	3,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermillion/sunset				
22		37°07' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	4,000 lb/ 2 month, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermillion/sunset				
23		South of 34°27' N lat.	3,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 900 lb may be vermillion/sunset				
24	Widow rockfish						
25		40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	6,000 lb/ 2 months				
26		South of 34°27' N lat.	4,000 lb/ 2 months				
27	Chillipepper rockfish						
28		40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	6,000 lb/ 2 months				
29		South of 34°27' N lat.	4,000 lb/ 2 months				
30	Canary rockfish	1,500 lb/ 2 months					
31	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED					
32	Cowcod	CLOSED					
33	Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED					
34	Quillback rockfish	0 lb/ 2 months					
35	Bocaccio	6,000 lb/ 2 months					
36	Minor Nearshore Rockfish						
37		40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat. Shallow nearshore ^{4/}	0 lb/ 2 months				
38		South of 37°07' N lat. Shallow nearshore ^{4/}	2,000 lb/ 2 months				
39		40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat. Deeper nearshore ^{5/}	0 lb/ 2 months				
40		South of 37°07' N lat. Deeper nearshore ^{5/}	2,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 75 lb may be copper rockfish				
41	California Scorpionfish	3,500 lb/ 2 months					
42	Lingcod ^{6/}						
43		40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.	700 lb / month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/ month inside the non-trawl RCA				
44		South of 37°07' N lat.	700 lb / month				
45	Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
46	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months		100,000 lb/ 2 months	
47	Longnose skate	Unlimited					
48	Big skate	Unlimited					
49	Other Fish ^{7/}	Unlimited					
50	Cabezon in California						
51		40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.	0 lb/ month				
52		South of 37°07' N lat.	Unlimited				

TABLE 3 (South)

Table 3 (South) Continued

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

11/1/2024

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:						
1	40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat.		Shoreward EEZ ^{1/} - 75 fm line ^{1/}			
2	36°00' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.		50 fm line ^{1/} - 75 fm line ^{1/}			
3	South of 34°27' N lat.		100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} (also applies around islands and banks)			
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, Farallon Islands, Cordell Bank, and EFHCAs).						
59	SALMON TROLL (subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish, as described below)					
60	South of 40°10' N lat.		Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lb of yellowtail rockfish for every 2 lb of Chinook salmon landed, with a cumulative limit of 200 lb/month, both within and outside of the RCA. This limit is within the 4,000 lb per 2 month limit for minor shelf rockfish between 40°10' and 34°27' N lat., and not in addition to that limit. All groundfish species are subject to the open access limits, seasons, size limits and RCA restrictions listed in the table above, unless otherwise stated here.			
61	RIDGEBACK PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF 38°57.50' N lat., CA HALIBUT AND SEA CUCUMBER NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL					
62	NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) for CA Halibut, Sea Cucumber & Ridgeback Prawn:					
63	40°10' N lat. - 38°00' N lat.		100 fm line ^{1/} - 200 fm line ^{1/}		100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}	
64	38°00' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.		100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}		100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}	
65	South of 34°27' N lat.		100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}		100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}	
66			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).			
67	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL GEAR (not subject to RCAs)					
69	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. Open access vessels may be allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using hook and line only. See § 660.330 (d) of the regulations for more information.

2/ Minor Shelf and Slope Rockfish complexes are defined at § 660.11. Pacific ocean perch 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 22 inches (56 cm) South of 42° N lat.

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

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

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[RTID 0648–XE360]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions;
Fisheries Off West Coast States;
Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2024
Tribal Fishery Allocations for Pacific
Whiting; Reapportionment Between
Tribal and Non-Tribal Sectors

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

ACTION: Inseason reapportionment of
tribal Pacific whiting allocation.

SUMMARY: This document announces the reapportionment of 45,000 metric tons of Pacific whiting from the tribal allocation to the non-tribal commercial fishery sectors via automatic action on September 26, 2024. This reapportionment is to allow full utilization of the Pacific whiting resource.

DATES: The reapportionment of Pacific whiting went into effect at 4:30 p.m. (16:30) local time, September 26, 2024, and is effective through December 31, 2024. Comments will be accepted through November 6, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2024–0120 by the following method:

Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and enter NOAA–NMFS–2024–0120 in the Search box. Click on the “Comment” icon,

complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Electronic Access

This notice is accessible online at the Office of the Federal Register’s website at <https://www.federalregister.gov>. Background information and documents