



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 210308-0049]

RIN 0648-BJ74

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2021-2022 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Correction

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

ACTION: Final rule; correcting amendment.

SUMMARY: This action contains corrections to the final rule for the 2021-2022 Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for groundfish harvested in the U.S. exclusive economic zone off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California published on December 11, 2020. This action corrects: the Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) waypoints for the 100 fathom depth contour, the other flatfish gear restrictions in the RCA, language describing the boundary lines for the depth contours, and the boundaries of the non-groundfish RCA for California halibut, sea cucumber, and ridgeback prawns south of 34°27' N. lat. These corrections are necessary so the regulations accurately implement the Pacific Fishery Management Council's intent and are consistent with what was anticipated by participants in the groundfish fishery.

DATES: This correction is effective [*INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER*].

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, (85 FR 79880), that implemented the 2021–2022 harvest specifications and management measures for groundfish harvested in the U.S. exclusive economic zone off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. That final rule was effective January 1, 2021. After publication of the final rule, NMFS noted the need for four corrections.

Corrections

The final rule for the 2021–2022 groundfish harvest specifications and management measures (85 FR 79880; December 11, 2020) inadvertently deleted the final waypoint for the line approximating the 100-fathom depth contour coast-wide at the U.S. and Mexico border. This waypoint, known as point #322, at 32°34.22' North latitude (N. lat.), 117°21.20' West longitude (W. long.) was part of the regulations in 2020 and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) did not recommend to remove it through the 2021-2022 harvest specifications. This final rule will add point #322 back into the list of waypoints for the 100-fathom line. Without this point identified in the regulations, it is difficult for members of industry to use their plotters to identify the boundaries of the non-trawl RCA. Additionally, the waypoint must be reinstated into the regulations in order for law enforcement to correctly enforce the boundaries of the non-trawl RCA. This correcting amendment would revise the regulations to reinstate the missing waypoint.

In order to make the description of the depth contours off of California consistent with the description used for Oregon and Washington, the final rule noted in section “V. Changes From the Proposed Rule” that the language describing the boundary lines in § 660.360(3)(i)(A)(1) and (2) would be changed from ...is prohibited seaward of the 30 fm (55m) depth contour... to ...is prohibited seaward of the boundary line approximating the 30 fm (55m) depth contour.... However, the final rule inadvertently did not change the regulatory text to include the updated description. This correcting amendment would

revise the language in § 660.360(3)(i)(A)(1) and (2) to include the correct description of the depth contours consistent with the intent of the 2021-2022 harvest specifications final rule and the Council's intent. This clarification is needed to provide consistency among sections in the regulations so that the description of the depth contours for recreational closed areas are consistent between the three states.

The final rule implemented the Council recommendation to remove the gear restrictions for the limited-entry fixed-gear (LEFG) and open-access (OA) fishery targeting stocks in the "Other Flatfish" complex south of 42° N. lat. by removing the hook-and-line gear restriction language from the LEFG and OA trip limit tables. However, NMFS inadvertently did not remove the gear restriction from other sections of the regulatory text. Specifically, the requirement to use no more than 12 hooks, Number 2 or smaller, which measure no more than 11 mm (0.44 inches) point to shank and up to two 1-lb (0.45 kg) weights per line should have been removed in all places it appears in the regulatory text and replaced with hook and line gear only. This final rule would remove the gear restriction specifying the type and number of hooks from the regulations so that the regulations are consistent and follow the intent of the action. This correction is needed to reduce confusion and inconsistencies in the regulatory text as to what gears are allowed to be used inside the non-trawl RCA.

The final rule included a typographical error in the description of the boundary lines south of 34°27' N. lat. for the non-groundfish trawl RCA for California halibut, sea cucumber, and ridgeback prawns in Table 3 (South) to Subpart F. Instead of stating the fathom lines of the boundary, the boundaries are stated as 01/01/2021+A108:P133. This final rule will correct the boundary from the 100 fm line to the 150 fm line. This correction is needed to enforce the boundaries of this non-groundfish trawl RCA and also to reduce confusion about the boundaries among members of industry.

All of these corrections are consistent with the Council action for the 2021–2022 groundfish harvest specifications and the public expects the regulations to be written as in the correction. These are minor corrections to correctly implement the Council’s intent in their final action taken in June 2020.

Classification

NMFS is issuing this rule pursuant to 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. In a previous action taken pursuant to section 304(b), the Council designed the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to authorize NMFS to take this action pursuant to MSA section 305(d). See 50 CFR 660. The NMFS Assistant Administrator has determined that this final rule is consistent with the FMP and other applicable law.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries (AA) finds there is good cause to waive prior notice and an opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment would be unnecessary and contrary to public interest. Notice and comment are unnecessary and contrary to the public interest because this action corrects inadvertent errors related to the December 11, 2020 final rule (85 FR 79880). Immediate correction of the errors is necessary to prevent confusion among participants in the fishery due to conflicting gear restrictions and lack of waypoints to define boundary lines that could result in issues with enforcement. To effectively correct the errors, the changes in this action must be effective upon publication as the fishery has already begun. Thus, there is not sufficient time for notice and comment. In addition, notice and comment is unnecessary because this notice makes only minor changes to correct inadvertent errors related to the December 11, 2020 final rule (85 FR 79880). These corrections will not affect the results of analyses conducted to support management decisions in the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery. These corrections are consistent with the Council’s intent for regulations and the public expects the regulations to be written as in the correction. No change in operating practices in the fishery is required.

For the same reasons stated above, the AA has determined good cause exists to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d). This notice makes only minor corrections to the final rule which was effective January 1, 2021. Delaying effectiveness of these corrections would result in conflicts in the regulations and confusion among fishery participants. Because prior notice and an opportunity for public comment are not required to be provided for this rule by 5 U.S.C. 553, or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, are not applicable. Accordingly, no Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is required for this rule and none has been prepared.

This final rule is not significant under Executive Order 12866.

This final rule contains no information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 660

Fisheries, Fishing, and Indian Fisheries.

Dated: March 10, 2021.

Samuel D. Rauch III,
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 660 is corrected by making the following correcting amendments:

PART 660—FISHERIES OFF WEST COAST STATES

1. The authority citation for 50 CFR 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 § 660.73, add paragraph (a)(322) to read as follows:

§ 660.73 Latitude/longitude coordinates defining the 100 fm (183 m) through 150 fm (274 m) depth contours.

* * * * *

(a) * * *

(322) 32°34.22' N. lat., 117°21.20' W. long.

* * * * *

3. In § 660.230, revise paragraph (d) introductory text, add paragraph (d)(10)(i), and revise paragraphs (d)(11)(iv) and (d)(12) and (13) to read as follows:

§ 660.230 Fixed gear fishery—management measures.

* * * * *

(d) *Groundfish conservation areas.* GCAs are defined by coordinates expressed in degrees of latitude and longitude. The latitude and longitude coordinates of the GCA boundaries are specified at §§ 660.70 through 660.74. A vessel that is authorized by this paragraph to fish within a GCA (*e.g.*, fishing for “other flatfish” with hook and line gear only), may not simultaneously have other gear on board the vessel that is unlawful to use for fishing within the GCA. The following GCAs apply to vessels participating in the limited entry fixed gear fishery.

* * * * *

(10) * * *

(i) Fishing for “other flatfish” is permitted within the CCAs with hook and line gear only; and provided a valid declaration report as required at § 660.13(d), subpart C, has been filed with NMFS OLE.

* * * * *

(11) * * *

(iv) It is lawful to fish within the nontrawl RCA with limited entry fixed gear using hook and line gear only when trip limits authorize such fishing, and provided a valid declaration report as required at § 660.13(d), subpart C, has been filed with NMFS OLE.

(12) *Farallon Islands*. Under California law, commercial fishing for all groundfish is prohibited between the shoreline and the 10 fm (18 m) depth contour around the Farallon Islands. An exception to this prohibition is that commercial fishing for “other flatfish” is allowed around the Farallon Islands using hook and line gear only. (See Table 2 (South) of this subpart.) For a definition of the Farallon Islands, see § 660.70, subpart C.

(13) *Cordell Banks*. Commercial fishing for groundfish is prohibited in waters of depths less than 100 fm (183 m) around Cordell Banks, as defined by specific latitude and longitude coordinates at § 660.70, subpart C. An exception to this prohibition is that commercial fishing for “other flatfish” is allowed around Cordell Banks using hook and line gear only.

* * * * *

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

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

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						
	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. - 40° 10' N. lat.		40 fm line ^{1/} - 100 fm line ^{1/}			
			30 fm line ^{1/} - 40 fm line ^{1/2/}			
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 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 ^{3/} & Darkblotched rockfish		8,000 lb/ 2 month			
5	Pacific ocean perch		3,600 lb/ 2 months			
6	Sablefish		1,700 lb week, not to exceed 5,100 lbs / 2 months			
7	Longspine thornyhead		10,000 lb/ 2 months			
8	Shortspine thornyhead		2,000 lb/ 2 months		2,500 lb/ 2 months	
9	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish ^{4/8/}		10,000 lbs/ month			
10						
11						
12	Whiting		10,000 lb/ trip			
13	Minor Shelf Rockfish ^{3/}		800 lbs / month			
14	Shortbelly Rockfish		200 lbs / month			
15	Widow rockfish		4,000 lb/ 2 month			
16	Yellowtail rockfish		3,000 lb/ month			
17	Canary rockfish		3,000 lb/ 2 months			
18	Yelloweye rockfish		CLOSED			
19	Minor Nearshore Rockfish, Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish & CA black rockfish ^{5/}					
20	North of 42°00' N. lat.		5,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue/deacon rockfish ^{4/}			
21	42° 00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat.		7,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 2,000 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish			
22	Lingcod ^{6/}					
23	North of 42°00' N. lat.		4,000 lb/ 2 months			
24	42° 00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat.		2,000 lb/ 2 months			
25	Pacific cod		1,000 lb/ 2 months			
26	Spiny dogfish		200,000 lb / 2months	150,000 lb / 2months	100,000 lb / 2months	
27	Longnose skate		Unlimited			
28	Other Fish ^{7/} & Cabezon in California		Unlimited			
29	Oregon Cabezon/Kelp Greenling		Unlimited			
30	Big skate		Unlimited			

TABLE 2 (North)

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.

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]						
	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/} - 125 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 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/} & Splittnose rockfish		40,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 6,000 lb may be blackgill rockfish			
4	Splittnose 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, starry flounder, Other Flatfish ^{3/8/}		10,000 lb/ month			
14	Whiting		10,000 lb/ trip			
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 vermilion			
	South of 34°27' N. lat.		5,000 lbs. / 2 months, of which no more than 3,000lbs. may be vermilion			
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			
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 months	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 greentling off California and leopard shark.

8/ LEFG vessels are allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using hook and line only. See section 660.230 (d) of the regulations for more information.

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

5. In § 660.330, revise paragraphs (d) introductory text, (d)(11)(i), (d)(12)(iv), and (d)(14) and (15) to read as follows:

§ 660.330 Open access fishery—management measures.

* * * * *

(d) *Groundfish conservation areas (GCAs)*. GCAs, a type of closed area, are defined at § 660.11 and with latitude and longitude coordinates at §§ 660.70 through 660.74. A vessel that is authorized by this paragraph to fish within a GCA (e.g., fishing for “other flatfish” using hook and line gear only), may not simultaneously have other

gear on board the vessel that is unlawful to use for fishing within the GCA. The following GCAs apply to vessels participating in the open access groundfish fishery.

* * * * *

(11) * * *

(i) Fishing for “other flatfish” is allowed within the CCAs with hook and line gear only; and provided a valid declaration report as required at § 660.13(d), has been filed with NMFS OLE.

* * * * *

(12) * * *

(iv) Fishing for “other flatfish” off California (between 42° N. lat. south to the U.S./Mexico border) is allowed within the nontrawl RCA with hook and line gear only; and provided a valid declaration report as required at § 660.13(d), has been filed with NMFS OLE.

* * * * *

(14) *Farallon Islands*. Under California law, commercial fishing for all groundfish is prohibited between the shoreline and the 10 fm (18 m) depth contour around the Farallon Islands. An exception to this prohibition is that commercial fishing for “other flatfish” is allowed around the Farallon Islands using hook and line gear only. (See Table 2 (South) of this subpart.) For a definition of the Farallon Islands, see § 660.70, subpart C.

(15) *Cordell Banks*. Commercial fishing for groundfish is prohibited in waters of depths less than 100-fm (183-m) around Cordell Banks, as defined by specific latitude and longitude coordinates at § 660.70, subpart C. An exception to this prohibition is that commercial fishing for “other flatfish” is allowed around Cordell Banks using hook and line gear only.

* * * * *

6. Revise Table 3 (North) and Table 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.

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						2/16/2021
	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. - 40°10' N. lat.				40 fm line ^{1/} - 100 fm line ^{1/}		
				30 fm line ^{1/} - 40 fm line ^{1/2/}		
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 ^{3/} & Darkblotched rockfish				2,000 lbs / months		
5 Pacific ocean perch				100 lbs/ month		
6 Sablefish		600 lbs. daily, or 1 landing per week up to 2,000 lbs. not to exceed 4,000 lbs/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 ^{4/5/}				5,000 lbs/ month		
12 Whiting				300 lbs/ month		
13 Minor Shelf Rockfish ^{3/}				800 lbs / month		
14 Widow rockfish				2,000 lb/ 2 months		
15 Shortbelly Rockfish				200 lbs / month		
16 Yellowtail rockfish				1,500 lbs/ month		
17 Canary rockfish				1,000 lbs/ 2 months		
18 Yelloweye rockfish				CLOSED		
19 Minor Nearshore Rockfish, Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish & CA black rockfish						
20 North of 42°00' N. lat.				5,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue/deacon rockfish ^{5/}		
21 42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.				7,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 2,000 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish		
22 Lingcod ^{6/}						
23 North of 42°00' N. lat.				2,000 lbs/ month		
24 42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.				1,000 lbs / month		
25 Pacific cod				1,000 lbs/ 2 months		
26 Spiny dogfish	200,000 lbs/ 2 months		150,000 lbs/ 2 months		100,000 lbs/ 2 months	
27 Longnose skate				Unlimited		
28 Big skate				Unlimited		
29 Other Fish ^{7/} & Cabezon in California				Unlimited		
30 Oregon Cabezon/Kelp Greenling				Unlimited		
31 SALMON TROLL (subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish and lingcod, as described below)						
32 North				Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 500 lbs of yellowtail rockfish per month as long as salmon is on board, both within and outside of the RCA. 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. The lingcod limit only applies during times when lingcod retention is allowed, and is not "CLOSED." These limits are within the per month limits described in the table above, and not in addition to those limits. 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.		
33 PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL (not subject to RCAs)						
34 North				Effective April 1 - October 31: Groundfish: 500 lbs/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lbs/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lbs/day and 1,500 lbs/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lbs/month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lbs/month; canary, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lbs/day and 1,500 lbs/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)

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.

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/ Between 46°16' N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat. and the 30 fm and 40 fm lines, fishing is only allowed with hook-and-line gear except bottom longline and dinglebar gear, as defined in §660.11

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

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

5/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09.50' N. lat.), and between Destruction Is. (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Pt. (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.

6/ 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.

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

8/ Open access vessels are allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using hook and line only. See section 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.

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						2/16/2021
	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 §§660.76-660.79 for 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		10,000 lbs/ 2 months, of which no more than 2,500 lbs may be blackgill rockfish			
5	Splitnose rockfish		200 lbs/ month			
6	Sablefish					
7	40°10' N. lat. - 36°00' N. lat.		600 lbs. daily, or 1 landing per week up to 2,000 lbs., not to exceed 4,000 lbs/2 months			
8	South of 36°00' N. lat.		2,000 lbs/week, not to exceed 6,000 lbs/2 months			
9	Shortpine thornyheads					
10	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.		50lb/ month			
11	Longspine thornyheads					
12	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.		50 lb/ month			
13	Shortpine thornyheads and longspine					
14	South of 34°27' N. lat.		100 lbs/day, no more than 1,000 lbs/ 2 months			
15	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder,					
16	petrale sole, English sole, starry		5,000 lbs/ month			
17	flounder, Other Flatfish^{3/8/}					
18	Whiting		300 lbs/ month			
19	Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}					
20	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.		4,000 lbs. / 2 months, of which no more than 400 lbs. may be vermilion			
21	South of 34°27' N. lat.		3,000 lbs. / 2 months, of which no more than 1,200lbs. may be vermilion			
22	Widow					
23	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.		6,000 lbs. / 2 months			
24	South of 34°27' N. lat.		4,000 lbs. / 2 months			
25	Chilipepper					
26	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.		6,000 lbs. / 2 months			
27	South of 34°27' N. lat.		4,000 lbs. / 2 months			
28	Shortbelly Rockfish					
29	South of 40°10' N. lat.		200 lb/ month			
22	Canary rockfish		1,500 lbs/ 2 months			
23	Yelloweye rockfish		CLOSED			
24	Cowcod		CLOSED			
25	Bronzespotted rockfish		CLOSED			
26	Bocaccio		4,000 lbs/ 2 months			
30	Minor Nearshore Rockfish					
31	Shallow nearshore ^{4/}		2,000 lbs/ 2 months			
32	Deeper nearshore ^{5/}		2,000 lbs/ 2 months			
33	California Scorpionfish		3,500 lbs/ 2 months			
34	Lingcod^{6/}		700 lbs / months			
35	Pacific cod		1,000 lbs/ 2 months			
36	Spiny dogfish		200,000 lbs/ 2 months	150,000 lbs/ 2	100,000 lbs/ 2 months	
37	Longnose skate		Unlimited			
38	Big skate		Unlimited			
39	Other Fish^{7/} & Cabezon in California		Unlimited			

TABLE 3 (South)

Table 3 (South) Continued						
Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table						2/16/2021
	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:						
40	40° 10' N. lat. - 38° 57.5' N. lat.	40 fm line ^{1/} - 125 fm line ^{1/}				
41	38° 57.5' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat.	50 fm line ^{1/} - 125 fm line ^{1/}				
42	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 §§660.76-660.79 for						
43 SALMON TROLL (subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish and lingcod, as described below)						
44	South of 40° 10' N. lat.	Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lbs of yellowtail rockfish for every 2 lbs of Chinook salmon landed, with a cumulative limit of 200 lbs/month, both within and outside of the RCA. This limit is within the 4,000 lbs 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.				
45 RIDGEBACK PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF 38 57.50' N. LAT., CA HALIBUT AND SEA CUCUMBER NON-GROUND FISH TRAWL						
46 NON-GROUND FISH TRAWL Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) for CA Halibut, Sea Cucumber & Ridgeback Prawn:						
47	40° 10' N. lat. - 38° 00' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 200	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}			100 fm line ^{1/} - 200 fm
48	38° 00' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}				
49	South of 34° 27' N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}				
50		Groundfish: 300 lbs/trip. Species-specific limits described in the table above also apply and are counted toward the 300 lbs 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 lbs/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 38o57.50' N. lat. are allowed to (1) land up to 100 lbs/day of groundfish without the ratio requirement, provided that at least one California halibut is landed and (2) land up to 3,000 lbs/month of flatfish, no more than 300 lbs 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).				
51 PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUND FISH TRAWL GEAR (not subject to RCAs)						
52	South	Effective April 1 - October 31: Groundfish: 500 lbs/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lbs/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lbs/day and 1,500 lbs/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lbs/ month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lbs/ month; canary rockfish, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lbs/day and 1,500 lbs/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.				

Table 3 (South) Continued

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)(B)(1).

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

8/ Open access vessels are allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using hook and line only. See section 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.

7. In § 660.360, revise paragraphs (c)(3)(i)(A)(I) and (2) to read as follows:

§ 660.360 Recreational fishery—management measures.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(3) * * *

(i) * * *

(A) * * *

(I) Between 42° N lat. (California/Oregon border) and 40°10' N lat. (Northern Management Area), recreational fishing for all groundfish (except petrale sole, starry flounder, and "Other Flatfish" as specified in paragraph (c)(3)(iv) of this section) is closed from January 1 through April 30; is prohibited seaward of the boundary line

approximating the 30 fm (55 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from May 1 through October 31 (shoreward of 30 fm is open); and is open at all depths from November 1 through December 31.

(2) Between 40°10' N lat. and 38°57.50' N lat. (Mendocino Management Area), recreational fishing for all groundfish (except petrale sole, starry flounder, and “Other Flatfish” as specified in paragraph (c)(3)(iv) of this section) is closed from January 1 through April 30; prohibited seaward of the boundary line approximating the 30 fm (55 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from May 1 through October 31 (shoreward of 30 fm is open), and is open at all depths from November 1 through December 31.

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