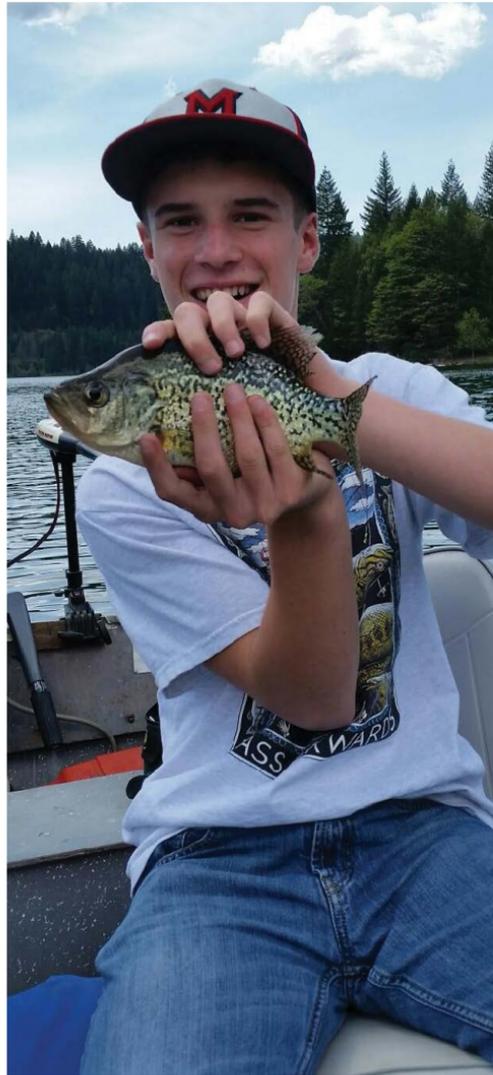


CALIFORNIA

# SUPPLEMENT

SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS



2015-2016

Effective March 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016

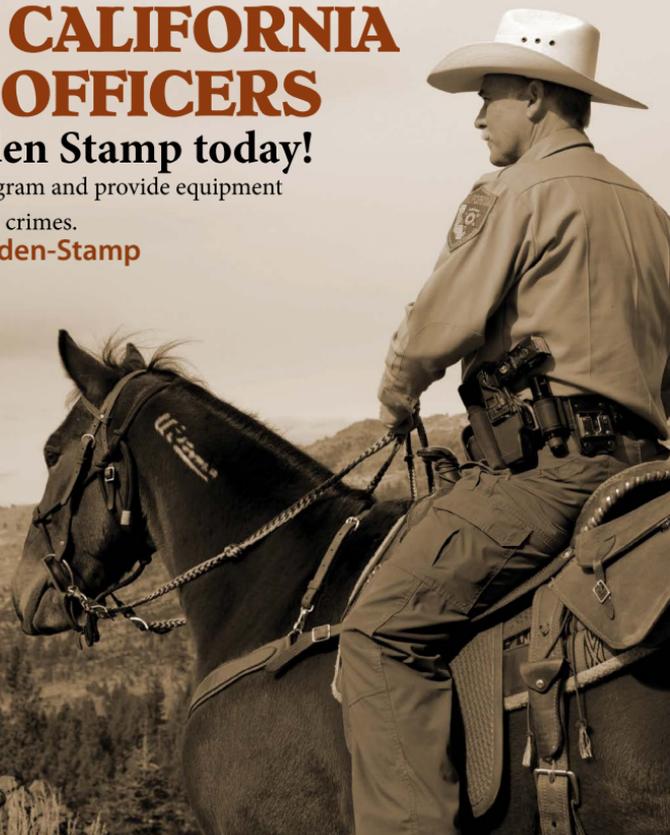
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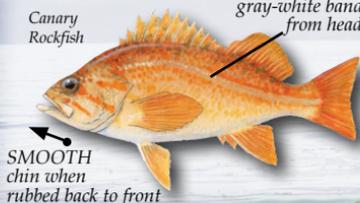
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## ROCKFISH CAN BE EASILY MISIDENTIFIED SOME MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED KNOW YOUR ROCKFISH!

Here are some tips for identifying common red-colored rockfish:

Canary Rockfish



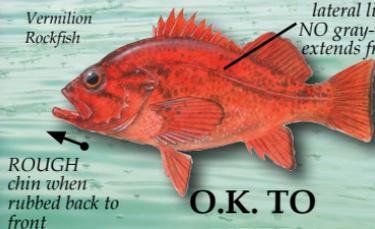
lateral line is a COLORLESS gray-white band that extends from head to tail

Yelloweye Rockfish



**DO NOT KEEP!**

Vermilion Rockfish



lateral line HAS color  
NO gray-white band that extends from head to tail

**O.K. TO KEEP**

# 2015-2016 Supplemental Fishing Regulations

Contains in-season changes to freshwater and ocean sport fishing regulations for 2015-2016.

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### This is a Supplement

The regulations in this supplement supersede regulations listed in the 2015-2016 Freshwater and/or Ocean Sport Fishing regulation booklets.

NOTE: This supplement does not contain a complete set of fishing regulations. Refer to your copy of the 2015-2016 Freshwater and/or Ocean Sport Fishing regulation booklet for regulations not included here.

#### Clockwise from top left:

Dave Mitchell, Marin County Coastline

*Photo by Karen Mitchell*

Donovan Sinnen, Ruth Lake (Trinity Cty)

*Photo by Wade Sinnen*

Luie Elizabeth, Fish Creek Lake

*Photo by Vern Bleich*

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Unlawful Actions.....	5
Changes to Freshwater Fishing.....	6
Central Valley Regulations.....	6
Anadromous Waters of the Klamath River Basin.....	11
Report Card and Tagging Requirements.....	18
Changes to Ocean Fishing.....	26
Ocean Salmon.....	26
Groundfish.....	28
Pacific Halibut.....	37
Tuna.....	38

## ONLINE HARVEST REPORTING

*CDFW needs your harvest data to manage fish and wildlife populations in California. Information gathered from hunting tags and sport fishing report cards is important data needed by fish and wildlife biologists to support science based hunting and sport fishing seasons and sustainable quotas for harvest. This data is one of the critical components used to prepare the regulatory and environmental documents required for hunting and sport fishing programs. Because harvest and effort data is essential to fish and wildlife management, hunters and sport fishermen are required by regulation to report hunting tags and sport fishing report cards in a timely manner. For most species, you must report even if you were unsuccessful or did not hunt or fish.*

*You can fulfill your reporting obligation by returning your report card to the address printed on the report card or by submitting your report card data online at:*

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Fishing](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Fishing)



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*July 4 and September 5, 2015*

On these days only, ALL regulations apply and report cards are required – but NO license is required for sport fishing.

# IT IS UNLAWFUL TO DO THE FOLLOWING

- Fish without a valid fishing license if you are 16 years of age or older (FGC 7145);
- Fail to return a report card by the deadline printed on the report card. Reporting harvest online at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Fishing#758846-harvest-reporting](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Fishing#758846-harvest-reporting) satisfies the return requirement.
- Take or possess fish taken illegally (FGC 2000 and 2002);
- Transfer licenses, tags, validations, permits, applications or reservations to another person (FGC 1052);
- Use or possess any license, tag, validation, permit, application or reservation not lawfully issued to the user (FGC 1052);
- Alter, mutilate, deface, duplicate or counterfeit any license, tag, validation, permit, application or reservation (FGC 1052);
- Fish without the required report card on a free-fishing day (CCRT14 Section 1.74);
- Sell or barter fish taken with a sport fishing license (FGC 7121);
- Cause the deterioration or waste of any fish taken in the waters of this state (CCRT14 Section 1.87);
- Use explosives in state waters inhabited by fish (FGC 5500);
- Use or possess any net in state waters except as is authorized (FGC 8603);
- Disturb legal traps set by another person (FGC 9002);
- Litter into or within 150 feet of state waters (FGC 5652);
- Possess fish where the size or species cannot be determined (FGC 5508 and 5509);
- Fail to exhibit on demand all licenses, tags, validations, permits, applications or reservation to any peace officer or authorized CDFW employee (FGC 2012);
- Fail to exhibit, on demand, all fish, mollusks, crustaceans, amphibians and reptiles and any device or apparatus capable of being used to take them, to any peace officer or authorized CDFW employee (FGC 2012); or
- Prohibit a warden from inspection of any boat, market or receptacle where fish may be found (FGC 1006).

# Changes to Freshwater Fishing

## Central Valley Regulations

Effective by July 15, 2015

Shaded areas in this section denote changes in the freshwater fishing regulations that have occurred since the publication of the 2015-2016 Freshwater Sport Fishing regulations booklet.

CCR T-14, Section 7.50 (b) is amended to read:

Area or Body of Water	Open Season and Special Regulations	Daily Bag Limit
<b>(5) American River (Sacramento Co.)</b>		
(A) From Nimbus Dam to the Hazel Avenue bridge piers.	Jan. 1 through July 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
	July 16 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession 2 Chinook salmon 4 Chinook salmon in possession
(B) From Hazel Avenue bridge piers to the U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing about 300 yards downstream from the Nimbus Hatchery fish rack site.	Jan. 1 through July 15. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
	July 16 through Aug. 15. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession 2 Chinook salmon 4 Chinook salmon in possession
(C) From the U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing about 300 yards down-stream from the Nimbus Hatchery fish rack site to the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.	Jan. 1 through July 15. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
	July 16 through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession 2 Chinook salmon 4 Chinook salmon in possession

Area or Body of Water	Open Season and Special Regulations	Daily Bag Limit
(D) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park downstream to the Jibboom Street bridge.	Jan. 1 through July 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
	July 16 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession 2 Chinook salmon 4 Chinook salmon in possession
(E) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth.	Jan. 1 through July 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
	July 16 through Dec. 16.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession 2 Chinook salmon 4 Chinook salmon in possession
	Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
<b>(68) Feather River below Oroville Dam (Butte, Sutter and Yuba cos.).</b>		
(A) From Fish Barrier Dam to Table Mountain bicycle bridge in Oroville. Closed to all fishing all year.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(B) From Table Mountain bicycle bridge to Highway 70 bridge.	Jan. 1 through July 15. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
(C) From Highway 70 bridge to the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall.	All year.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession

Area or Body of Water	Open Season and Special Regulations	Daily Bag Limit
(D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.	Jan. 1 through July 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
	July 16 through Oct. 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession 2 Chinook salmon 4 Chinook salmon in possession
	Oct. 16 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
(E) From 200 yards above Live Oak boat ramp to the mouth. For purposes of this regulation, the lower boundary is defined as a straight line drawn from the peninsula point on the west bank to the Verona Marine boat ramp.	Jan. 1 through July 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
	July 16 through Dec. 16.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession 2 Chinook salmon 4 Chinook salmon in possession
	Dec. 17 to Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
<b>(156.5) Sacramento River</b> and tributaries below Keswick Dam (Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Glenn, Sacramento, Solano, Sutter, Tehama and Yolo Cos.).	Also see Sierra District General Regulations (See Section 7.00(b)).	
(A) Sacramento River from Keswick Dam to 650 feet below Keswick Dam.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(B) Sacramento River: 1. from 650 feet below Keswick Dam to the Highway 44 bridge.	Closed to all fishing from April 24, 2015 through July 31, 2015.	
	Starting on August 1, 2015, open all year. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
2. from the Highway 44 bridge to the Deschutes Road bridge.	All year. Only barbless hooks may be used.	
		2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession

Area or Body of Water	Open Season and Special Regulations	Daily Bag Limit
(C) Sacramento River from the Deschutes Road bridge to 500 feet upstream from Red Bluff Diversion Dam.	Jan. 1 through July 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
	Aug. 1 through Dec. 16.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession 2 Chinook salmon 4 Chinook salmon in possession
	Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
(D) Sacramento River from 500 feet upstream from Red Bluff Diversion Dam to 150 feet below the Lower Red Bluff (Sycamore) Boat Ramp.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(E) Sacramento River from 150 feet below the Lower Red Bluff (Sycamore) Boat Ramp to the Hwy 113 bridge near Knights Landing. Note: It is unlawful to take fish 0-250 feet downstream from the overflow side of the Moulton, Colusa and Tisdale Weirs.	Jan. 1 through July 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
	July 16 through Dec. 16.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession 2 Chinook salmon 4 Chinook salmon in possession
	Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession



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Area or Body of Water	Open Season and Special Regulations	Daily Bag Limit
(F) Sacramento River from the Hwy 113 bridge near Knights Landing to the Carquinez Bridge (includes Suisun Bay, Grizzly Bay and all tributary sloughs west of Highway 160). Note: It is unlawful to take fish 0-250 feet downstream from the overflow side of the Fremont and Sacramento Weirs.	Jan. 1 through July 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
	July 16 through Dec. 16.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession 2 Chinook salmon 4 Chinook salmon in possession
	Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
* Wild Chinook salmon are those not showing a healed adipose fin clip and not showing a healed left ventral fin clip.		
** Hatchery trout or steelhead are those showing a healed adipose fin clip (adipose fin is absent). Unless otherwise provided, all other trout and steelhead must be immediately released. Wild trout or steelhead are those not showing a healed adipose fin clip (adipose fin is present).		

# REGS ON THE GO...

Did you know you can now download fishing regulations to your smart phone or other device? By utilizing iBooks on Apple devices or your favorite book reader on the Android platform you can download the freshwater and ocean sport fishing regulations for reference at any time. These and other regulations can be found at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/regulations/](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/regulations/).

# Klamath River Basin Regulations

*Shaded areas in this section denote changes in the freshwater fishing regulations that have occurred since the publication of the 2015-2016 Freshwater Sport Fishing regulations booklet.*

## **(91.1) ANADROMOUS WATERS OF THE KLAMATH RIVER DOWNSTREAM OF IRON GATE DAM (LOWER KLAMATH RIVER BASIN).**

The regulations in this subsection apply only to waters of the Klamath River system which are accessible to anadromous salmonids. They do not apply to waters of the Klamath River which are inaccessible to anadromous salmon and trout, for example, portions of the Klamath River system upstream of Iron Gate Dam, portions of the Trinity River system upstream of Lewiston Dam, and the Shasta River and tributaries upstream of Dwinell Dam. Fishing in these waters is governed by the General Regulations for non-anadromous waters of the North Coast District (see Section 7.00(a)(5)).

### **(A) Hook and Weight Restrictions.**

1. Only barbless hooks may be used. (For definitions regarding legal hook types, hook gaps and rigging see Chapter 2, Article 1, Section 2.10).
2. During closures to the take of adult salmon, anglers shall not remove any adult Chinook salmon from the water by any means, such as by dragging the fish on shore or using a net.

### **(B) General Area Closures.**

1. No fishing is allowed within 750 feet of any Department of Fish and Wildlife fish-counting weir.
2. No fishing is allowed from the Ishi Pishi Road bridge upstream to and including Ishi Pishi Falls from August 15 through December 31. EXCEPTION: members of the Karuk Indian Tribe listed on the current Karuk Tribal Roll may fish at Ishi Pishi Falls using hand-held dip nets.
3. No fishing is allowed from September 15 through December 31 in the Klamath River within 500 feet of the mouths of the Salmon, the Shasta and the Scott rivers and Blue Creek.
4. No fishing is allowed from June 15 through September 14 in the Klamath River from 500 feet above the mouth of Blue Creek to 1/2 mile downstream of the mouth of Blue Creek.

### **(C) Klamath River Basin Possession Limits.**

1. Trout Possession Limits.
  - a. The brown trout possession limit is 10 brown trout.
  - b. The hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead possession limits are as follows:
    - (i) Klamath River - 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.

- (ii) Trinity River - 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.

### **2. Chinook Salmon Possession Limits.**

- a. Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec from January 1 to August 14 and the Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the confluence of the South Fork Trinity River from January 1 to August 31.

- (i) 2 Chinook salmon.

- b. Klamath River from August 15 to December 31 and Trinity River from September 1 to December 31.
  - (i) 9 Chinook salmon. No more than 6 Chinook salmon over 22 inches total length may be retained when the take of salmon over 22 inches total length is allowed.

### **(D) Klamath River Basin Chinook Salmon Quotas.**

The Klamath River fall Chinook salmon take is regulated using quotas. Accounting of the tribal and non-tribal harvest is closely monitored from August 15 through December 31 each year. These quota areas are noted in subsection (b)(91.1)(E) with "Fall Run Quota" in the Open Season and Special Regulations column.

#### **1. Quota for Entire Basin.**

The 2015 Klamath River Basin quota is 14,133 Klamath River fall Chinook salmon over 22 inches total length. The department shall inform the commission, and the public via the news media, prior to any implementation of restrictions triggered by the quotas. (NOTE: A department status report on progress toward the quotas for the various river sections is updated weekly, and available at 1-800-564-6479.)

#### **2. Subquota Percentages.**

- a. The subquota for the Klamath River upstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec and the Trinity River is 50% of the total Klamath River Basin quota.

- (i) The subquota for the Klamath River from 3,500 feet downstream of the Iron Gate Dam to the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec is 17% of the total Klamath River Basin quota.

- (ii) The subquota for the Trinity River main stem downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat is 16.5% of the total Klamath River Basin quota.

- (iii) The subquota for the Trinity River main stem downstream of the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar to the confluence with the Klamath River is 16.5% of the total Klamath River Basin quota.

- b. The subquota for the Lower Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec is 50% of the total Klamath River Basin quota.

- (i) The Spit Area (within 100 yards of the channel through the sand spit formed at the Klamath River mouth) will close when 15% of the Total Klamath River Basin Quota is taken downstream of the Highway 101 bridge.

**(E) Klamath River Basin Open Seasons and Bag Limits.** All anadromous waters of the Klamath River Basin are closed to all fishing for all year except

those areas listed in the following table. Bag limits are for trout and Chinook salmon in combination unless otherwise specified.

Area or Body of Water	Open Season and Special Regulations	Daily Bag Limit
1. Bogus Creek and tributaries	Fourth Saturday in May through August 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
<b>2. Klamath River main stem from 3,500 feet downstream of Iron Gate Dam to the mouth.</b>		
a. Klamath River from 3,500 feet downstream of the Iron Gate Dam to the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec.	January 1 to August 14.	0 Chinook salmon 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	Fall Run Quota 2,403 Chinook Salmon August 15 to December 31, 2015.	3 Chinook salmon – no more than 2 fish over 22 inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over 22 inches total length. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	Fall Run Quota Exception: Chinook salmon over 22 inches total length may be retained from 3,500 feet downstream of Iron Gate Dam to the Interstate 5 bridge when the department determines that the adult fall-run Chinook salmon spawning escapement at Iron Gate Hatchery exceeds 8,000 fish. Daily bag and possession limits specified for fall-run Chinook salmon apply during this exception.	
b. Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec.	January 1 to August 14.	2 Chinook salmon 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	Fall Run Quota 7,067 Chinook Salmon August 15 to December 31, 2015.	3 Chinook salmon – no more than 2 fish over 22 inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over 22 inches total length. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	Fall Run Quota Exception: Spit Area (within 100 yards of the channel through the sand spit formed at the Klamath River mouth). This area will be closed to all fishing after 15% of the Total Klamath River Basin Quota has been taken. All legally caught Chinook salmon must be retained. Once the adult (greater than 22 inches) component of the total daily bag limit has been retained anglers must cease fishing in the spit area.	
3. Salmon River main stem, main stem of North Fork downstream of Sawyer's Bar bridge, and main stem of South Fork downstream of the confluence of the East Fork of the South Fork.	November 1 through February 28.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**

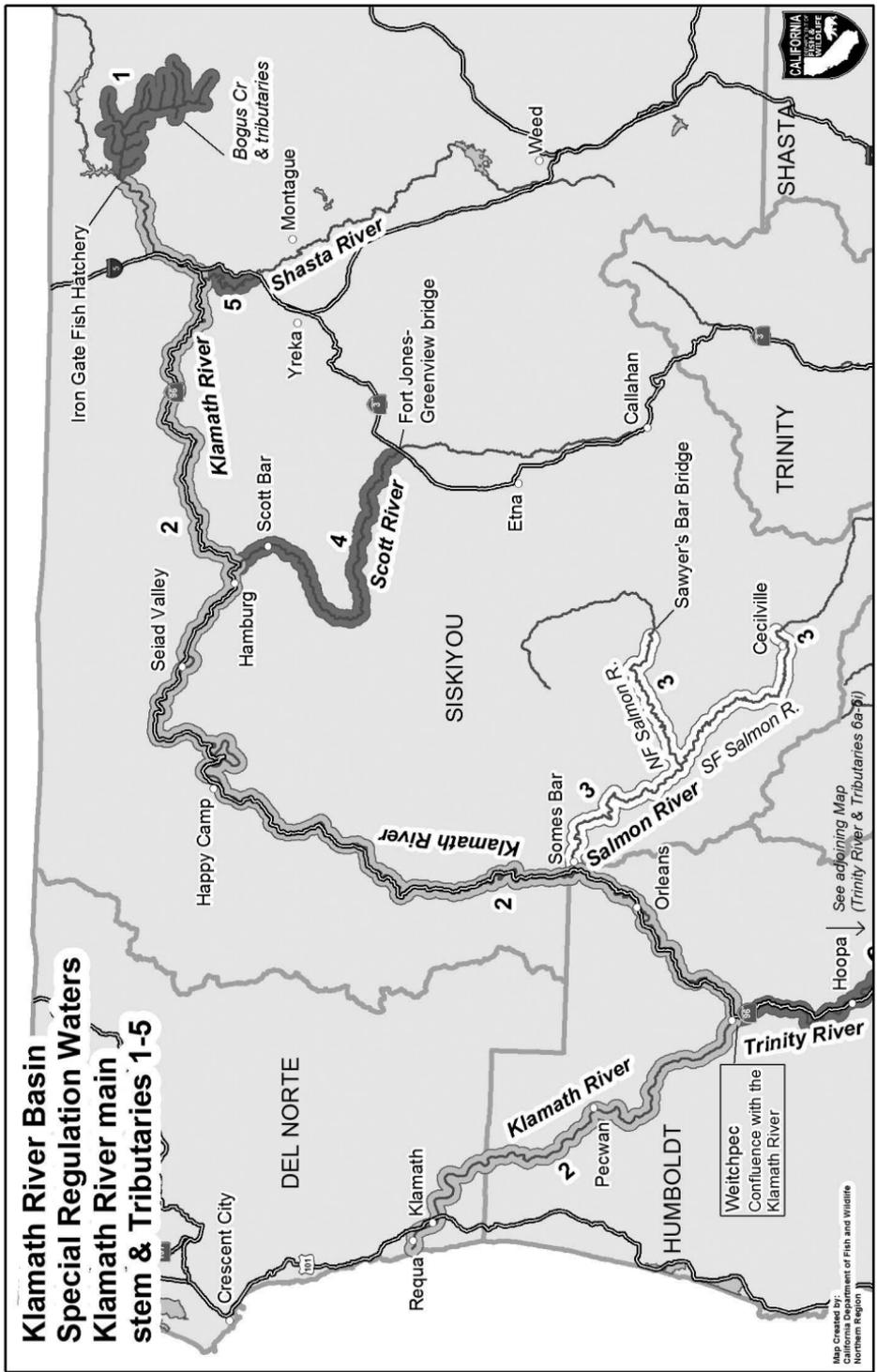
Area or Body of Water	Open Season and Special Regulations	Daily Bag Limit
4. Scott River main stem downstream of the Fort Jones-Greenview bridge to the confluence with the Klamath River.	Fourth Saturday in May through February 28.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
5. Shasta River main stem downstream of the Interstate 5 bridge north of Yreka to the confluence with the Klamath River.	Fourth Saturday in May through August 31 and November 16 through February 28.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
6. Trinity River and tributaries.		
a. Trinity River main stem from 250 feet downstream of Lewiston Dam to the Old Lewiston Bridge.	April 1 through September 15. Only artificial flies with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
b. Trinity River main stem downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat.	January 1 to August 31.	2 Chinook salmon 5 brown trout 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	Fall Run Quota 2,332 Chinook Salmon September 1 through December 31, 2015.	3 Chinook salmon – no more than 2 fish over 22 inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over 22 inches total length. 5 brown trout 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	Fall Run Quota Exception: Chinook salmon over 22 inches total length may be retained downstream of the Old Lewiston bridge to the mouth of Indian Creek when the department determines that the adult fall-run Chinook salmon spawning escapement at Trinity River Hatchery exceeds 4,800 fish. Daily bag and possession limits specified for fall-run Chinook salmon apply during this exception.	
c. Trinity River main stem downstream of the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat to the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar.	January 1 through August 31.	2 Chinook salmon 5 brown trout 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	September 1 through December 31.	Closed to all fishing.
d. New River main stem downstream of the confluence of the East Fork to the confluence with the Trinity River.	September 15 through November 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**

Area or Body of Water	Open Season and Special Regulations	Daily Bag Limit
e. Trinity River main stem downstream of the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar to the mouth of the South Fork Trinity River.	January 1 to August 31.	2 Chinook salmon 5 brown trout 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	Fall Run Quota 2,331 Chinook Salmon September 1 through December 31, 2015. This is the cumulative quota for subsections 6.e. and 6.f. of this table.	3 Chinook salmon – no more than 2 fish over 22 inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over 22 inches total length. 5 brown trout 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
f. Trinity River main stem downstream of the mouth of the South Fork Trinity River to the confluence with the Klamath River.	January 1 to August 31.	0 Chinook salmon 5 brown trout 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	Fall Run Quota 2,331 Chinook Salmon September 1 through December 31, 2015. This is the cumulative quota for subsections 6.e. and 6.f. of this table.	3 Chinook salmon – no more than 2 fish over 22 inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over 22 inches total length. 5 brown trout 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
g. Hayfork Creek main stem downstream of the Highway 3 bridge in Hayfork to the confluence with the South Fork Trinity River.	November 1 through March 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
h. South Fork Trinity River downstream of the confluence with the East Fork of the South Fork Trinity River to the South Fork Trinity River Bridge at Hyampom.	November 1 through March 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
i. South Fork Trinity River downstream of the South Fork Trinity River Bridge at Hyampom to the confluence with the Trinity River.	November 1 through March 31.	0 Chinook salmon 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**

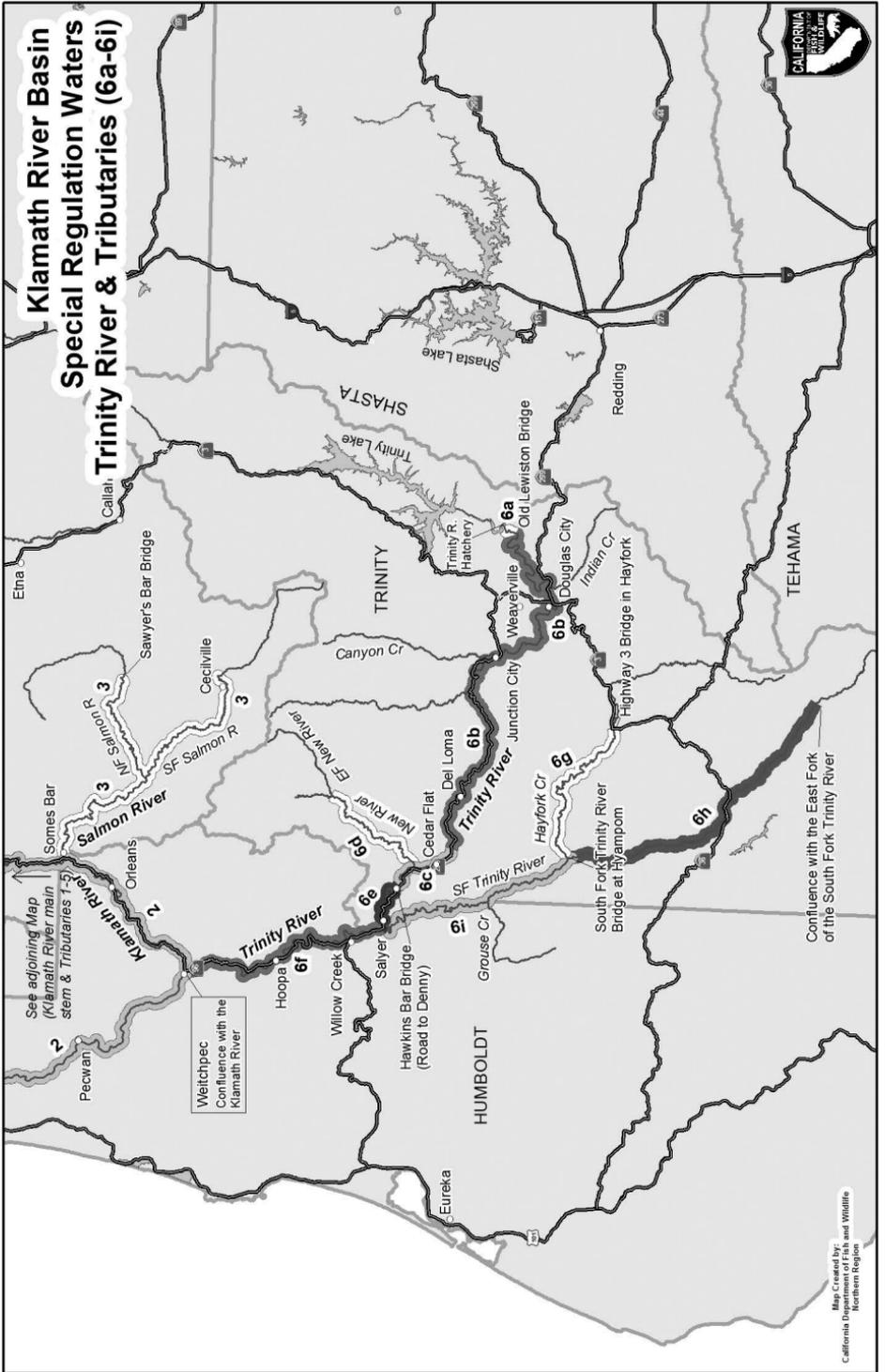
**CCRT-14, Section 7.50 (b)(195) is amended to read:**

Area or Body of Water	Open Season and Special Regulations	Daily Bag Limit
(195) Trinity River and tributaries downstream of Lewiston Dam.	See Klamath River 7.50(b)(91.1).	
<p>* Wild Chinook salmon are those not showing a healed adipose fin clip and not showing a healed left ventral fin clip.  **Hatchery trout or steelhead are those showing a healed adipose fin clip (adipose fin is absent). Unless otherwise provided, all other trout and steelhead must be immediately released. Wild trout or steelhead are those not showing a healed adipose fin clip (adipose fin is present).</p>		

**Klamath River Basin  
Special Regulation Waters  
Klamath River main  
stem & Tributaries 1-5**



# Klamath River Basin Special Regulation Waters Trinity River & Tributaries (6a-6i)



Weitchpec  
Confluence with the  
Klamath River

Confluence with the East Fork  
of the South Fork Trinity River

See adjoining Map  
(Klamath River main  
stem & Tributaries 1-5)

Map Created by:  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Northern Region

### 1.73. SALMON.

(a) Salmon includes Chinook, coho, pink, chum, and sockeye salmon.

(b) Any person in possession of a recreationally taken salmon with a missing adipose fin (the small, fleshy fin on the back of the fish between the back fin and tail) shall immediately relinquish the head of the salmon, upon request by an authorized agent or employee of the department, to facilitate the recovery of any coded-wire tag. The head may be removed by the fish owner or, if removed by the official department representative, the head shall be removed in a manner to minimize loss of salmon flesh and the salmon shall immediately be returned to the fish owner.

### *Inland Salmon Informational Note*

All inland anadromous waters that are listed as "closed to take of salmon" in the district or special regulations are also closed to any catch and release fishing that results in hooking or attempting to hook a salmon.

As a reminder, Section 1.80 defines take as "Hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill fish amphibians reptiles, mollusks, crustaceans or invertebrates or attempting to do so."

There will be no allowance for any catch and release fishing that targets salmon when the river or stream is closed to salmon fishing.

## **ONLINE FISHING GUIDE** *California is a great place to fish!*



**An Online Fishing Guide is available to help plan your fishing trips.  
Use the guide to find:**

Fish planting information • Historically good fishing locations  
License agents • Boating facilities  
Marine Protected Areas • Quagga mussel-infested waters

**[www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Guide](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Guide)**

A mobile guide is available for smart phones at  
**[www.dfg.ca.gov/mobile](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mobile)**

## **1.74. SPORT FISHING REPORT CARD REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) Purpose. These regulations are designed to improve recreational fishing effort and catch information in some or all areas where the fisheries operate. Many of these species are of high commercial value, and therefore, additional enforcement mechanisms are needed to improve compliance with existing bag limits and other regulations, and to reduce the potential for poaching.

(b) Report card requirements apply to any person fishing for or taking the following species regardless of whether a sport fishing license is required:

(1) Salmon, in the anadromous waters of the Klamath, Trinity, and Smith river basins. Anadromous waters are defined in Section 1.04.

(2) Steelhead trout.

(3) White sturgeon.

(4) Red abalone.

(5) California spiny lobster.

(c) General Report Card Requirements.

(1) Any person fishing for or taking any of the species identified in this Section shall have in his immediate possession a valid non-transferable report card issued by the department for the particular species. See special exemption regarding possession of report cards for lobster divers in Section 29.91.

(2) All entries made on any report card or tag shall be legible and in indelible ink.

(3) A report card holder fishing with a one, two, or ten-day sport fishing license, may replace the expired fishing license without purchasing a new report card so long as the report card is still valid.

(4) Report cards are not transferable and shall not be transferred to another person. No person shall possess any report card other than his own.

(5) Only one abalone report card and one sturgeon report card may be issued per person per report card period.

(6) Any report card holder who fills in all available lines on his steelhead, salmon or lobster report card shall return or report the card to the department pursuant to subsection 1.74(e) prior to purchasing a second card.

(7) Data recording and tagging procedures vary between report cards and species. See specific regulations in sections 5.79, 5.87, 5.88, 27.92, 29.16, and 29.91 that apply in addition to the regulations of this Section.

(d) Report Card Return and Reporting Requirements

(1) Report card holders shall return or report their salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, or abalone report cards to the department pursuant to subsection 1.74(e) by January 31 of the following year.

(A) Any person who fails to return or report his salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, or abalone report

card to the department by the deadline may be restricted from obtaining the same card in a subsequent license year or may be subject to an additional fee for the issuance of the same card in a subsequent license year.

(2) Report card holders shall return or report their lobster report cards purchased on or before July 31, 2013 pursuant to subsection 1.74(e) by January 31 of the following year.

(3) Report card holders shall return or report their lobster report cards purchased after July 31, 2013 pursuant to subsection 1.74(e) by April 30 following the close of the lobster season specified on the card.

(A) Any report card holder who fails to return or report his lobster report card purchased after July 31, 2013 by April 30 following the close of the lobster season specified on the card shall be subject to a non-return fee specified in Section 701, in addition to the annual report card fee, for the issuance of a lobster report card in the subsequent fishing season.

(e) Report Card Return and Reporting Mechanisms:

(1) By mail or in person at the address specified on the card. A report card returned by mail shall be postmarked by the date applicable to that card as specified in subsection 1.74(d)(1), 1.74(d)(2), or 1.74(d)(3).

(2) Online through the department's internet license sales service website by the date applicable to that card as specified in subsection 1.74(d)(1), 1.74(d)(2), or 1.74(d)(3).

(3) If a report card is submitted by mail and not received by the department, it is considered not returned unless the individual reports his report card as lost pursuant to subsection 1.74(f).

(f) Lost report cards.

(1) Any report card holder who loses his report card shall submit an affidavit, signed under penalty of perjury, in person to a department license sales office containing all of the following information:

(A) A statement containing the report card holder's full name confirming that the originally issued report card cannot be recovered.

(B) A statement of the report card holder's best recollection of the prior catch records that were entered on the report card that was lost.

(C) A statement describing the factual circumstances surrounding the loss of the card.

(2) An Affidavit for a lost report card shall be presented at a department license sales office, by the date applicable to that card specified in subsection 1.74(d)(1), 1.74(d)(2), or 1.74(d)(3) to be considered returned.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection 1.74(c)(5), any report card holder who loses his report card during the period for which it is valid may replace the lost report card by submitting an affidavit as described in subsection 1.74(f)(1) and payment of the report

card fee and replacement processing fee specified in Section 701.

(A) Based on the information provided in the written affidavit for abalone and sturgeon report cards, the department shall issue only the number of tags that were reported unused on the previously issued report card.

### **5.87. NORTH COAST SALMON REPORT CARD REQUIREMENT**

(a) Report Card Required in Waters of the Klamath-Trinity River System and the Smith River. All anglers must have a North Coast Salmon Report Card in their possession while fishing for or taking salmon in waters of the Klamath-Trinity River System and the Smith River, and must complete and return the card pursuant to regulations in this Section and in Section 1.74.

(b) Prior to beginning fishing activity, the cardholder shall record the month, day, and fishing location on the first available line on the report card.

(c) For the Klamath-Trinity River System: Whenever the cardholder lands (either retains or releases) a Chinook salmon, the angler shall immediately record whether the fish was an adult or a jack, and whether the fish has an adipose fin present. Whenever the cardholder releases a Coho salmon, the angler shall immediately record whether the maxillary is present or absent.

(d) For the Smith River: Whenever the cardholder lands (either retains or releases) a Chinook salmon, the angler shall immediately record whether the fish was an adult or a jack, and whether the fish has an adipose fin or left ventral fin present.

(e) Whenever the cardholder moves to another fishing location, the angler shall record the month, day, and location on the next line on the report card.

(f) In the Klamath-Trinity River System and Smith River, a jack Chinook salmon is defined as any

Chinook salmon that is less than 22 inches total length.

(g) In the event an angler fills in all lines and returns a North Coast Salmon Report Card, an additional card may be purchased. See Section 1.74.

(h) The annual fee for the North Coast Salmon Report Card is specified in Section 701, Title 14, CCR

### **5.88. STEELHEAD REPORT AND RESTORATION CARD REQUIREMENTS FOR INLAND WATERS**

(a) Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card Required. All anglers must have a Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card in their possession while fishing for or taking steelhead in anadromous waters, as defined in Section 1.04. Anglers must complete and return the card pursuant to regulations in this Section and in Section 1.74. For purposes of these regulations, a steelhead trout is defined as any rainbow trout greater than 16 inches in length found in anadromous waters.

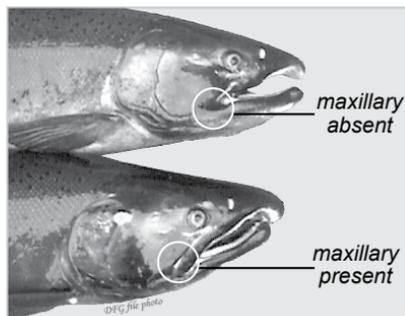
(b) Prior to beginning fishing activity, the cardholder must record the month, day, and location code on the first available line on the report card.

(c) When a steelhead is retained, the cardholder must immediately fill in a circle indicating whether the fish is a wild fish or a hatchery fish.

(d) When the cardholder moves to another location code, or finishes fishing for the day, the angler must immediately record on the card the number of wild and hatchery fish that were released from that location and the number of hours fished for steelhead to the nearest hour.

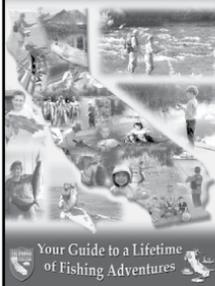
(e) In the event an angler fills in all lines and returns a Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card, an additional card may be purchased. See Section 1.74.

(f) The annual fee for the Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card is specified in Section 7380 of the Fish and Game Code.



**Maxillary or No Maxillary?  
Report the Presence or Absence of  
Maxillary on Coho Salmon  
when fishing the  
Klamath-Trinity River System  
see Section 5.87(c)**

## California Fishing Passport



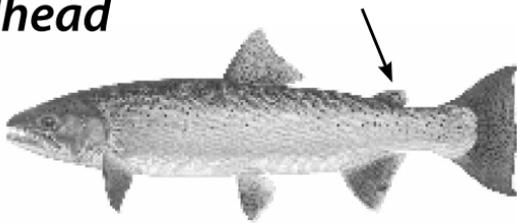
## CALIFORNIA FISHING PASSPORT

To encourage people to more fully experience all of the fishing opportunities that the Golden State has to offer, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife designed the California Fishing Passport program. Fish your way around the state in search of 150 different fish and shellfish species! For more information, please visit

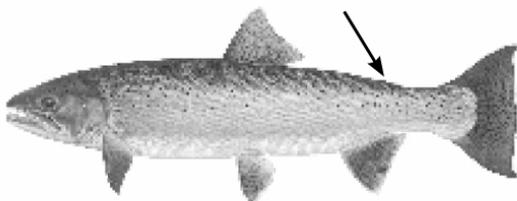
[www.dfg.ca.gov/fishingpassport](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fishingpassport)

## How to Distinguish Wild Steelhead from Hatchery Steelhead

Wild steelhead possess an intact adipose fin.



Hatchery steelhead lack an adipose fin, and possess a scar where the fin was clipped.



adipose fin intact

clipped adipose fin,  
scar present



**Chinook Salmon**

**Report Chinook Salmon With Clipped Adipose Fins when fishing the Klamath-Trinity River System - see Section 5.87(c)**

# Outdoor CALIFORNIA

November - December 2012

Volume 73 No. 6 \$2.50

Calendar  
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tablet, or other web-enabled device!



# HARVEST REPORTING

*Now, it is easier than ever to report your harvest:*

- Report your harvest online, using the Online License Service at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Fishing](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Fishing); or
- Return your report card via mail to the address printed on the report card.

## *Important Information – Read before you report online*

- Accurate and complete data is required. If you report online, all entries on the report card must be entered in the electronic form, including sport fishing reports of activity where no catches were made.
- Submission of report card data online must be completed within 20 minutes to avoid a system time out.
- Sport fishing report cards may be reported online only after the last day of the report card's validity.
- If you report online, you do not need to mail in your report card. You will be issued a report confirmation number. After reporting, please retain your report card for 90 days for survey purposes and write your report confirmation number on it. Once a report card has been reported, it may no longer be used in the field.

## ONLINE HARVEST REPORTING IS AVAILABLE ON THESE DATES:

HARVEST REPORT TYPE	REPORTING DATES	LATE REPORTING*
<b>ABALONE</b> REPORT CARD	Dec 1, 2015 - Jan 31, 2016	mail only
<b>FULL SEASON SPINY LOBSTER</b> REPORT CARD	Mar 17 - Apr 30, 2016	mail only
<b>NORTH COAST SALMON</b> REPORT CARD	Jan 1 - Jan 31, 2016	Feb 1 - Apr 1, 2016
<b>STEELHEAD</b> REPORT CARD	Jan 1 - Jan 31, 2016	Feb 1 - Jun 1, 2016
<b>STURGEON FISHING</b> REPORT CARD	Jan 1 - Jan 31, 2016	Feb 1 - Apr 30, 2016

\* Late reporting occurs after the regulatory deadline.

If you have not reported your harvest by the dates listed above, please mail your harvest report card to the address listed on the report card immediately.

## NON-RETURN FEE

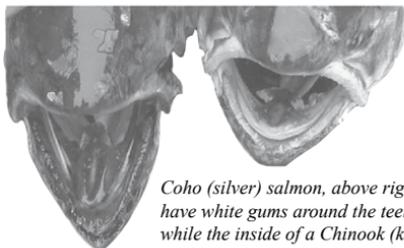
Remember, a \$20 non-return fee will be charged when purchasing a spiny lobster report card if the previous year's report card is not returned or reported online by the April 30 deadline! To avoid the fee, you may either return your card by the deadline or skip one fishing season to be able to purchase a spiny lobster report card the following season at no extra cost.

*Thanks very much in advance for your cooperation and input!*

## SPORT FISHING SPECIAL ALERT FOR CALIFORNIA OCEAN SALMON FISHERIES

The California coastal coho (silver) salmon has been designated as an endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). It is unlawful to fish for, capture, keep, or possess under any circumstances a California coastal coho salmon. Violation of the ESA may result in civil or criminal penalties.

Large numbers of coho salmon have been caught in California's ocean waters. Although it is likely that most of these salmon originated from hatcheries in the Columbia River basin, some of the fish are California coastal coho salmon which are protected under the ESA. Thus, the retention of any coho salmon is **PROHIBITED** in all California ocean fisheries. Please take the time to correctly identify each salmon caught before removing it from the water.



*Coho (silver) salmon, above right, have white gums around the teeth, while the inside of a Chinook (king) salmon's mouth is all dark.*

*photo by CDFW Warden Bob Aldrich*

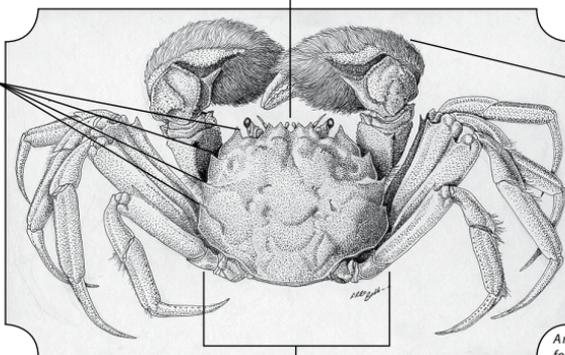
### TO AVOID CONTACT WITH COHO SALMON:

- Fish near shore for Chinook— coho are usually more offshore.
- Use larger lures that select for large Chinook and reduce the coho catch.

## Have You Seen Me?

**Notch between eyes**

**Four spines on each side of carapace**



**Hairy "mitten" claws**

*Artwork by Randall D. Babb for the USFWS*

**Maximum carapace width of 3 inches**

Chinese mitten crabs are nonnative, invasive species that pose a serious threat to California's economy and aquatic ecosystems. They clog fish screens and impede water delivery, burrow into levees weakening infrastructure and increasing erosion, prey on, compete with, and transfer diseases to native species, and damage rice crops through excessive foraging. Chinese mitten crabs invaded the San Francisco Bay in 1992 and by 1996 had spread to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. They experienced a population boom in 1997, and by 1998 could be found over 100 miles north and east of the Bay in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds. Chinese mitten crabs have mysteriously disappeared from the Delta and are now only rarely seen in San Francisco Bay. Have you seen any Chinese mitten crabs? Report sightings of Chinese mitten crabs to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Invasive Species Program by calling **866-440-9530** or sending an email to **Invasives@wildlife.ca.gov**. Additionally, if you catch a Chinese mitten crab, do not release it back into the water! Any Chinese mitten crabs that are caught should be killed immediately and preserved in alcohol or frozen for later identification by CDFW staff.

# HELP FISH LIKE THIS SURVIVE!



*Fish floating at the surface like this can survive.... with your help.*

CDFW photo by E. Jarvis

**When fish with swim bladders are brought up from depth, decreasing pressure may injure them (*known as pressure shock, or 'barotrauma'*). When released, these fish often float helplessly at the surface. Injured fish that cannot descend on their own are especially easy targets for sea gulls and sea lions. Helping fish to descend significantly increases their chances of survival.**

**You can transport fish down to the sea floor using one of the following:**

-  **A weighted, inverted barbless hook**
-  **A fish-descending device available at your local tackle shop**
-  **An inverted, weighted plastic crate with a rope attached to the bottom**

**For more information visit the CDFW Web site at**

**[www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral/barotrauma.asp](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral/barotrauma.asp)**

**Or Ask For An Informational Brochure at Your Local CDFW Office**

State of California  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Ocean Salmon Project - Marine Region

[www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/oceansalmon.asp](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/oceansalmon.asp)

## 2015 Ocean Salmon Sport Regulations



### OR/CA Border to Horse Mountain:

#### • May 1 – September 7

- Daily bag limit: 2 salmon of any species except coho
- Minimum size limit: 20 inches total length
- Klamath Control Zone<sup>1</sup> (KCZ) closed in August
- Closures around mouth of Klamath, Smith and Eel rivers (see California Code of Regulations Title 14, §27.75)

### Horse Mountain to Point Arena (Fort Bragg):

#### • April 4 – November 8

- Daily bag limit: 2 salmon of any species except coho
- Minimum size limit: 20 inches total length

### Point Arena to Pigeon Point (San Francisco):

#### • April 4 – October 31

- Daily bag limit: 2 salmon of any species except coho
- Minimum size limit: 24 inches total length through April 30, 20 inches total length thereafter

### Pigeon Point to Point Sur (Monterey North):

#### • April 4 – September 7

- Daily bag limit: 2 salmon of any species except coho
- Minimum size limit: 24 inches total length through May 31, 20 inches total length thereafter

### Point Sur to U.S.-Mexico Border (Monterey South):

#### • April 4 – July 19

- Daily bag limit: 2 salmon of any species except coho
- Minimum size limit: 24 inches total length through May 31, 20 inches total length thereafter

### General Sport Fishing Regulations

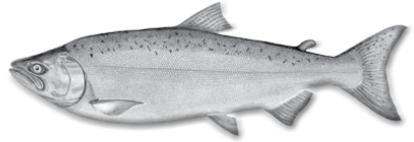
- **Possession limit:** No more than two daily bag limits may be possessed when on land. On a vessel in ocean waters, no person shall possess or bring ashore more than one daily bag limit.
- **Retention of coho salmon or steelhead trout is prohibited in any ocean fishery.**
- **Salmon may only be taken by angling as defined in Section 1.05.** No sinkers or weights exceeding 4 lbs may be used, except that a fishing line may be attached to a sinker or weight of any size if such sinker or weight is suspended by a separate line and the fishing line is released automatically by a mechanical device from the sinker or weight when any fish is hooked.
- **North of Point Conception:** No more than two single-point, single-shank barbless hooks shall be used & no more than one rod per angler when fishing for salmon or fishing from a boat with salmon on board.
- **Horse Mountain to Point Conception:** When fishing with bait and angling by any means other than trolling<sup>2</sup>, no more than two single-point, single-shank barbless circle hooks<sup>3</sup> shall be used. The distance between the two hooks must not exceed 5 inches when measured from the top of the eye of the top hook to the inner base of the curve of the lower hook and both hooks must be permanently tied in place (hard tied).

**Note:** These special gear restrictions apply to each angler fishing for salmon or fishing from any boat or floating device with salmon on board.

1. **Klamath Control Zone:** The ocean area at the Klamath River mouth bounded on the north by 41°38'48" N. lat. (approximately six nautical miles north of the Klamath River mouth); on the west, by 124°23'00" W. long. (approximately 12 nautical miles off shore); and on the south, by 41°26'48" N. lat. (approximately six nautical miles south of the Klamath River mouth).
2. **TROLLING** is defined as angling from a boat or floating device that is making way by means of a source of power, other than drifting by means of the prevailing water current or weather conditions.
3. A **CIRCLE HOOK** is defined as a hook with a generally circular shape and a point which turns inwards, pointing directly to the shank at a 90-degree angle.

# Changes to Ocean Fishing Regulations

*Shaded areas in this section denote changes in the ocean fishing regulations that have occurred since the publication of the 2015-2016 Ocean Sport Fishing regulations booklet.*



## 1.73. SALMON.

(a) Salmon includes Chinook, coho, pink, chum, and sockeye salmon.

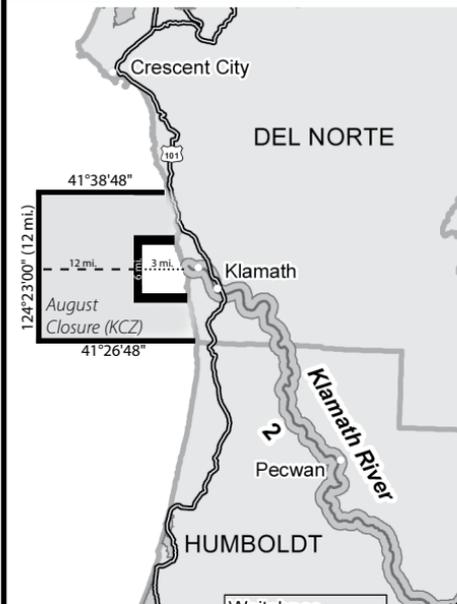
(b) Any person in possession of a recreationally taken salmon with a missing adipose fin (the small, fleshy fin on the back of the fish between the back fin and tail) shall immediately relinquish the head of the salmon, upon request by an authorized agent or employee of the department, to facilitate the recovery of any coded-wire tag. The head may be removed by the fish owner or, if removed by the official department representative, the head shall be removed in a manner to minimize loss of salmon flesh and the salmon shall immediately be returned to the fish owner.

## 27.75. SALMON CLOSURES.

(a) No salmon may be taken at any time in ocean waters at the Smith River mouth bounded on the north by  $41^{\circ}59'36''$  N. lat. (approximately 3 nautical miles north of the Smith River mouth), on the west by  $124^{\circ}16'24''$  W. long. (approximately 3 nautical miles offshore), and on the south by  $41^{\circ}53'30''$  N. lat. (approximately 3 nautical miles south of the Smith River mouth).

(b) No salmon may be taken at any time in ocean waters at the Klamath River mouth bounded on the north by  $41^{\circ}35'30''$  N. lat. (approximately 3 nautical miles north of the Klamath River mouth), on the west by  $124^{\circ}08'54''$  W. long. (approximately 3 nautical miles offshore), and on the south by  $41^{\circ}29'24''$  N. lat. (approximately 3 nautical miles

## Ocean Closures Around Klamath River Mouth



This map is for informational purposes only and should not be used for navigational or legal purposes.

No salmon may be taken in ocean waters at the mouth of the Klamath River within three nautical miles north and south of a line drawn due west for three nautical miles from the center of the mouth of the Klamath River. In August, the closure expands north, south and west into federal waters to form the "Klamath Control Zone", as defined below:

### — Klamath Control Zone (KCZ) —

In August, salmon may not be taken in the ocean area surrounding the Klamath River mouth, bounded on the north by  $41^{\circ}38'48''$  N. lat. (approximately 6 nautical miles north of the Klamath River mouth), on the south by  $41^{\circ}26'48''$  N. lat. (approximately 6 nautical miles south of the Klamath River mouth), and on the west by  $124^{\circ}23'00''$  W. long.

south of the Klamath River mouth). In August, the ocean salmon closure expands into the "Klamath Control Zone." The Klamath Control Zone is defined in federal regulations as the ocean area at the Klamath River mouth bounded on the north by 41°38'48"N. lat. (approximately 6 nautical miles north of the Klamath River mouth), on the west by 124°23'00"W. long. (approximately 12 nautical miles offshore), and on the south by 41°26'48"N. lat. (approximately 6 nautical miles south of the Klamath River mouth).

(c) No salmon may be taken during the months of August and September in ocean waters at the Eel River mouth bounded on the north by 40°40'24"N. lat. (approximately 2 nautical miles north of the Eel River mouth), on the west by 124°21'24"W. long. (approximately 2 nautical miles offshore), and on the south by 40°36'24"N. lat. (approximately 2 nautical miles south of the Eel River mouth).

## 27.80. SALMON.

(a) Methods of take:

(1) General Provisions. Only by angling as defined in Section 1.05. No sinkers or weights exceeding four pounds may be used, except that a fishing line may be attached to a sinker or weight of any size if such sinker or weight is suspended by a separate line and the fishing line is released automatically by a mechanical device from the sinker or weight when any fish is hooked. See sections 28.65 and 28.70.

(2) Barbless Hooks. No more than two (2) single point, single shank barbless hooks shall be used in the ocean north of Point Conception (34°27'00"N. lat.) when salmon fishing or fishing from any boat or floating device with salmon on board.

(3) Other Hook Restrictions. When fishing with bait in the ocean between Horse Mountain (40°05'00" N. lat.) and Point Conception, if angling by any means other than trolling, then no more than two (2) single point, single shank, barbless circle hooks shall be used. The distance between the two hooks must not exceed five inches when measured from the top of the eye of the top hook to the inner base of the curve of the lower hook, and both hooks must be permanently tied in place (hard tied). A circle hook is defined as a hook with a generally circular shape, and a point which turns inwards, pointing directly to the shank at a 90 degree angle. Trolling is defined as angling from a boat or floating device that is making way by means of a source of power, other than drifting by means of the prevailing water current or weather conditions. See Section 28.65(g).

(4) One Rod Restriction north of Point Conception. Salmon may be taken by angling

with no more than one rod in ocean waters north of Point Conception. See Section 28.65(e).

(b) Statewide Coho (silver) Salmon Restrictions: No coho (silver) salmon may be retained.

(c) Open Fishing Days, Daily Bag Limits, and Minimum Size in effect April 4 through April 30, 2015.

(1) North of Horse Mountain (40°05'00"N. lat.) and in Humboldt Bay.

(A) Closed to salmon fishing.

(2) Between Horse Mountain and Point Arena (38°57'30" N. lat.).

(A) Open to salmon fishing from April 4 to April 30, 2015. Fishing is authorized 7 days per week.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (e) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 20 inches total length.

(3) Between Point Arena and Pigeon Point (37°11'00" N. lat.).

(A) Open to salmon fishing from April 4 to April 30, 2015. Fishing is authorized 7 days per week.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (e) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 24 inches total length.

(4) Between Pigeon Point and Point Sur (36°18'00" N. lat.).

(A) Open to salmon fishing from April 4 to April 30, 2015. Fishing is authorized 7 days per week.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (e) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 24 inches total length.

(5) South of Point Sur.

(A) Open to salmon fishing from April 4 to April 30, 2015. Fishing is authorized 7 days per week.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (e) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 24 inches total length.

(d) Open Fishing Days, Daily Bag Limits, and Minimum Size in effect on or after May 1, 2015.

(1) North of Horse Mountain (40°05'00" N. lat.) and in Humboldt Bay.

(A) Open to salmon fishing May 1 to September 7, 2015. Fishing is authorized 7 days per week.

Exception: See Section 27.75 for specific fishery closure areas around the Smith, Klamath and Eel rivers.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (e) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 20 inches total length.

(2) Between Horse Mountain and Point Arena (38°57'30" N. lat.).

(A) Open to salmon fishing May 1 to November 8, 2015. Fishing is authorized 7 days per week.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (e) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 20 inches total length.

(3) Between Point Arena and Pigeon Point (37°11'00" N. lat.).

(A) Open to salmon fishing May 1 to October 31, 2015. Fishing is authorized 7 days per week.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (e) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 24 inches total length through April 30, 2015 and 20 inches total length thereafter.

(4) Between Pigeon Point and Point Sur (36°18'00" N. lat.).

(A) Open to salmon fishing May 1 to September 7, 2015. Fishing is authorized 7 days per week.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (e) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 24 inches total length through May 31, 2015 and 20 inches total length thereafter.

(5) South of Point Sur.

(A) Open to salmon fishing May 1 to July 19, 2015. Fishing is authorized 7 days per week.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (e) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 24 inches total length through May 31, 2015 and 20 inches total length thereafter.

(e) Ocean salmon possession limit: No more than two daily bag limits may be possessed when on land. On a vessel in ocean waters, no person shall possess or bring ashore more than one daily bag limit. See Section 1.17 and 27.60(c) of these regulations.

## Groundfish Fishing Regulations

*Shaded areas in this section denote substantive changes in the ocean sport fishing regulations. Changes to groundfish regulations were implemented in early 2015, after publication of the annual 2015-2016 Ocean Sport Fishing regulation booklet. The full regulatory text implementing the regulation changes is found in this section of the sport fishing supplement.*

### 1.91. FEDERAL GROUND FISH AND ROCKFISH, CABEZON AND GREENLING (RCG) COMPLEX.

(a) The species or species groups listed in subsections 1.91(a)(1) through 1.91(a)(12) constitute "federal groundfish" and are managed under the Federal Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan:

(1) "Nearshore Rockfish," which means the following species of rockfish: black rockfish (*Sebastes melanops*), black and yellow rockfish (*S. chrysomelas*), blue rockfish (*S. mystinus*), brown rockfish (*S. auriculatus*), calico rockfish (*S. dalli*), China rockfish (*S. nebulosus*), copper rockfish (*S. caurinus*), gopher rockfish (*S. carnatus*), grass rockfish (*S. rastrelliger*), kelp rockfish (*S. atrovirens*), olive rockfish (*S. serranoides*), quillback rockfish (*S. maliger*), treefish (*S. sericeus*)

(2) "California Scorpionfish" (*Scorpaena guttata*)

(3) "Shelf Rockfish" which means the following species of rockfish: bocaccio (*Sebastes paucispinis*), bronzespotted rockfish (*S. gilli*), canary rockfish (*S. pinniger*), chilipepper (*S. goodei*), cowcod (*S. levis*), dusky rockfish (*S. ciliatus*), flag rockfish (*S. rubrivinctus*), greenblotched rockfish (*S. rosenblatti*), greenspotted rockfish (*S. chlorostictus*), greenstriped rockfish (*S. elongatus*), harlequin rockfish (*S. variegatus*), honeycomb rockfish (*S. umbrusos*),

Mexican rockfish (*S. macdonaldi*), pink rockfish (*S. eos*), redstripe rockfish (*S. proriger*), rosethorn rockfish (*S. helvomaculatus*), rosy rockfish (*S. rosaceus*), shortbelly rockfish (*S. jordani*), silver-gray rockfish (*S. brevispinis*), speckled rockfish (*S. ovalis*), squarespot rockfish (*S. hopkinsi*), starry rockfish (*S. stellatus*), stripetail rockfish (*S. saxicola*), tiger rockfish (*S. nigrocinctus*), vermilion rockfish (*S. miniatus*), widow rockfish (*S. entomelas*), yelloweye rockfish (*S. ruberrimus*), yellowtail rockfish (*S. flavidus*)

(4) "Slope Rockfish" which means the following species of rockfish: aurora rockfish (*Sebastes aurora*), bank rockfish (*S. rufus*), blackgill rockfish (*S. melanostomus*), darkblotched rockfish (*S. crameri*), Pacific ocean perch (*S. alutus*), red-banded rockfish (*S. babcocki*), rougheye rockfish (*S. aleutianus*), sharpchin rockfish (*S. zacentrus*), shorttraker rockfish (*S. borealis*), splitnose rockfish (*S. diploproa*), yellowmouth rockfish (*S. reedi*)

(5) "Sharks", including only leopard shark (*Triakis semifasciata*), soupfin shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*), and spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*)

(6) "Skates", which means big skate (*Raja binoculata*), California skate (*R. inornata*), and longnose skate (*R. rhina*), Roughtail/black skate (*Bathyraja trachura*), Aleutian skate (*B. aleutica*), Bering/sandpaper skate (*R. interrupta*) and all other genera and species of skates in the families Arhynchobatidae and Rajidae that occur off California.

(7) "Roundfish", including only cabezon (*Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*), kelp greenling (*Hexagrammos decagrammus*), lingcod (*Ophiodon elongatus*), Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*), Pacific whiting (*Merluccius productus*), and sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*)

(8) "Thornyheads", which means longspine thornyhead (*Sebastolobus altivelis*), and shortspine thornyhead (*Sebastolobus alascanus*)

(9) "Federally Managed Flatfish", including only arrowtooth flounder (arrowtooth turbot) (*Atheresthes stomias*), Dover sole (*Microstomus pacificus*), English sole (*Parophrys vetulus*), petrale sole (*Eopsetta jordani*), and starry flounder (*Platichthys stellatus*)

(10) "Other Flatfish", including only butter sole (*Isopsetta isolepis*), curlfin sole (*Pleuronichthys decurrens*), flathead sole (*Hippoglossoides elassodon*), Pacific sanddab (*Citharichthys sordidus*), rex sole (*Glyptocephalus zachirus*), rock sole (*Lepidopsetta bilineata*), and sand sole (*Psetichthys melanostictus*)

(11) "Other fish", including only ratfish (*Hydrolagus colliei*), finescale codling (*Antimora microlepis*), Pacific grenadier (rattail) (*Coryphaenoides acrolepis*) and all other genera and species of grenadiers in the family Macrouridae that occur off California

(12) All genera and species of the family Scorpaenidae that occur off California and not specifically listed in (a)(1) through (a)(4) or (a)(8) above

(b) "RCG Complex" means all species of rockfish (*Sebastes*), cabezon (*Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*), and kelp and rock greenlings (genus *Hexagrammos*).

## **27.20. GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT AREAS, SEASONS, DEPTHS, EXCEPTIONS, AND FISHERY CLOSURE/RULE CHANGE PROCESS DESCRIBED.**

Regulations that follow in sections 27.25 through 27.50 define fishing seasons and depth constraints that are effective within each Groundfish Management Area. These sections apply to take and possession of federally-managed groundfish species as defined in Section 1.91 and California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*, which are state-managed species known to associate with federal groundfish.

(a) Depth Constraints: A depth constraint means that during the open season, the aforementioned species may only be taken or possessed in water depths shallower than the specified depth. Two specific definitions of "depth" apply off California. In waters shallower than 30 fathoms, "depth" is defined by general

depth contour lines. In waters equal to or deeper than 30 fathoms, "depth" is defined by approximating a particular depth contour by connecting the appropriate set of waypoints adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart C).

(b) General Provisions.

(1) Take and Possession: During any open season in any Groundfish Management Area, in waters deeper than where fishing is authorized or within special closure areas established within a Groundfish Management Area, it is unlawful to take or possess the aforementioned species except as provided in subsections (b)(1)(A) through (b)(1)(D) below and sections 27.25 through 27.50 of these regulations.

(A) Transit: The aforementioned species may be possessed aboard a vessel in transit through a closed area with no fishing gear deployed in the water.

(B) "Other Flatfish" as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(10) may be taken or possessed in all depths year-round.

(C) Shore Based Angling: When angling from shore (includes beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks, and other man-made structures connected to the shore), all species may be taken or possessed year-round (See 27.50(b)(1)) for exceptions in the Cowcod Conservation Areas). No vessel or watercraft (motorized or non-motorized) may be used to assist in taking or possessing these species while angling from shore under this provision.

(D) Diving or Spearfishing: When diving or spearfishing, as authorized in Section 28.90, all species may be taken or possessed year-round (See 27.50(b)(2)) for exceptions in the Cowcod Conservation Areas). When boat-based groundfish fishing is closed, all types of fishing gear, except spearfishing gear, are prohibited to be aboard the vessel or watercraft (motorized or non-motorized) while spearfishing for the purpose of taking or possessing these species under this provision.

(c) Closed Season: During any closed season in any Groundfish Management Area, it is unlawful to take or possess the aforementioned species regardless of depth, except as provided in subsections (b)(1)(A) through (b)(1)(D) above and sections 27.25 through 27.50 of these regulations.

(d) California Rockfish Conservation Area: Within any Groundfish Management Area, waters that are closed for these species during specified times and/or closed in specified depths shall be known as the California Rockfish Conservation Area. See Section 27.51.

(e) Fishery closure and/or rule change: When the department determines, based on the best available scientific information, that an annual harvest limit [optimum yield (OY), annual catch limit (ACL), annual catch target (ACT), recreational harvest guideline, or recreational harvest target] established in regulation by the NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service) for any species of federally-managed groundfish or aggregate group of federal groundfish species has been exceeded or is projected to be exceeded prior to the end of the year or that catches are less than predicted, the following rule changes may occur:

(1) The department may modify the seasons and/or depth constraints for any species of federally-managed groundfish or aggregate group of federal groundfish species, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. Season and/or depth modifications may differ by Groundfish Management Area, time of year, mode of fishing, or gear utilized.

(2) The department may adjust existing bag or sub-bag limits or establish additional bag or sub-bag limits as needed for any species of federally-managed groundfish or aggregate group of federal groundfish species, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. Bag limits may differ by Groundfish Management Area, time of year, mode of fishing, or gear utilized.

(3) The department may adjust existing size limits or establish additional size limits as needed for any species of federally-managed groundfish or aggregate group of federal groundfish species, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. Size limits may differ by Groundfish Management Area, time of year, mode of fishing, or gear utilized.

(f) Notice of closure and/or rule change: The department shall give the public and the NOAA Fisheries no less than 10 calendar days' notice of any fishery closure or rule change implemented pursuant to this Section via a department news release. Anglers and divers are advised to check the current rules before fishing. The latest fishing rules may be found on the department's website at: [www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/), or by calling (831) 649-2801 for recorded information, or by contacting a department office.

#### **27.25. NORTHERN GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT AREA.**

This Section applies to take and possession of federally-managed groundfish species as

defined in Section 1.91, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. For specific definitions, applicability, and procedures, see sections 1.91 and 27.20. For size limits, possession limits, and other regulations that apply to individual species, see specific sections beginning with Section 27.60.

(a) The Northern Groundfish Management Area means ocean waters between 42° 00' N. lat. (the Oregon/California border) and 40° 10' N. lat. (near Cape Mendocino, Humboldt County).

(b) Seasons and depth constraints (except as provided in subsection (c) below):

(1) January 1 through May 14: Closed.

(2) May 15 through October 31: Open for all species only in waters shallower than 20 fathoms in depth as described by general depth contour lines.

(3) November 1 through December 31: Closed.

(c) Special exceptions to subsection (b) above:

(1) Leopard shark may be taken or possessed in Humboldt Bay year-round only in waters shallower than 20 fathoms in depth as described by general depth contour lines.

#### **27.30. MENDOCINO GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT AREA.**

This Section applies to take and possession of federally-managed groundfish species as defined in Section 1.91, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. For specific definitions, applicability, and procedures, see sections 1.91 and 27.20. For size limits, possession limits, and other regulations that apply to individual species, see specific sections beginning with Section 27.60.

(a) The Mendocino Groundfish Management Area means ocean waters between 40° 10' N. lat. (near Cape Mendocino, Humboldt County) and 38° 57.50' N. lat. (at Point Arena, Mendocino County).

(b) Seasons, depth constraints, and special closure areas (except as provided in subsection (c) below):

(1) January 1 through May 14: Closed.

(2) May 15 through October 31: Open for all species only in waters shallower than 20 fathoms in depth as described by general depth contour lines.

(3) November 1 through December 31: Closed.

(c) California scorpionfish may be taken or possessed from May 15 through August 31 only in waters shallower than 20 fathoms in depth as described by general depth contour lines.

#### **27.35. SAN FRANCISCO GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT AREA.**

This Section applies to take and possession

of federally-managed groundfish species as defined in Section 1.91, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. For specific definitions, applicability, and procedures, see sections 1.91 and 27.20. For size limits, possession limits, and other regulations that apply to individual species, see specific sections beginning with Section 27.60.

(a) The San Francisco Groundfish Management Area means ocean waters between 38° 57.50' N. lat. (at Point Arena, Mendocino County) and 37° 11' N. lat. (at Pigeon Point, San Mateo County).

(b) Seasons, depth constraints, and special closure areas (except as provided in subsection (c) below):

(1) January 1 through April 14: Closed.

(2) April 15 through December 31: Open for all species only in waters shoreward of lines approximating the 30-fathom depth contour, defined by connecting the set of 30-fathom waypoints adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G).

(c) Special exceptions to subsection (b) above:

(1) Leopard shark may be taken or possessed in Drake's Bay, Bolinas Bay, Tomales Bay, Bodega Harbor, and San Francisco Bay year-round only in waters shoreward of lines approximating the 30-fathom depth contour, defined by connecting the set of 30-fathom waypoints adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G).

(2) California scorpionfish may be taken or possessed from April 15 through August 31 only in waters shoreward of lines approximating the 30-fathom depth contour, defined by connecting the set of 30-fathom waypoints adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G).

#### **27.40. CENTRAL GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT AREA.**

This Section applies to take and possession of federally-managed groundfish species as defined in Section 1.91, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. For specific definitions, applicability, and procedures, see sections 1.91 and 27.20. For size limits, possession limits, and other regulations that apply to individual species, see specific sections beginning with Section 27.60.

(a) The Central Groundfish Management Area means ocean waters between 37° 11' N. lat. (at Pigeon Point, San Mateo County) and 34° 27' N. lat (at Point Conception, Santa Barbara County).

(b) Seasons and depth constraints (except as provided in subsection (c) below):

(1) January 1 through March 31: Closed.

(2) April 1 through December 31: Open for all species only in waters shoreward of lines approximating the 40-fathom depth contour, defined by connecting the set of 40-fathom waypoints adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G).

(c) Special exceptions to subsection (b) above:

(1) Leopard shark may be taken or possessed in Elkhorn Slough year-round only in waters shoreward of lines approximating the 40-fathom depth contour, defined by connecting the set of 40-fathom waypoints adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G).

(2) California scorpionfish may be taken or possessed from April 1 through August 31 only in waters shoreward of lines approximating the 40-fathom depth contour, defined by connecting the set of 40-fathom waypoints adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G).

#### **27.45. SOUTHERN GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT AREA.**

This Section applies to take and possession of federally-managed groundfish species as defined in Section 1.91, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. For specific definitions, applicability, and procedures, see sections 1.91 and 27.20. For size limits, possession limits, and other regulations that apply to individual species, see specific sections beginning with Section 27.60.

(a) The Southern Groundfish Management Area means ocean waters between 34° 27' N. lat. (at Point Conception, Santa Barbara County) and the U.S./Mexico border. The Cowcod Conservation Areas are special closure areas within the Southern Groundfish Management Area.

(b) Seasons and depth constraints (except as provided in subsection (c) below):

(1) January 1 through the last day in February: Closed.

(2) March 1 through December 31: Open for all species only in waters shoreward of lines approximating the 60-fathom depth contour, defined by connecting the set of 60-fathom waypoints adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G).

(c) Special exceptions to subsection (b) above:

(1) Regulations that apply to the Cowcod Conservation Areas are specified in Section 27.50.

(2) Leopard shark may be taken or possessed

in Newport Bay, Alamitos Bay, Mission Bay, and San Diego Bay year-round only in waters shoreward of lines approximating the 60-fathom depth contour, defined by connecting the set of 60-fathom waypoints adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G).

(3) California scorpionfish may be taken or possessed January 1 through August 31 only in waters shoreward of lines approximating the 60-fathom depth contour, defined by connecting the set of 60-fathom waypoints adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G).

### 27.50. COWCOD CONSERVATION AREAS.

This Section applies to take and possession of federally-managed groundfish species as defined in Section 1.91, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. For specific definitions, applicability, and procedures, see sections 1.91 and 27.20. For size limits, possession limits, and other regulations that apply to individual species, see specific sections beginning with Section 27.60.

(a) The Cowcod Conservation Areas are defined as ocean waters off southern California within each of the following two areas:

Area 1 is an area south of Point Conception that is bound by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

33° 50' N. lat., 119° 30' W. long.;  
33° 50' N. lat., 118° 50' W. long.;  
32° 20' N. lat., 118° 50' W. long.;  
32° 20' N. lat., 119° 37' W. long.;  
33° 00' N. lat., 119° 37' W. long.;  
33° 00' N. lat., 119° 53' W. long.;  
33° 33' N. lat., 119° 53' W. long.;  
33° 33' N. lat., 119° 30' W. long.;  
and connecting back to 33° 50' N. lat., 119° 30' W. long.

Area 2 is a smaller area west of San Diego that is bound by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

32° 42' N. lat., 118° 02' W. long.;  
32° 42' N. lat., 117° 50' W. long.;  
32° 36' 42" N. lat., 117° 50' W. long.;  
32° 30' N. lat., 117° 53' 30" W. long.;  
32° 30' N. lat., 118° 02' W. long.;  
and connecting back to 32° 42' N. lat., 118° 02' W. long.

(b) Seasons and depth constraints (except as provided in subsection (c) below):

(1) January 1 through the last day in February: Closed.

(2) March 1 through December 31: Open for only the species or species groups listed in (A) through (G) below, and only in waters shallower than 20 fathoms in depth as described by general depth contour lines.

(A) Nearshore rockfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(1)

(B) Cabezon

(C) Greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*

(D) California sheephead

(E) Ocean whitefish

(F) Lingcod

(G) Shelf rockfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(3), except bronzespotted rockfish, canary rockfish, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish which may not be taken or possessed within the Cowcod Conservation Area.

(c) Special exceptions to subsection (b) above:

(1) California scorpionfish may be taken or possessed from January 1 through August 31 only in waters shallower than 20 fathoms in depth, as described by general depth contour lines.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection 27.20(b)(1)(C), when angling from shore (includes beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks, and other man-made structures connected to the shore), only the species identified in (b) (2) above and California scorpionfish may be taken or possessed year-round. No vessel or watercraft (motorized or non-motorized) may be used to assist in taking or possessing these species while angling from shore under this provision.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection 27.20(b)(1)(D), when diving or spearfishing, as authorized in Section 28.90, only the species identified in (b)(2) above and California scorpionfish may be taken or possessed year-round. Except for spearfishing gear, all other types of fishing gear are prohibited to be aboard the vessel or watercraft (motorized or non-motorized) while spearfishing for the purpose of taking or possessing these species under this provision.

### 27.51. CALIFORNIA ROCKFISH CONSERVATION AREA.

California Rockfish Conservation Area (CRCA) means the ocean waters that are closed to recreational groundfish fishing at specified times, or closed in specified depths or areas. CRCAs serve to minimize interaction with particular species of overfished groundfish that cannot be selectively avoided and thus must be protected from overharvest by closing times, depths or areas to recreational fishing for federal groundfish and associated species managed by California. See Section 27.20.

(a) In the CRCA, take and possession is

prohibited for federally-managed groundfish species as defined in Section 1.91, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*.

(b) This regulation does not apply in cases where these species are possessed aboard a vessel in transit with no fishing gear deployed in the water.

#### **27.65. FILLETING OF FISH ON VESSELS.**

(a) Definition of Fillet: For the purpose of this section a fillet is the flesh from one side of a fish extending from the head to the tail which has been removed from the body (head, tail and backbone) in a single continuous piece.

(b) Fish That May be Filleted: No person shall fillet on any boat or bring ashore as fillets any fish, except in accordance with the following requirements:

(1) Kelp bass, barred sand bass, and spotted sand bass: All fillets shall be a minimum of seven and one half inches in length. Each fillet shall bear intact a one-inch square patch of skin.

(2) Barracuda: Fillets must be a minimum of 17 inches in length. Each fillet shall bear intact a one-inch square patch of silver skin.

(3) Lingcod. Lingcod fillets must be a minimum of 14 inches in length. Each fillet shall bear intact a one-inch square patch of skin. The minimum size and minimum fillet size for lingcod may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

(4) White sea bass: Fillets must be a minimum of 19 inches in length. Each fillet shall bear intact a one-inch square patch of silver skin.

(5) Pacific bonito: No more than 10 fillets of any length may be possessed. All bonito fillets possessed shall be considered a part of the allowable undersized tolerance of five bonito per day less than 24 inches fork length or weighing less than five pounds as provided in Section 28.32 of these regulations. All fillets shall bear intact a one-inch square patch of skin.

(6) California halibut taken from or possessed aboard a vessel south of Point Arena (Mendocino County): Fillets must be a minimum of 16 and three-quarter inches in length and shall bear the entire skin intact. A fillet from a California halibut (flesh from one entire side of the fish with the entire skin intact) may not be cut in half fillets. However, a fillet may be cut lengthwise in a straight line along the midline of the fillet where the fillet was attached to the vertebra (backbone) of

the fish only if the two pieces of a fillet remain joined along their midline for a length of at least two inches at one end of the fillet.

(7) Yellowtail: Fillets must be a minimum of 17 inches in length, except not more than 10 fillets may be less than 17 inches. Each fillet shall bear intact a one-inch square patch of skin.

(8) Rockfish: Fillets must have the entire skin attached. The minimum size and minimum fillet size for rockfish may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

(9) California scorpionfish (commonly termed "sculpin"): Fillets must be a minimum of 5 inches. Each fillet shall bear intact a one-inch square patch of skin. The minimum size and minimum fillet size for California scorpionfish may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

(10) Ocean whitefish: Fillets must be a minimum of 6 and one half inches in length and shall bear the entire skin intact.

(11) All other species except those listed in subsection (c) of this section: Each fillet shall bear intact a one-inch square patch of skin. The fillets may be of any size.

(c) Fish That May Not be Filleted, Steaked or Chunked: No person shall fillet, steak or cut into chunks on any boat or bring ashore as fillets, steaks or chunks the following: any species with a size limit unless a fillet size is otherwise specified in these regulations. California halibut may be filleted or brought ashore as fillets south of Point Arena (Mendocino County).

#### **28.26. CALIFORNIA SHEEPHEAD.**

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints: See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and possession is authorized as follows:

(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25.

(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area:

Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.50.

(b) Limit: Five.

(c) Minimum size: 12 inches total length.

(d) Fishing rules for California sheephead may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e) or Section 52.10. See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

### **28.27. LINGCOD.**

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints: See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and possession is authorized as follows:

(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25.

(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.50.

(b) Limit: Three.

(c) Minimum size: 22 inches total length.

(d) Method of take: When angling, gear is restricted to not more than two hooks and one line. For purposes of this section, a hook is a single hook, or double or treble hook with multiple points connected to a common shank.

(e) Fishing rules for lingcod may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

### **28.28. CABEZON.**

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints: See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and possession is authorized as follows:

(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25.

(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area:

Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.50.

(b) Limit: Three fish, within a Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenling complex (RCG complex, as defined in Section 1.91) bag limit of 10 fish.

(c) Minimum size: 15 inches total length.

(d) Method of take: When angling, gear is restricted to not more than two hooks and one line. For purposes of this section, a hook is a single hook, or double or treble hook with multiple points connected to a common shank.

(e) Fishing rules for cabezon may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e) or Section 52.10. See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

### **28.29. KELP GREENLING. ROCK GREENLING.**

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints for greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* (including kelp and rock greenlings): See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and possession is authorized as follows:

(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25.

(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.50.

(b) Limit: For greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*, ten fish within a Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenling complex (RCG complex, as defined in Section 1.91) bag limit

of 10 fish.

(c) Minimum size: 12 inches total length.

(d) Method of take: When angling, gear is restricted to not more than two hooks and one line. For purposes of this section, a hook is a single hook, or double or treble hook with multiple points connected to a common shank.

(e) Fishing rules for greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e) or Section 52.10. See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

#### **28.48. PACIFIC SANDDAB, ROCK SOLE, SAND SOLE, BUTTER SOLE, CURLFIN SOLE, REX SOLE, AND FLATHEAD SOLE.**

Pacific sanddab, rock sole, sand sole, butter sole, curlfin sole, rex sole, and flathead sole are federal groundfish, also known in the aggregate as "other flatfish" pursuant to subsection 1.91(a)(10) and are subject to special regulations as follows. Regulations of this Section do not apply to other species of sanddabs, flounders, or sole.

(a) Open year-round.

(b) Limit: There is no limit on Pacific sanddab. The general bag limit of not more than 20 finfish in combination of all species with not more than 10 of any one species applies to rock sole, sand sole, butter sole, curlfin sole, rex sole, and flathead sole.

(c) Fishing rules for Pacific sanddab, rock sole, sand sole, butter sole, curlfin sole, rex sole, and flathead sole may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

#### **28.49. PETRALE SOLE, STARRY FLOUNDER, SOUPFIN SHARK, DOVER SOLE, ENGLISH SOLE, ARROWTOOTH FLOUNDER, SPINY DOGFISH, SKATES, RATFISH, GRENADIERS, FINESCALE CODLING, PACIFIC COD, PACIFIC WHITING, SABLEFISH AND THORNYHEADS.**

Petrale sole, starry flounder, soupfin shark, Dover sole, English sole, arrowtooth flounder, spiny dogfish, all skates, ratfish, all grenadiers, finescale codling, Pacific cod, Pacific whiting, sablefish, longspine thornyhead, and shortspine thornyhead are federal groundfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a), and are subject to special regulations as follows. Regulations of this Section do not apply to other species of flounders, sole, sharks, or codlings unless otherwise specified.

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints: See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and possession is authorized as follows:

(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25.

(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Closed.

(b) Limit:

(1) There is no limit on Petrale sole or starry flounder.

(2) The limit on soupfin shark is one fish.

(3) The general bag limit of not more than 20 finfish in combination of all species with not more than 10 of any one species applies to Dover sole, English sole, arrowtooth flounder, spiny dogfish, all skates, ratfish, all grenadiers, finescale codling, Pacific cod, Pacific whiting, sablefish, longspine thornyhead and shortspine thornyhead.

(c) Fishing rules for Petrale sole, starry flounder, soupfin shark, Dover sole, English sole, arrowtooth flounder, spiny dogfish, all skates, ratfish, all grenadiers, finescale codling, Pacific cod, Pacific whiting, sablefish, longspine thornyhead and shortspine thornyhead may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

#### **28.54. CALIFORNIA SCORPIONFISH (SCULPIN).**

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints: See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and possession is authorized as follows:

(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25.

(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area:

Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.50.

(b) Limit: Five.

(c) Minimum size: 10 inches total length.

(d) Fishing rules for California scorpionfish may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

### **28.55. ROCKFISH (SEBASTES).**

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints: See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and possession is authorized as follows:

(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25.

(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Open and closed dates and depths constraints as defined by Section 27.50. Only Nearshore Rockfish, and Shelf Rockfish, as defined in subsections 1.91(a)(1) and 1.91(a)(3), may be taken and possessed, except as provided below in subsection (b)(1).

(b) Limit: Ten, within the Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenling complex (RCG complex, as defined in Section 1.91) limit of 10 fish, in any combination of species, except as provided below.

(1) The limit on bronzespotted rockfish, canary rockfish, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish is zero. These species shall not be taken or possessed as part of the RCG limit.

(2) The limit on bocaccio rockfish is three fish, within the RCG limit.

(3) The limit on black rockfish is five fish, within the RCG limit.

(4) In the Cowcod Conservation Areas (see Section 27.50), the limit on slope rockfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(4), is zero. These species shall not be taken or possessed as part of the RCG limit in the Cowcod Conservation Areas.

(c) Size limit: None.

(d) Method of take: When angling, gear is restricted to not more than two hooks and one line. For purposes of this section, a hook is a single hook, or a double or treble hook with multiple points connected to a common shank.

(e) Fishing rules for rockfish may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

### **28.56. LEOPARD SHARK.**

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints: See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and possession is authorized as follows:

(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25, except that take and possession is authorized year-round in Humboldt Bay.

(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35, except that take and possession is authorized year-round in Drake's Bay, Bolinas Bay, Tomales Bay, Bodega Harbor, and San Francisco Bay.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40, except that take and possession is authorized year-round in Elkhorn Slough.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45, except that take and possession is authorized year-round in Newport Bay, Alamitos Bay, Mission Bay, and San Diego Bay.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Closed.

(b) Limit: Three.

(c) Minimum size: 36 inches total length.

(d) Fishing rules for leopard shark may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

### **28.58. OCEAN WHITEFISH.**

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints: See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and possession is authorized as follows:

(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25.

(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.50.

(b) Limit: The general bag limit of not more than 20 finfish in combination of all species with not more than 10 of any one species applies to ocean whitefish.

(c) Fishing rules for ocean whitefish may be changed during the year or in-season by the

department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

### **28.90. DIVING, SPEARFISHING.**

Persons who are floating or swimming in the water may use spearfishing gear and skin or SCUBA diving equipment to take fin fish other than giant (black) sea bass, garibaldi, gulf grouper, broomtail grouper, trout, salmon, or broadbill, except that:

(a) No person may possess or use a spear within 100 yards of the mouth of any stream in any ocean waters north of Ventura County.

(b) When spearfishing for or in possession of federal groundfish species or associated species as authorized pursuant to subsection 27.20(b)(1)(D), in an area or during a season closed to the take of these species, no fishing gear except spearfishing gear may be aboard the vessel or watercraft.

## *Pacific Halibut Fishing Regulations*

*Shaded areas in this section denote changes in the ocean sport fishing regulations. Changes to Pacific halibut regulations were implemented in early 2015, after publication of the annual 2015-2016 Ocean Sport Fishing regulation booklet. The full regulatory text implementing the regulation changes is found in this section of the sport fishing supplement.*

### **28.20. HALIBUT, PACIFIC.**

(a) Season:

(1) Pacific halibut may be taken only from May 1 through 15, June 1 through 15, July 1 through 15, August 1 through 15, and September 1 through October 31, or until the quota is reached, whichever is earlier. Pacific halibut take is regulated by a quota that is closely monitored each year in alignment with federal regulations.

(2) The 2015 Pacific halibut quota is 25,220 pounds. The department shall inform the commission, and the public via a press release, prior to any implementation of restrictions triggered by achieving or expecting to exceed the quota. Anglers and divers are advised to check the current rules before fishing. The latest fishing rules may be found on the department's website at: [wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean), or by calling the Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline (831) 649-2801 or the National Marine Fisheries Service Area 2A Halibut Hotline (800) 662-9825 for recorded information, or by contacting a department office.

(b) Limit: One.

(c) Minimum size: None.

(d) Methods of Take:

(1) When angling, no more than one line with two hooks attached may be used.

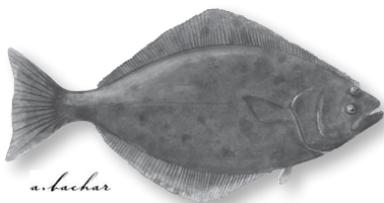
(2) A harpoon, gaff, or net may be used to assist in taking a Pacific halibut that has been legally caught by angling. See Section 28.95 of these regulations for additional restrictions on the use of harpoons.

(3) Take by spearfishing is allowed pursuant to Section 28.90 of these regulations.

### **28.95. SPEARS, HARPOONS, AND BOW AND ARROW FISHING TACKLE.**

Spears, harpoons and bow and arrow fishing tackle may be used for taking all varieties of skates, rays, and sharks, except white sharks. Harpoons may be used to assist in taking Pacific halibut as specified in Section 28.20. Such gear may not be possessed or used within 100 yards of the mouth of any stream in any ocean waters north of Ventura County, nor aboard any vessel on any day or on any trip when broadbill swordfish or marlin have been taken. Bow and arrow fishing tackle may be used to take fin fish other than giant (black) sea bass, garibaldi, gulf grouper, broomtail grouper, trout, salmon, broadbill and white shark.

## **NEW Pacific Halibut Recreational Fishery Quota**



During the open season, CDFW and the National Marine Fisheries Service will coordinate weekly to determine when the Pacific halibut quota is projected to be taken, and the appropriate fishery closure date. The fishery is subject to in-season closure at any time during the open season if the quota is projected to be reached, so please call or check one of the following information sources for the most up-to-date regulations before engaging in fishing for Pacific halibut:

**National Marine Fisheries Service  
Halibut Hotline:  
(800) 662-9825**

**CDFW Recreational Groundfish  
Fishing Regulations Hotline:  
(831) 649-2801**

**CDFW Pacific Halibut Web Page:  
[www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/  
pacifichalibut.asp](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pacifichalibut.asp)**



## **Bluefin Tuna And Other Tuna Informational Notice**



New federal regulations (expected to go into effect summer 2015) and conforming state regulations (effective summer 2015) will change the daily bag and possession limit for bluefin tuna, and the fillet-at-sea rules for sport-caught tuna south of Point Conception. Anglers are advised to check the information sources below for the most up-to-date regulations before engaging in fishing for tuna. Please also refer to the box on pg. 41 of the 2015-2016 Ocean Sport Fishing regulations booklet for more tuna management information.

**NOAA Fisheries West Coast Highly  
Migratory Species Web Page  
(for federal regulations):**

**[www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/  
fisheries/migratory\\_species/highly\\_  
migratory\\_species.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/migratory_species/highly_migratory_species.html)**

**CDFW Marine Region Tunas Web  
Page (for state regulations):  
[www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/cpshms/  
tunas.asp](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/cpshms/tunas.asp)**

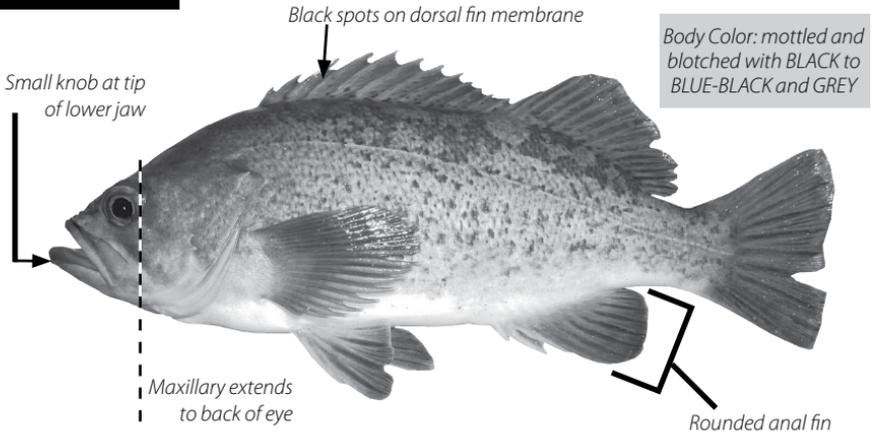


*Rockfish Identification*  
**Black Rockfish vs. Blue Rockfish**

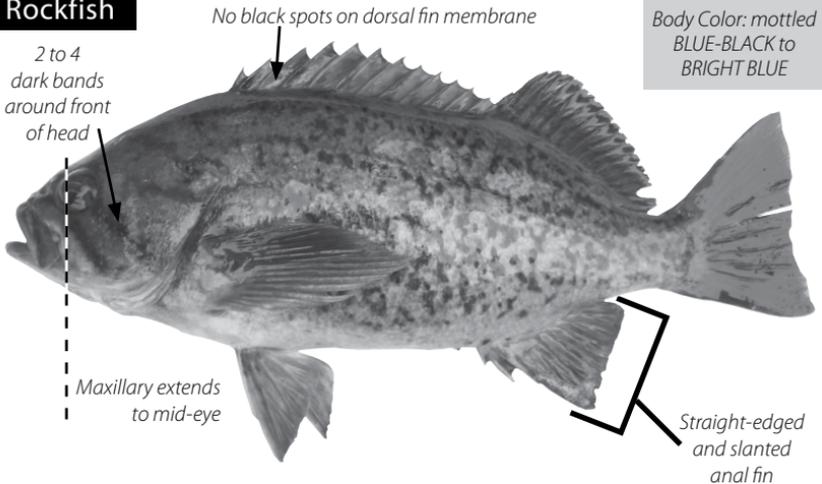
**Black rockfish and blue rockfish are often misidentified.**

**Use the features below to differentiate between the two species.**

**Black Rockfish**



**Blue Rockfish**



**For more information, please visit the CDFW website at [www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral) or call the Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline at (831) 649-2801**

Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations for 2015

# NORTHERN MANAGEMENT AREA

Ocean waters between 42°N. latitude (CA-OR border) and 40°10' N. Latitude (near Cape Mendocino)

Includes all of Del Norte County and most of Humboldt County

Note: Shaded text indicates regulations that have changed for 2015. Before engaging in ocean sport fishing for groundfish and associated species, please review one of the sources listed in Footnote 1 to receive the most up-to-date regulations.

Species	Time Period <sup>1,2,3</sup>	Depth Limit <sup>1,2,3</sup>	Daily Bag Limit <sup>1</sup>	Minimum Size Limit <sup>1,4,5</sup>
<b>RCG Complex<sup>1</sup></b> <i>includes all species of Rockfish, Cabezon and Greenlings</i> Sections 1.91, 28.55, 28.28 and 28.29	<b>Boat-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> Open: May 15-Oct 31 Closed: Jan 1-May 14, and Nov 1-Dec 31  <b>Divers, Shore-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> Open year-round	May only be taken or possessed in waters <i>shallower than</i> 120 ft. (20 fm) deep  <i>See Exception at End of Table</i>	10 fish in combination per person, except:  Cabezon: 3 fish per person Bocaccio: 3 fish per person Black rockfish: 5 per person	See individual species and groups below:  Cabezon: 15" total length Kelp and/or rock greenling: 12" total length

**THESE ROCKFISHES MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED IN CALIFORNIA:**

**Bronzespotted Rockfish, Canary Rockfish, Cowcod and Yelloweye Rockfish** (Section 28.55)

*FISHING IS CLOSED year-round, at all depths NO RETENTION at any time (zero fish per person) See color cover for help with identification*

<b>Lingcod</b> Section 28.56	Same as RCG Complex, above		3 fish per person	22" total length
<b>Leopard Shark<sup>6</sup></b> Section 28.56	<b>All Anglers:</b> Same as RCG Complex outside of Humboldt Bay Open year-round within Humboldt Bay  <b>Divers:</b> Open year-round	<b>All Anglers:</b> Same as RCG Complex outside of Humboldt Bay No depth limit within Humboldt Bay  <b>Divers:</b> Same as RCG Complex	3 fish per person	36" total length
<b>Pacific Sanddabs and "Other Flatfish"<sup>3"</sup></b> Section 28.56	Open year-round	No depth limit <sup>3</sup>	Pacific sanddab: no bag limit  All "Other Flatfish" <sup>3</sup> : 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish in combination per Section 27.60	No size limit

**Other Federal Groundfish**  
*Section 28.49*

Same as RCG Complex, above

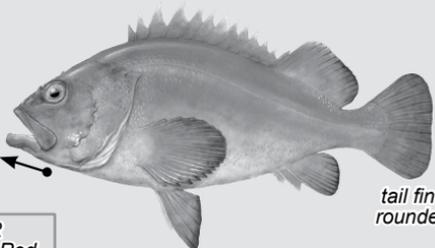
Petrale sole and starry flounder: no bag limit  
Soupfin shark: 1 fish per person  
All other federal groundfish: 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish in combination per Section 27.60

No size limit

1. Subject to in-season change. Call the **Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline at (831) 649-2801**, visit the Marine Region website at [www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral), send an e-mail to [AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov), or call your nearest CDFW office for the latest information.
  2. Divers and shore-based anglers are exempt from season and depth restrictions affecting the RCG Complex and other federally managed groundfish. However, when spear fishing during a boat-based closure, only spear fishing gear is allowed aboard any vessel or watercraft. Also, when angling from shore during a boat-based closure, no vessel or watercraft may be used to assist in taking or possessing species included in this table. The following definitions describe boat-based and shore-based anglers, and divers:
    - ▶ Boat-based anglers are fishermen angling from boats or vessels of any size or any other type of floating object, including kayaks and float tubes.
    - ▶ Shore-based anglers are fishermen angling from beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks and other man-made structures connected to the shore.
    - ▶ Divers are spear fishermen entering the water either from the shore or from a boat or other floating object.
  3. During the closed season, Pacific sanddab, butter sole, curfin sole, flathead sole, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole (defined as "Other Flatfish" in sub-section 1.91(a)(10)) may be taken.
  4. See regulations for information on gear restrictions (Sections 28.65, 28.70, 28.75, 28.90, 28.91, and 28.95) and fillet lengths (Section 27.65).
  5. Total length is the longest straight-line measurement from the tip of the head with the mouth closed to the end of the longest lobe of the tail.
  6. The sport fishery for leopard shark inside Humboldt Bay is exempt from season and depth restrictions that affect other federally managed groundfish (Section 28.56).
- EXCEPTION:** During the open season, groundfish may be possessed in closed areas and in water depths closed to fishing only aboard vessels in transit with no fishing gear in the water. See sub-section 27.20(b).

**YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH vs. VERMILION ROCKFISH**

**YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH MAY NOT BE RETAINED**



**BODY COLOR**  
Orange-red to Red  
(see full color cover)

**YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH**  
*take and possession restricted*

*Yelloweye rockfish less than 12 in. long usually have two horizontal white stripes along the sides, which fade with age*



**Juvenile yelloweye rockfish**

**KNOW YOUR ROCKFISH!**

**VERMILION ROCKFISH MAY BE RETAINED**



**BODY COLOR**  
Orange to Red  
(see full color cover)

**VERMILION ROCKFISH**  
*take and possession allowed*

Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations for 2015

# MENDOCINO MANAGEMENT AREA

Ocean waters between 40°10' N. Latitude (near Cape Mendocino) and 38°57.5'N. latitude (Point Arena)  
Includes a portion of Humboldt County and most of Mendocino County.

Note: Shaded text indicates regulations that have changed for 2015. Before engaging in ocean sport fishing for groundfish and associated species, please review one of the sources listed in Footnote 1 to receive the most up-to-date regulations.

Species	Time Period <sup>1,2,3</sup>	Depth Limit <sup>1,2,3</sup>	Daily Bag Limit <sup>1</sup>	Minimum Size Limit <sup>1,4,5</sup>
<b>RCG Complex<sup>1</sup></b> <i>includes all species of Rockfish, Cabezon and Greenlings</i> Sections 1.91, 28.55, 28.28 and 28.29	<b>Boat-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> Open: May 15-Oct 31 Closed: Jan 1-May 14, and Nov 1-Dec 31  <b>Divers, Shore-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> Open year-round	May only be taken or possessed in waters shallower than 120 ft. (20 fm) deep  <i>See Exception at End of Table</i>	10 fish in combination per person, except: Cabezon: 3 fish per person Bocaccio: 3 fish per person Black rockfish: 5 per person	See individual species and groups below: Cabezon: 15" total length Kelp and/or rock greenling: 12" total length

**THESE ROCKFISHES MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED IN CALIFORNIA:**  
**Bronzespotted Rockfish, Canary Rockfish, Cowcod and Yelloweye Rockfish** (Section 28.55)

*FISHING IS CLOSED year-round, at all depths NO RETENTION at any time (zero fish per person) See color cover for help with identification*

<b>Lingcod</b> Section 28.27	Same as RCG Complex, above		3 fish per person	22" total length
<b>Leopard Shark</b> Section 28.56	Same as RCG Complex, above		3 fish per person	36" total length
<b>California Scorpionfish</b> <i>(sculpin)</i> Section 28.54	<b>Boat-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> Open: May 15-Aug 31 Closed: Jan 1-May 14, and Sep 1-Dec 31  <b>Divers, Shore-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> OPEN year-round	Same as RCG Complex, above	5 fish per person	10" total length

<b>Pacific Sanddabs and "Other Flatfish"<sup>3</sup></b> <i>Section 28.48</i>	Open year-round	No depth limit <sup>3</sup>	Pacific sanddab: no bag limit All "Other Flatfish" <sup>3</sup> : 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish in combination, per Section 27.60	No size limit
<b>Other Federal Groundfish</b> <i>Section 28.49</i>	Same as RCG Complex, above		Petrale sole and starry flounder: no bag limit Soupfin shark: 1 fish per person All other federal groundfish: 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish in combination, per Section 27.60	No size limit

1. Subject to in-season change. Call the **Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline at (831) 649-2801**, visit the Marine Region website at [www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral), send an e-mail to [AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov), or call your nearest CDFW office for the latest information.

2. Divers and shore-based anglers are exempt from season and depth restrictions affecting the RCG Complex and other federally managed groundfish. However, when spear fishing during a boat-based closure, only spear fishing gear is allowed aboard any vessel or watercraft. Also, when angling from shore during a boat-based closure, no vessel or watercraft may be used to assist in taking or possessing species included in this table. The following definitions describe boat-based and shore-based anglers, and divers:

- ▶ Boat-based anglers are fishermen angling from boats or vessels of any size or any other type of floating object, including kayaks and float tubes.
- ▶ Shore-based anglers are fishermen angling from beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks and other man-made structures connected to the shore.
- ▶ Divers are spear fishermen entering the water either from the shore or from a boat or other floating object.

3. During the closed season, Pacific sanddab, butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole (defined as "Other Flatfish" in sub-section 1.91(a)(10)) may be taken.

4. See regulations for information on gear restrictions (Sections 28.65, 28.70, 28.75, 28.90, 28.91, and 28.95) and fillet lengths (Section 27.65).

5. Total length is the longest straight-line measurement from the tip of the head with the mouth closed to the end of the longest lobe of the tail.

**EXCEPTION:** During the open season, groundfish may be possessed in closed areas and in water depths closed to fishing only aboard vessels in transit with no fishing gear in the water. See sub-section 27.20(b).

Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations for 2015  
**SAN FRANCISCO MANAGEMENT AREA**

Ocean waters between 38°57.5'N. latitude (Point Arena) and 37°11' N. latitude (Pigeon Point)

Includes a portion of Mendocino County, all of Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, Alameda and Contra Costa counties, and most of San Mateo County.

Note: Shaded text indicates regulations that have changed for 2015. Before engaging in ocean sport fishing for groundfish and associated species, please review one of the sources listed in Footnote 1 to receive the most up-to-date regulations.

Species	Time Period <sup>1,2,3</sup>	Depth Limit <sup>1,2,3</sup>	Daily Bag Limit <sup>1</sup>	Minimum Size Limit <sup>1,4,5</sup>
<b>RCG Complex<sup>1</sup></b> <i>includes all species of Rockfish, Cabezon and Greenlings</i> Sections 1.91, 28.55, 28.28 and 28.29	<b>Boat-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> Open: Apr 15-Dec 31 Closed: Jan 1-Apr 14  <b>Divers, Shore-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> Open year-round	May only be taken or possessed in waters shoreward of the 180 ft. (30 fm) depth contour, defined in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G)  <i>See Exception at End of Table</i>	10 fish in combination per person, except:  Cabezon: 3 fish per person Bocaccio: 3 fish per person Black rockfish: 5 per person	See individual species and groups below:  Cabezon: 15" total length  Kelp and/or rock greenling: 12" total length
<b>THESE ROCKFISHES MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED IN CALIFORNIA:</b>  <b>Bronzespotted Rockfish, Canary Rockfish, Cowcod and Yelloweye Rockfish (Section 28.55)</b>  <i>FISHING IS CLOSED year-round, at all depths NO RETENTION at any time (zero fish per person) See color cover for help with identification</i>				
<b>Lingcod</b> Section 28.27	Same as RCG Complex, above		3 fish per person	22" total length
<b>Leopard Shark</b> Section 28.56	<b>All Anglers:</b> <b>Same as RCG Complex</b> outside of San Francisco Bay, Bodega Harbor, Tomales Bay, Bolinas Bay and Drake's Estero Bay  <b>Open year-round</b> within those bays.  <b>Divers:</b> Open year-round	<b>All Anglers:</b> <b>Same as RCG Complex</b> outside of San Francisco Bay, Bodega Harbor, Tomales Bay, Bolinas Bay and Drake's Estero Bay  <b>No depth limit</b> within those bays.  <b>Divers:</b> No depth limit	3 fish per person	36" total length
<b>California Scorpionfish</b> <i>(sculpin)</i> Section 28.54	<b>Boat-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> Open: May 15-Aug 31 Closed: Jan 1-May 14, and Sep 1-Dec 31  <b>Divers, Shore-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> OPEN year-round	Same as RCG Complex, above	5 fish per person	10" total length

<b>Pacific Sanddabs and "Other Flatfish"</b> <sup>3M</sup> <i>Section 28.48</i>	Open year-round	No depth limit <sup>3</sup>	Pacific sanddab: no bag limit  All "Other Flatfish" <sup>3M</sup> : 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish in combination, per Section 27.60	No size limit
<b>Other Federal Groundfish</b> <i>Section 28.49</i>	Same as RCG Complex, above		Petrale sole and starry flounder: no bag limit  Soupfin shark: 1 fish per person  All other federal groundfish: 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish in combination, per Section 27.60	No size limit

1. Subject to in-season change. Call the **Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline at (831) 649-2801**, visit the Marine Region website at [www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral), send an e-mail to [AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov), or call your nearest CDFW office for the latest information.

2. Divers and shore-based anglers are exempt from season and depth restrictions affecting the RCG Complex and other federally managed groundfish. However, when spear fishing during a boat-based closure, only spear fishing gear is allowed aboard any vessel or watercraft. Also, when angling from shore during a boat-based closure, no vessel or watercraft may be used to assist in taking or possessing species included in this table. The following definitions describe boat-based and shore-based anglers, and divers:

- ▶ Boat-based anglers are fishermen angling from boats or vessels of any size or any other type of floating object, including kayaks and float tubes.
- ▶ Shore-based anglers are fishermen angling from beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks and other man-made structures connected to the shore.
- ▶ Divers are spear fishermen entering the water either from the shore or from a boat or other floating object.

3. During the closed season, Pacific sanddab, butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole (defined as "Other Flatfish" in sub-section 1.91(a)(10)) may be taken.

4. Waters of Cordell Bank less than 100 fathoms (600 ft.) in depth are closed at all times for all groundfish species except Pacific sanddab and "Other Flatfish". Divers and shore-based anglers are not exempt from these area closures. See sub-section 27.32(b)(3) for more information.

5. See regulations for information on gear restrictions (Sections 28.65, 28.70, 28.75, 28.90, 28.91, and 28.95) and fillet lengths (Section 27.65).

6. Total length is the longest straight-line measurement from the tip of the head with the mouth closed to the end of the longest lobe of the tail.

7. The sport fishery for leopard shark inside San Francisco Bay, Bodega Harbor, Tomales Bay, Bolinas Bay, and Drake's Estero Bay is exempt from season and depth restrictions that affect other federally managed groundfish (Section 28.56).

**EXCEPTION:** During the open season, groundfish may be possessed in closed areas and in water depths closed to fishing only aboard vessels in transit with no fishing gear in the water. See sub-section 27.20(b).

Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations for 2015

## CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA

Ocean waters between 37°11' N. Latitude (Pigeon Point) and 34°27' N. latitude (Point Conception)

Includes a portion of San Mateo County, all of Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties, and part of Santa Barbara County

Note: Shaded text indicates regulations that have changed for 2015. Before engaging in ocean sport fishing for groundfish and associated species, please review one of the sources listed in Footnote 1 to receive the most up-to-date regulations.

Species	Time Period <sup>1,2,3</sup>	Depth Limit <sup>1,2,3</sup>	Daily Bag Limit <sup>1</sup>	Minimum Size Limit <sup>1,4,5</sup>
<b>RCG Complex<sup>1</sup></b> <i>includes all species of Rockfish, Cabezon and Greenlings</i> Sections 1.91, 28.55, 28.28 and 28.29	<b>Boat-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> Open: Apr 1-Dec 31 Closed: Jan 1-Apr 30  <b>Divers, Shore-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> Open year-round	May only be taken or possessed in waters shoreward of the 240 ft. (40 fm) depth contour, defined in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G)  <i>See Exception at End of Table</i>	10 fish in combination per person, except:  Cabezon: 3 fish per person  Bocaccio: 3 fish per person  Black rockfish: 5 per person	See individual species and groups below:  Cabezon: 15" total length  Kelp and/or rock greenling: 12" total length
<b>THESE ROCKFISHES MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED IN CALIFORNIA:</b>				
<b>Bronzespotted Rockfish, Canary Rockfish, Cowcod and Yelloweye Rockfish (Section 28.55)</b>				
<b>FISHING IS CLOSED year-round, at all depths NO RETENTION at any time (zero fish per person) See color cover for help with identification</b>				
<b>Lingcod</b> Section 28.27	Same as RCG Complex, above		3 fish per person	22" total length
<b>Ocean Whitefish</b> Section 28.58	Same as RCG Complex, above		10 fish per person	no size limit
<b>California Sheephead</b> Section 28.26	Same as RCG Complex, above		5 fish per person	12" total length
<b>California Scorpionfish</b> <i>(sculpin)</i> Section 28.54	<b>Boat-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> Open: Apr 1-Aug 31 Closed: Jan 1-Mar 31, and Sep 1-Dec 31  <b>Divers, Shore-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> OPEN year-round	Same as RCG Complex, above	5 fish per person	10" total length
<b>Leopard Shark</b> Section 28.56	<b>All Anglers:</b> Same as RCG Complex outside of Elkhorn Slough	<b>All Anglers:</b> Same as RCG Complex outside of Elkhorn Slough	3 fish per person	36" total length

	<p><b>Open year-round</b> within Elkhorn Slough</p> <p><b>Divers:</b> Open year-round</p>	<p><b>No depth limit</b> within Elkhorn Slough</p> <p><b>Divers:</b> Same as RCG Complex</p>		
<p><b>Pacific Sanddabs and "Other Flatfish"<sup>3"</sup></b> <i>Section 28.48</i></p>	Open year-round	No depth limit <sup>3</sup>	<p>Pacific sanddab: no bag limit</p> <p>All "Other Flatfish"<sup>3"</sup>: 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish in combination, per Section 27.60</p>	No size limit
<p><b>Other Federal Groundfish</b> <i>Section 28.49</i></p>	Same as RCG Complex, above		<p>Petrale sole and starry flounder: no bag limit</p> <p>Southern shark: 1 fish per person</p> <p>All other federal groundfish: 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish in combination, per Section 27.60</p>	No size limit

1. Subject to in-season change. Call the **Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline at (831) 649-2801**, visit the Marine Region website at [www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral), send an e-mail to [AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov), or call your nearest CDFW office for the latest information.
2. Divers and shore-based anglers are exempt from season and depth restrictions affecting the RCG Complex and other federally managed groundfish. However, when spear fishing during a boat-based closure, only spear fishing gear is allowed aboard any vessel or watercraft. Also, when angling from shore during a boat-based closure, no vessel or watercraft may be used to assist in taking or possessing species included in this table. The following definitions describe boat-based and shore-based anglers, and divers:
  - ▶ Boat-based anglers are fishermen angling from boats or vessels of any size or any other type of floating object, including kayaks and float tubes.
  - ▶ Shore-based anglers are fishermen angling from beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks and other man-made structures connected to the shore.
  - ▶ Divers are spear fishermen entering the water either from the shore or from a boat or other floating object.
3. During the closed season, Pacific sanddab, butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole (defined as "Other Flatfish" in sub-section 1.91(a)(10)) may be taken.
4. See regulations for information on gear restrictions (Sections 28.65, 28.70, 28.75, 28.90, 28.91, and 28.95) and fillet lengths (Section 27.65).
5. Total length is the longest straight-line measurement from the tip of the head with the mouth closed to the end of the longest lobe of the tail.
6. The sport fishery for leopard shark inside Elkhorn Slough is exempt from season and depth restrictions that affect other federally managed groundfish (Section 28.56).

**EXCEPTION:** During the open season, groundfish may be possessed in closed areas and in water depths closed to fishing only aboard vessels in transit with no fishing gear in the water. See sub-section 27.20(b).

Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations for 2015

## SOUTHERN MANAGEMENT AREA

Ocean waters between 34°27' N. latitude (Point Conception) and the U.S.-Mexico Border  
Includes a portion of Santa Barbara County, and all of Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties

Note: Shaded text indicates regulations that have changed for 2015. Before engaging in ocean sport fishing for groundfish and associated species, please review one of the sources listed in Footnote 1 to receive the most up-to-date regulations.

Species	Time Period <sup>1,2,3</sup>	Depth Limit <sup>1,2,3</sup>	Daily Bag Limit <sup>1</sup>	Minimum Size Limit <sup>1,4,5</sup>
<b>RCG Complex<sup>1</sup></b> <i>includes all species of Rockfish, Cabezon and Greenlings</i> Sections 1.91, 28.55, 28.28 and 28.29	<b>Boat-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> Open: Mar 1-Dec 31 Closed: Jan 1-Feb 28  <b>Divers, Shore-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> Open year-round	May only be taken or possessed in waters shoreward of the 360 ft. (60 fm) depth contour, defined in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G)  <i>See Exception at End of Table</i>	10 fish in combination per person, except:  Cabezon: 3 fish per person Bocaccio: 3 fish per person Black Rockfish: 5 per person	See individual species and groups below:  Cabezon: 15" total length  Kelp and/or rock greenling: 12" total length

**THESE ROCKFISHES MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED IN CALIFORNIA:**

**Bronzespotted Rockfish, Canary Rockfish, Cowcod and Yelloweye Rockfish (Section 28.55)**

**FISHING IS CLOSED year-round, at all depths NO RETENTION at any time (zero fish per person) See color cover for help with identification**

<b>Lingcod</b> Section 28.27	Same as RCG Complex, above		3 fish per person	22" total length
<b>Ocean Whitefish</b> Section 28.58	Same as RCG Complex, above		10 fish per person	no size limit
<b>California Sheephead</b> Section 28.26	Same as RCG Complex, above		5 fish per person	12" total length
<b>California Scorpionfish</b> ( <i>sculpin</i> ) Section 28.54	<b>Boat-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> Open: Jan 1-Aug 31 Closed: Sep 1-Dec 31  <b>Divers, Shore-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> OPEN year-round	Same as RCG Complex, above	5 fish per person	10" total length
<b>Leopard Shark</b> Section 28.56	<b>All Anglers:</b> Same as RCG Complex outside of Newport Bay, Alamitos Bay, San Diego Bay and Mission Bay	<b>All Anglers:</b> Same as RCG Complex outside of Newport Bay, Alamitos Bay, San Diego Bay and Mission Bay	3 fish per person	36" total length

	Open year-round within those bays  <b>Divers:</b> Open year-round	No depth limit within those bays <b>Divers:</b> No depth limit		
<b>Pacific Sanddabs and "Other Flatfish"<sup>3</sup></b> <i>Section 28.56</i>	Open year-round	No depth limit <sup>3</sup>	Pacific sanddab: no bag limit  All "Other Flatfish" <sup>3</sup> : 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish in combination, per Section 27.60	No size limit
<b>Other Federal Groundfish</b> <i>Section 28.49</i>	Same as RCG Complex, above		Petrale sole and starry flounder: no bag limit  Soupfin shark: 1 fish per person  All other federal groundfish: 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish in combination, per Section 27.60	No size limit

1. Subject to in-season change. Call the **Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline at (831) 649-2801**, visit the Marine Region Web site at [www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral), send an e-mail to [AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov), or call your nearest CDFW office for the latest information.

2. Divers and shore-based anglers are exempt from season and depth restrictions affecting the RCG Complex and other federally managed groundfish. However, when spear fishing during a boat-based closure, only spear fishing gear is allowed aboard any vessel or watercraft. Also, when angling from shore during a boat-based closure, no vessel or watercraft may be used to assist in taking or possessing species included in this table. The following definitions describe boat-based and shore-based anglers, and divers:

- ▶ Boat-based anglers are fishermen angling from boats or vessels of any size or any other type of floating object, including kayaks and float tubes.
- ▶ Shore-based anglers are fishermen angling from beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks and other man-made structures connected to the shore.
- ▶ Divers are spear fishermen entering the water either from the shore or from a boat or other floating object.

3. See the Cowcod Conservation Areas table on the following pages and Section 27.50 for further information on fishing regulations in these areas.
4. During the closed season, Pacific sanddab, butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole (defined as "Other Flatfish" in sub-section 1.91(a)(10)) may be taken.
5. See regulations for information on gear restrictions (Sections 28.65, 28.70, 28.75, 28.90, 28.91, and 28.95) and fillet lengths (Section 27.65).
6. Total length is the longest straight-line measurement from the tip of the head with the mouth closed to the end of the longest lobe of the tail.
7. The sport fishery for leopard shark inside Newport Bay, Alamitos Bay, Mission Bay, and San Diego Bay is exempt from season and depth restrictions that affect other federally managed groundfish (Section 28.56).

**EXCEPTION:** During the open season, groundfish may be possessed in closed areas and in water depths closed to fishing only aboard vessels in transit with no fishing gear in the water. See sub-section 27.20(b).

## Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations for 2015

**COWCOD CONSERVATION AREAS**

Located in ocean waters between 34°27' 'N. latitude (Point Conception) and the U.S.-Mexico Border. See Section 27.50 for coordinates. In these areas, within given depths, only the groundfish listed in this table may be taken or possessed (see Exception at end of table)

Note: Shaded text indicates regulations that have changed for 2015. Before engaging in ocean sport fishing for groundfish and associated species, please review one of the sources listed in Footnote 1 to receive the most up-to-date regulations.

Species	Time Period <sup>1,3,4</sup>	Depth Limit <sup>1,3,4</sup>	Daily Bag Limit <sup>1</sup>	Minimum Size Limit <sup>1,5,6</sup>
<b>Nearshore Rockfish<sup>1</sup></b> <b>and Shelf Rockfish<sup>2</sup> ONLY</b> <i>as defined in sections 1.91(a)(1) and 1.91(a)(3), and Cabezon and Greenlings as defined in sections 28.28 and 28.29</i>	<b>Boat-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> <b>Open:</b> Mar 1-Dec 31 <b>Closed:</b> Jan 1-Feb 28  <b>Divers, Shore-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> Open year-round	May only be taken or possessed in waters shallower than 120 ft. (20 fm) deep  <b>See Exception at End of Table</b>	10 fish in combination per person, except: Cabezon: 3 fish per person Bocaccio: 3 fish per person Black Rockfish: 5 per person	See individual species and groups below:  Cabezon: 15" total length Kelp and/or rock greenling: 12" total length
<b>Lingcod</b> <i>Section 28.27</i>	Same as Nearshore Rockfish, Shelf Rockfish, Cabezon and Greenlings, above		3 fish per person	22" total length
<b>Ocean Whitefish</b> <i>Section 28.58</i>	Same as Nearshore Rockfish, Shelf Rockfish, Cabezon and Greenlings, above		10 fish per person	no size limit
<b>California Sheephead</b> <i>Section 28.26</i>	Same as Nearshore Rockfish, Shelf Rockfish, Cabezon and Greenlings, above		5 fish per person	12" total length
<b>California Scorpionfish</b> <i>(sculpin) Section 28.54</i>	<b>Boat-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> <b>Open:</b> Jan 1-Aug 31 <b>Closed:</b> Sep 1-Dec 31  <b>Divers, Shore-based Anglers<sup>2</sup>:</b> OPEN year-round	Same as Nearshore Rockfish, Shelf Rockfish, Cabezon and Greenlings, above	5 fish per person	10" total length
<b>Pacific Sanddabs and "Other Flatfish"<sup>3"</sup></b> <i>Section 28.24</i>	Open year-round	No depth limit <sup>3</sup>	Pacific sanddab: no bag limit  All "Other Flatfish" <sup>3"</sup> : 20 in combination, no more than 10 of one species <b>per Section 27.60</b>	No size limit

THE GROUND FISH SPECIES LISTED BELOW MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED IN THE COWCOD CONSERVATION AREAS.  
FISHING IS CLOSED YEAR-ROUND NO RETENTION AT ANY TIME (ZERO FISH PER PERSON)

**Canary, Cowcod, Yelloweye,  
and Bronzespotted Rockfishes**  
Section 28.55

**Slope Rockfish as defined in sub-section  
1.91(a)(4)**

**Leopard Shark**  
Section 28.56

**Other Federal Groundfish**  
Section 28.49

1. "Nearshore rockfish" as described in sub-section 1.91(a)(1) means black rockfish, black-and-yellow rockfish, blue rockfish, brown rockfish, calico rockfish, China rockfish, copper rockfish, gopher rockfish, grass rockfish, kelp rockfish, olive rockfish, quillback rockfish, and treefish.

2. "Shelf Rockfish" as described in sub-section 1.91(a)(3) means bocaccio, chilipepper rockfish, dusky rockfish, flag rockfish, greenblotched rockfish, greenspotted rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, harlequin rockfish, honeycomb rockfish, Mexican rockfish, pink rockfish, redstripe rockfish, rosethorn rockfish, rosy rockfish, shortbelly rockfish, silvergray rockfish, speckled rockfish, squarespot rockfish, starry rockfish, stripetail rockfish, tiger rockfish, vermilion rockfish, widow rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish. Take and possession of bronzespotted rockfish, canary rockfish, cowcod rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish is prohibited.

3. Subject to in-season change. Call the **Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline at (831) 649-2801**, visit the **Marine Region website at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral)**, send an e-mail to **AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov**, or call your nearest CDFW office for the latest information.

4. Divers and shore-based anglers are exempt from season and depth restrictions affecting the RCG Complex and other federally managed groundfish. However, when spear fishing during a boat-based closure, only spear fishing gear is allowed aboard any vessel or watercraft. Also, when angling from shore during a boat-based closure, no vessel or watercraft may be used to assist in taking or possessing species included in this table. The following definitions describe boat-based and shore-based anglers, and divers:

- ▶ Boat-based anglers are fishermen angling from boats or vessels of any size or any other type of floating object, including kayaks and float tubes.
- ▶ Shore-based anglers are fishermen angling from beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks and other man-made structures connected to the shore.
- ▶ Divers are spear fishermen entering the water either from the shore or from a boat or other floating object.

5. In closed areas or during closed periods, Pacific sanddab, butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole (defined as "Other Flatfish" in sub-section 1.91(a)(10)) may be taken.

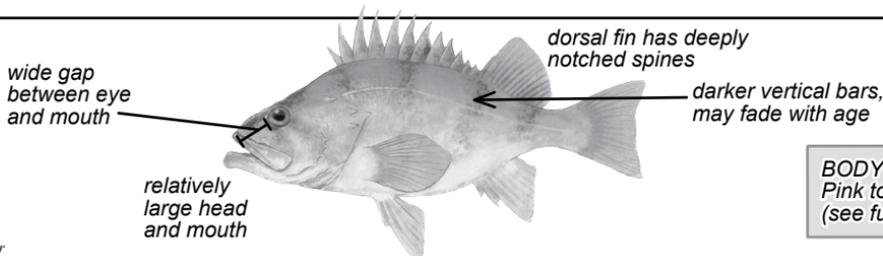
6. See regulations for information on gear restrictions (Sections 28.65, 28.70, 28.75, 28.90, 28.91, and 28.95) and fillet lengths (Section 27.65).

7. Total length is the longest straight-line measurement from the tip of the head with the mouth closed to the end of the longest lobe of the tail.

**EXCEPTION:** During the open season, groundfish may be possessed in closed areas and in water depths closed to fishing only aboard vessels in transit with no fishing gear in the water. See sub-section 27.20(b).

**COWCOD  
MAY NOT BE  
RETAINED  
IN  
CALIFORNIA**

*original full-color fish illustration by A. Bachar*



**BODY COLOR:**  
Pink to orange-red  
(see full color cover)

**Use these  
features to  
correctly  
identify  
cowcod**

# DON'T MOVE A MUSSEL — OR MUDSNAIL!



**QUAGGA & ZEBRA MUSSELS**



**NEW ZEALAND MUDSNAILS**

These non-native species reduce fishing opportunities by:

Reducing food for fish, resulting in fewer, smaller fish

Causing boating and fishing closures

Encrusting watercraft, motors, and launches

**If you find either of these species, call the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Quagga Mussel Hotline at (866) 440-9530 or email [invasives@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:invasives@wildlife.ca.gov)**

## CLEAN, DRAIN, & DRY

To prevent spreading Quagga and Zebra Mussels and New Zealand Mudsnaills, do the following after each outing:

Clean gear thoroughly before leaving every waterbody, even if you believe it is free of mussels and/or snails

Inspect watercraft surfaces and remove any plants and debris

Wash inside and outside of watercraft and trailer with a hot-water, high-pressure wash

Allow all areas of the watercraft to completely dry before launching again

Drain all water, including from live-wells, ballasts, lower unit, etc.

Dispose of all bait in the trash

Never move bait between waterbodies

For more information on invasive species visit [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives)

# Lost Fishing Gear in California

It takes decades  
to disintegrate...

...but only minutes  
to report.



Help us tackle California's lost fishing gear!  
Report sightings of lost recreational and commercial  
fishing gear or loss of fishing gear  
Anonymous reports accepted  
Call 1-888-491-GEAR or report online:  
[www.lostfishinggear.org](http://www.lostfishinggear.org)



# CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME

"Conservation of Wildlife Through Education"

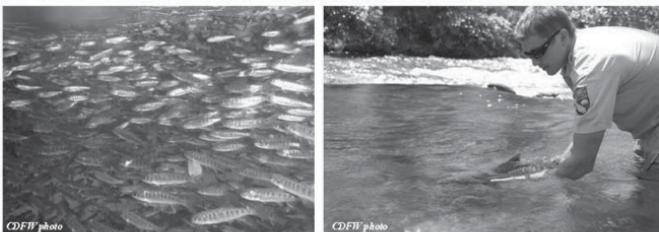
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Special Fisheries Issue

Celebrating 100 Years!



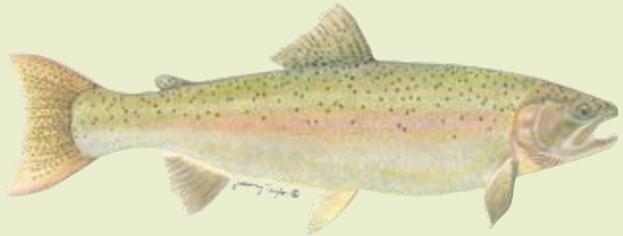
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**CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME, CALIFORNIA'S LONGEST-RUNNING, CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED PROFESSIONAL JOURNAL, BEGAN PUBLICATION IN 1914 AND VOLUME 100 HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED.**

Each of the special issues comprising Volume 100 is dedicated to a specific topic: Native Plants, Marine Biology, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. Hard copies of each of these collectable special issues can be ordered at the journal's website, [dfg.ca.gov/publications/journal/contents.html](http://dfg.ca.gov/publications/journal/contents.html) for a small fee per issue until Aug. 15, 2015. After that the hard copies may no longer be available. Electronic versions of each of the special issues can also be downloaded from the same web address at no charge. We invite interested parties to help celebrate 100 years of history by purchasing hard copies of these special issues.

# Anadromous Fish Identification

## Steelhead Rainbow Trout



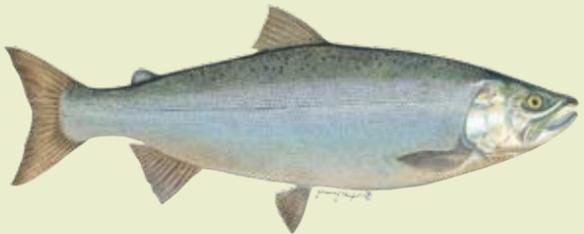
White gums and tongue

## Chinook Salmon



Base of teeth all black

## Coho Salmon



Narrow light gray band  
at base of bottom teeth

# Save Our WATER



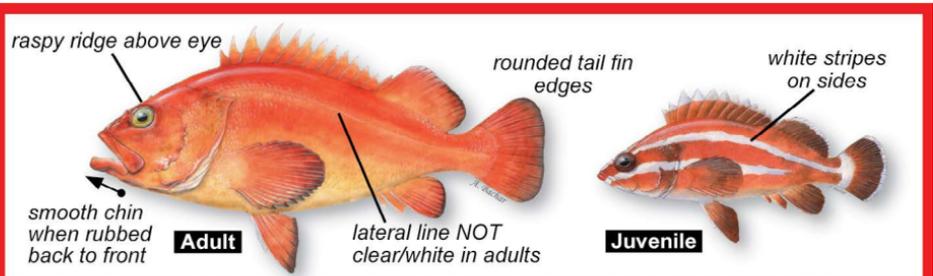
Now more than ever it's important to conserve our most precious resource. Remember, fish need water! Find out how you can help.

## DROUGHT 2015: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Following the lowest snowpack ever recorded and with no end to the drought in sight, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. has required mandatory 25 percent reductions in water usage in cities and towns across the state. As California's water availability is drastically limited, the Department of Fish and Wildlife is taking a number of actions to preserve and protect the state's fish and wildlife resources. Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at [www.saveourwater.com](http://www.saveourwater.com)

### LEARN TO CONSERVE WATER.

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**Retention of Yelloweye Rockfish is Prohibited in California**