



National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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NMFS-SEA-03-02
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CORRECTION **TO THE PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY** **MANAGEMENT MEASURES** **FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2003**

Effective January 27, 2003

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces corrections to the management measures for January and February 2003 in the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California, effective January 1 until February 28, 2003. Management measures for January - February, implemented via an emergency rule published in the Federal Register on January 7 (68 FR 908), contained errors in the trawl trip limit tables, errors in Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundary coordinates for both commercial and recreational fisheries, and errors in the recreational regulations for California. The correction to the emergency rule will be effective on January 27, 2003, and published in the Federal Register on January 30, 2003. Any discrepancies between this public notice and the Federal Register will be resolved in favor of the Federal Register.

Also on January 7, NMFS published a proposed rule to implement specifications and management measures for March - December 2003. The proposed rule will be open for public comment until February 7.

Commercial Fishery

Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) Boundary Coordinates

For corrected coordinates, refer to NMFS public notice NMFS-SEA-03-03 (January 27, 2003) available on the NMFS, Northwest Region website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1press/sfdpress.htm> or by calling either of the contact names above.

Coordinates for the following lines are corrected in NMFS public notice NMFS-SEA-03-02:

- the **50 fm depth contour** used between 40/10' N. lat. and 34/27' N. lat. as an eastern boundary for the trawl RCA in the months of January and February;
- the **60 fm depth contour** used between 40/10' N. lat. and 34/27' N. lat. as an eastern boundary for the trawl RCA in March through October;

- the **100 fm depth contour** used north of 40/10' N. lat. as an eastern boundary for the trawl RCA and as a western boundary for the non-trawl RCA;
- the **100 fm depth contour** used between 34/27' N. lat. and the U.S. border with Mexico as an eastern boundary for the trawl RCA;
- the **150 fm depth contour** used between 40/10' N. lat. and the U.S. border with Mexico as a western boundary for the trawl RCA and used between 38/N. lat. and the U.S. border with Mexico as a western boundary for the non-trawl RCA; and
- the **Winter Petrale Boundary** used north of 38/N. lat. as a western boundary for the trawl RCA and modified to allow fishing for petrale in winter months of January, February, November, and December.

Trip Limit Tables

The limited entry trawl trip limit table, Table 3 (North)- line 23, is corrected to clarify the yellowtail rockfish small footrope trawl trip limit north of 40°10' N. latitude (lat.). Coastwide, the whiting trip limits, Table 3 (North)- line 14 and Table 3 (South)- line 18, are corrected to only allow mid-water trawling for Pacific whiting inside the RCA during the primary season (beginning in May until the quota is taken). Revised trawl trip limit tables are included at the end of this public notice.

Recreational Fishery

Washington

The Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA), an “L-shaped” area off Washington closed to recreational fishing for groundfish and halibut, is corrected to read an “L-shaped” rather than a “C-shaped” area. The YRCA is proposed to become a “C-shaped” area from March - December 2003 (68 FR 936, January 7, 2003). The YRCA coordinates are also corrected by rearranging them to read consecutively in order from top to bottom.

For January-February, the YRCA is an “L-shaped” area off the northern Washington coast that is bound by straight lines connecting all of the following points in the order listed:

48°18' N. lat., 125°18' W. long.;;
 48°18' N. lat., 125°11' W. long.;;
 48°04' N. lat., 125°11' W. long.;;
 48°04' N. lat., 124°59' W. long.;;
 48°00' N. lat., 124°59' W. long.;;
 48°00' N. lat., 125°18' W. long.;;
 and connecting back to 48°18' N. lat., 125°18' W. long.

California

Regulatory language for the recreational groundfish fishery off California is corrected to prohibit the retention of bocaccio, canary rockfish, yelloweye rockfish and cowcod in the Rockfish, Cabezon, Greenling Complex (RCG Complex) bag limits south of 40°10' N. lat.

Table 3 (North). Trip Limits and Gear Requirements^{1/} for Limited Entry Trawl Gear North of 40°10' N. Latitude^{2/}
Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections A. and B. of NMFS Actions before using this table

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area^{10/} (RCA):	100 fm - 250 fm (line modified to incorporate petrale sole fishing grounds)	100 fm - 250 fm		75 fm - 250 fm	100 fm - 250 fm	100 fm - 250 fm (line modified to incorporate petrale sole fishing grounds)
Small footrope is required shoreward of the RCA; both large and small footropes are permitted seaward of the RCA. Only one type of trawl gear is allowed on board a vessel at any one time.						
1 Minor slope rockfish^{3/}	1,800 lb/ 2 months					
2 Pacific ocean perch	3,000 lb/ 2 months					
3 DTS complex						
4 Sablefish	6,000 lb/ 2 months	7,000 lb/ 2 months				6,000 lb/ 2 months
5 Longspine thornyhead	8,000 lb/ 2 months	9,000 lb/ 2 months				7,000 lb/ 2 months
6 Shortspine thornyhead	2,300 lb/ 2 months	2,400 lb/ 2 months				2,200 lb/ 2 months
7 Dover sole	26,000 lb/ 2 months		25,000 lb/ 2 months			26,000 lb/ 2 months
8 Flatfish						
9 All other flatfish^{4/}	100,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 30,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole				100,000 lb/ 2 months
10 Petrale sole	Not limited					Not limited
11 Rex sole	Included in all other flatfish					
12 Arrowtooth flounder	30,000 lb/ trip	60,000 lb/ 2 months; 7,500 lb/ trip				30,000 lb/ trip
13 Whiting^{5/}						
14 mid-water trawl	20,000 lb/ trip	Primary Season - (mid-water trawling permitted in the RCA)			10,000 lb/ trip	
15 Other Fish^{9/}	Not limited					
16 Use of small footrope bottom trawl^{7/} or mid-water trawl is required for landing all of the following species:						
17 Minor shelf rockfish and widow rockfish^{3/}	300 lb/ month	1,000 lb/ month, no more than 200 lb/ month of which may be yelloweye rockfish				300 lb/ month
18 Widow rockfish - mid-water trawl						
19 mid-water trawl - permitted within the RCA	CLOSED ^{6/}	During primary whiting season, in trips of at least 10,000 lb of whiting: combined widow and yellowtail limit of 500 lb/ trip, cumulative widow limit of 1,500 lb/ month			CLOSED ^{6/}	12,000 lb/ 2 months
20 Canary rockfish	100 lb/ month	300 lb/ month			100 lb/ month	
21 Yellowtail						
22 mid-water trawl - permitted within the RCA	CLOSED ^{6/}	During primary whiting season, in trips of at least 10,000 lb of whiting: combined widow and yellowtail limit of 500 lb/ trip, cumulative yellowtail limit of 2,000 lb/ month				18,000 lb/ 2 months
23 small footrope trawl^{7/}	In landings without flatfish, 1,000 lb/ month. As flatfish bycatch, per trip limit is the sum of 33% (by weight) of all flatfish except arrowtooth flounder, plus 10% (by weight) of arrowtooth flounder, not to exceed 3,000 lb/month. Total yellowtail landings not to exceed 3,000 lb/month, no more than 1,000 lb of which may be landed without flatfish.					
24 Minor nearshore rockfish	300 lb/ month					
25 Lingcod^{8/}	800 lb/ 2 months	1,000 lb/ 2 months			800 lb/ 2 months	

1/ Gear requirements and prohibitions are explained above. See A.(14).

2/ "North" means 40°10' N. lat. to the U.S.-Canada border. 40°10' N. lat. is about 20 nm south of Cape Mendocino, CA.

3/ Bocaccio and chilipepper are included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish and splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

4/ "Other" flatfish means all flatfish at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 3 with species specific management measures, including trip limits.

5/ The whiting "per trip" limit in the Eureka area shoreward of 100 fm is 10,000 lb/ trip throughout the year. Outside Eureka area, the 20,000 lb/ trip limit applies. See B.(3).

6/ Closed means that it is prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land the designated species in the time or area indicated. See A.(7).

7/ Small footrope trawl means a bottom trawl net with a footrope no larger than 8 inches (20 cm) in diameter.

8/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

9/ Other fish are defined at 50 CFR 660.302, as those groundfish species or species groups for which there is no trip limit, size limit, quota, or harvest guideline.

10/ 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 A.(19)(e), that may vary seasonally.

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

Table 3 (South). Trip Limits and Gear Requirements^{1/} for Limited Entry Trawl Gear South of 40°10' N. Latitude^{2/}
Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections A. and B. of NMFS Actions before using this table

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area^{10/} (RCA):						
40°10' - 38° N. lat.	50 fm - 250 fm		60 fm - 250 fm			
38° - 34°27' N. lat.	50 fm - 150 fm		60 fm - 150 fm			
South of 34°27' N. lat.	100 fm - 150 fm along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm around islands					
Small footrope is required shoreward of the RCA; both large and small footropes are permitted seaward of the RCA. Only one type of trawl gear is allowed on board a vessel at any one time.						
1 Minor slope rockfish^{3/}						
2 40°10' - 38° N. lat.	1,800 lb/ 2 months					
3 South of 38° N. lat.	30,000 lb/ 2 months					
4 Splitnose						
5 40°10' - 38° N. lat.	1,800 lb/ 2 months					
6 South of 38° N. lat.	30,000 lb/ 2 months					
7 DTS complex						
8 Sablefish	6,000 lb/ 2 months		7,000 lb/ 2 months			6000 lb/ 2 months
9 Longspine thornyhead	8,000 lb /2 months		9,000 lb/ 2 months			7000 lb/ 2 months
10 Shortspine thornyhead	2,300 lb/ 2 months		2,400 lb/ 2 months			2,200 lb/ 2 months
11 Dover sole	26,000 lb/ 2 months		25,000 lb/ 2 months			26,000 lb/ 2 months
12 Flatfish						
13 All other flatfish ^{4/}	70,000 lb/ 2 months		70,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 10,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole			70,000 lb/ 2 months
14 Petrale sole	No limit					No limit
15 Rex sole	Included in all other flatfish					
16 Arrowtooth flounder	No limit		1,000 lb/ 2 months			No limit
17 Whiting^{5/}						
18 mid water trawl	20,000 lb/ trip		Primary Season - (mid-water trawling permitted in the RCA)		10,000 lb/ trip	
19 Other Fish^{9/}	Not limited					
20 Use of small footrope bottom trawl^{7/} or mid-water trawl is required for landing all of the following species:						
21 Minor shelf rockfish, widow, and chilipepper rockfish^{3/}	300 lb/ month					
22 Widow rockfish						
23 mid water trawl - permitted within the RCA	CLOSED ^{6/}					12, 000 lb/ 2 months
24 Canary rockfish	100 lb/ month		300 lb/ month		100 lb/ month	
25 Bocaccio	CLOSED ^{6/}					
26 Cowcod	CLOSED ^{6/}					
27 Minor nearshore rockfish	300 lb/ month					
28 Lingcod ^{8/}	800 lb/ 2 months		1,000 lb/ 2 months		800 lb/ 2 months	

1/ Gear requirements and prohibitions are explained above. See A.(14).

2/ "South" means 40°10' N. lat. to the U.S.-Mexico border. 40°10' N. lat. is about 20 nm south of Cape Mendocino, CA.

3/ Yellowtail is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish and POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

4/ "Other" flatfish means all flatfish at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 3 with species specific management measures, including trip limits.

5/ The whiting "per trip" limit in the Eureka area shoreward of 100 fm is 10,000 lb/ trip throughout the year. Outside Eureka area, the 20,000 lb/ trip limit applies. See B.(3).

6/ Closed means that it is prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land the designated species in the time or area indicated. See A.(7).

7/ Small footrope trawl means a bottom trawl net with a footrope no larger than 8 inches (20 cm) in diameter.

8/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

9/ Other fish are defined at 50 CFR 660.302, as those groundfish species or species groups for which there is no trip limit, size limit, quota, or harvest guideline.

10/ 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 A.(19)(e), that may vary seasonally.

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

For more information contact: NMFS Northwest Region at 206-526-6140 or visit our website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>, click on "Pacific Coast Groundfish," NMFS Southwest Region at 562-980-4000; 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).

To receive Pacific Coast Groundfish public notices via e-mail, please e-mail your request to westcoastgroundfish@noaa.gov