



National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY Changes to commercial management measures

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces changes to commercial management measures for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California, **effective at 0001 hours (local time) April 17, 2007.**

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) recommended changes to management measures at their March 5-9, 2007, meeting in Sacramento, CA. Changes to management measures are being implemented in a Federal Register notice that will file on April 17, 2007 and publish on April 18, 2007, and are described in this public notice.

Commercial Fishery

For complete regulations governing the commercial groundfish fishery, please see Title 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G.

Limited Entry Non-Whiting Trawl Fishery

For more detailed regulations applying to the limited entry trawl fishery, see § 660.381 of the Pacific Coast groundfish regulations. The current schedule of the trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundaries is included at the end of this public notice. Adjustments to trip limits, effective May 1, will be included in a separate public notice.

Limited Entry Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area

Based on 2005 West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) data, indicating higher than expected canary rockfish bycatch rates used selective flatfish trawl gear north of 40°10.00' N. lat., NMFS believes that the canary rockfish OY could be exceeded in 2007. Therefore, NMFS has implemented the following Pacific Council recommendations for April changes to the trawl RCA boundaries:

- **From the U.S.-Canada Border to Cascade Head (45°03.83' N. lat.),** the seaward boundary of the trawl RCA is shifted shoreward to a line approximating the 150 fm depth contour from April 17 through August 31, 2007;
- **Between Cascade Head (45°03.83' N. lat.) and 40°10 N. lat.,** the seaward boundary of the trawl RCA is shifted shoreward to a line approximating the 200 fm depth contour from April 17 through April 30, 2007;

Visit the NMFS Northwest Region website for current groundfish management regulations, VMS information, and RCA boundary coordinates.

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/index.cfm>

Groundfish E-mail Group

Subscribe to "**wcgroundfish**" by visiting the following website: http://listserver.afsc.noaa.gov/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=wcgroundfish

- **Between the U.S. Canada Border and Cape Alava (48°10' N. lat.), and between Cape Arago (43°20.83' N. lat.) and Humbug Mountain (42°40.50' N. lat.),** the shoreward boundary of the trawl RCA is shifted to the shore beginning April 17, closing the area shoreward of the RCA for the remainder of 2007;
- **Between Leadbetter Point (46°38.17' N. lat.) and the Oregon/Washington border (46°16' N. lat.),** the shoreward boundary of the trawl RCA is shifted shoreward to a line approximating the 60-fm depth contour from April 17 through October 31, 2007;
- **For all other areas and times not included above,** the trawl RCA will have a shoreward boundary of a line approximating the 75-fm depth contour from April 17 through December 31, 2007.

Non-Tribal Limited Entry Trawl Whiting Fishery

Catch of widow rockfish in the non-tribal limited entry trawl whiting fishery is projected to exceed the current bycatch limit if the entire 2007 whiting allocation is reached. Higher than expected widow catch could achieve the bycatch limit and shut down the whiting season prior to fulfillment of the whiting allocation. Because widow total catch is not projected to attain the OY, the bycatch limit will be increased. Therefore, NMFS is implementing an increase in the widow rockfish bycatch limit to 220 mt for the non-tribal limited entry trawl whiting fishery.

**A schedule of RCA boundaries, effective April 17, 2007,
is included at the end of this public notice.**

For more information contact: NMFS Northwest Region at 206-526-6140 or visit our website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>, click on "Groundfish & Halibut"; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at 360-249-4628; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 541-867-4741; or the California Department of Fish and Game at 707-441-5797 (Eureka), 510-581-7358 (Belmont), 562-342-7184 (Los Alamitos), 858-546-7167 (La Jolla).

Any discrepancies between this public notice and the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

Schedule of Limited Entry Trawl RCA Boundaries, Effective April 17, 2007.

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	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC	
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) ^{1/}:							
North of 48°10.00' N. lat.	75 fm - modified 250 fm _{7/}	75 fm - 250 fm	shore - 150 fm		shore - 200 fm	shore - modified 200 fm _{7/}	
48°10.00' N. lat. - 46°38.17' N. lat.			75 fm - 150 fm		75 fm - 200 fm	75 fm - modified 200 fm _{7/}	
46°38.17' N. lat. - 46°16.00' N. lat.			60 fm -150 fm		60 fm -200 fm	75 fm - modified 200 fm _{7/}	
46°16.00' N. lat. - 45°03.83' N. lat.			75 fm - 150 fm		75 fm - 200 fm	75 fm - modified 200 fm _{7/}	
45°03.83' N. lat. - 43°20.83' N. lat.			75 fm - 200 fm				75 fm - modified 200 fm _{7/}
43°20.83' N. lat. - 42°40.50' N. lat.			shore - 200fm				shore - modified 200 fm _{7/}
42°40.50' N. lat. -40°10.00' N. lat.			75 fm - 200 fm				75 fm - modified 200 fm _{7/}

^{1/} The Rockfish Conservation Area is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours but specifically defined by lat/long coordinates set out at §§ 660.391-660.394.