



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 201204-0325]

RIN 0648-BJ74

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast

Groundfish Fishery; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Amendment 29;

2021–22 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Correction

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

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: NMFS published a final rule on December 11, 2020 to establish the 2021–2022 harvest specifications and management measures for groundfish taken in the U.S. exclusive economic zone off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. That final rule modified the boundaries of the commercial non-trawl rockfish conservation area (RCA) for limited entry fixed-gear and open-access vessels. In implementing these changes, NMFS incorrectly identified the seaward boundary of the commercial non-trawl RCA south of 34°27' N. lat. for limited entry fixed-gear vessels. This correction is necessary so that the implementing regulations are accurate and implement the action as intended by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council).

DATES: This correction is effective on January 1, 2021.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS published a final rule on December 11, 2020 (853 FR 79880) that established the 2021–2022 harvest specifications and management measures

for groundfish taken in the U.S. exclusive economic zone off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. That final rule is effective January 1, 2021.

The December 11, 2020 final rule defined the boundaries of the commercial non-trawl rockfish conservation area (RCA) south of 34°27' north latitude (N. lat.) for limited entry fixed-gear vessels as 100 fathoms (fm) to 125 fm. The same rule defined the boundaries of the commercial non-trawl RCA south 34°27' N. lat. for open-access vessels as 100 fm to 150 fm. The correct boundaries for the commercial non-trawl RCA south of south of 34°27' N. lat. for both limited entry fixed-gear and open-access vessels is 100 fm to 150 fm.

This correction is consistent with the Council recommendation for the 2021–2022 groundfish harvest specifications and is a minor correction to correctly implement the Council intent in their final action taken at the June 2020 Council meeting.

Correction

In FR. Doc. 2020-27142 at 85 FR 79880 in the issue of December 11, 2020, on page 79922, in amendatory instruction 16, Table 2 (South) to part 660, subpart E, is corrected to read as follows:

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.						
Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table						1/1/2021
	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:						
1	40°10' N. lat. - 38°57.5' N. lat.		40 fm line ^{1/} - 125 fm line ^{1/}			
2	38°57.5' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.		50 fm line ^{1/} - 125 fm line ^{1/}			
3	South of 34°27' N. lat.		100 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 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/} &		40,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 6,000 lb may be blackgill rockfish			
4	Splitnose rockfish		40,000 lb/ 2 months			
5	Sablefish					
6	40°10' N. lat. - 36°00' N. lat.		1,700 lb week, not to exceed 5,100 lbs / 2 months			
7	South of 36°00' N. lat.		2,500 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, stary flounder, Other Flatfish^{3/}		10,000 lb/ month			
13	Whiting		10,000 lb/ trip			
14	Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}					
	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.		8,000 lbs. / 2 months, of which no more than 500 lbs. may be vermillion			
	South of 34°27' N. lat.		5,000 lbs. / 2 months, of which no more than 3,000lbs. may be vermillion			
	Widow					
	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.		10,000 lbs. / 2 months			
	South of 34°27' N. lat.		8,000 lbs. / 2 months			
21	Chilipepper					
	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.		10,000 lbs. / 2 months			
	South of 34°27' N. lat.		8,000 lbs. / 2 months			
	Shortbelly Rockfish					
	South of 40°10' N. lat.		200 lb/ month			
22	Canary rockfish		3,500 lbs/ 2 months			
23	Yelloweye rockfish		CLOSED			
24	Cowcod		CLOSED			
25	Bronzespotted rockfish		CLOSED			
26	Bocaccio		6,000 lbs/ 2 months			
27	Minor Nearshore Rockfish					
	Shallow nearshore ^{4/}		2,000 lbs/ 2 months			
	Deeper nearshore ^{5/}		2,000 lbs/ 2 months			
30	California Scorpionfish		3,500 lbs/ 2 months			
	Lingcod^{6/}		1,600 lbs / 2 months			
32	Pacific cod		1,000 lb/ 2 months			
33	Spiny dogfish		200,000 lb/ 2 months	150,000 lb/ 2	100,000 lb/ 2 months	
34	Longnose skate		Unlimited			
35	Other Fish^{7/} & Cabezon in California		Unlimited			
36	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, curffin 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.

Dated: December 28, 2020.

Christopher Wayne Oliver,
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

