



*National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region*  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

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### **PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY** **Changes to Commercial and Recreational Trip Limits** **and to Commercial Area Closures**

**Effective May 1, 2003**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces changes to commercial and recreational trip limits and area closures for groundfish taken in the Pacific Coast groundfish fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California, **effective 0001 hours (local time) May 1, 2003**. These changes were recommended by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) in consultation with Pacific Coast Treaty Tribes and the states of Washington, Oregon and California. These changes are intended to allow harvest opportunity for more abundant groundfish stocks and protect overfished or depleted groundfish stocks. Trip limit changes that are effective May 1, 2003, for the trawl "A" platoon, are effective May 16, 2002, for the "B" platoon. The closed areas for the trawl "B" platoon's cumulative limit period beginning May 16 through June 30, 2003, will be the same for the "B" platoon as for the "A" platoon. For the remainder of the "B" platoon cumulative limit period, from July 1 through July 15, 2003, the "B" platoon will be subject to the closed areas that were in place for the "A" platoon through June 30, 2003. Revised trip limit tables (Table 3 (North), Table 3 (South), Table 4 (South), Table 5 (North), and Table 5 (South)) are included in this public notice. Table 4 (North) has not changed and is not included in this notice.

#### **Limited Entry Trawl Gear**

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For limited entry trawl gear fisheries, inseason adjustments will be implemented as described below that affect the following species or species groups: DTS complex (Dover sole, thornyheads and sablefish), flatfish (including arrowtooth flounder and petrale sole), and yellowtail rockfish landed with flatfish. Inseason adjustments to the trawl rockfish conservation areas (RCAs), or closed areas, will also be implemented.

Based on new data from the observer program, the Pacific Council recommended that the trawl RCA boundaries be shifted for the remainder of the year to better protect overfished rockfish species, particularly canary rockfish in the north and bocaccio rockfish in the south. However, new boundary lines cannot be implemented until boundary coordinates have

Visit the NMFS Northwest Region website for current groundfish management regulations and information.

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1sustfsh/gdfsh01.htm>

been developed and reviewed by the states of Washington, Oregon and California and both federal and state enforcement agencies. NMFS estimates that these new boundary lines will be ready for implementation in mid to late May 2003.

**North of 40°10' N. lat.** (north), the trawl RCA is being extended from the shoreline to 250 fm (457 m) until new boundary lines can be implemented. [*Note: The future trawl RCA boundaries will be shifted to lines approximating 50 fm (91 m) for the shoreward boundary and 200 fm (366 m) for the offshore boundary for the remainder of the year, to be announced in a future public notice expected in mid to late May.*] While most of the trawl trip limits in the north will remain as previously scheduled, the trip limits for DTS complex and arrowtooth flounder are being increased to allow access to more abundant groundfish stocks in offshore areas where canary rockfish are not intercepted. However, to allow this increase, further restrictions were added to vessels fishing for DTS and/or flatfish with small footrope gear. These restrictions are intended to discourage fishers from fishing inshore of the trawl RCA (when that area is reopened with the new boundary lines in the near future) where there is an increased likelihood of intercepting canary rockfish.

The limited entry trawl gear trip limit changes north of 40°10' N. lat. are as follows:

- ' For May-December, the 2-month cumulative limits for the **DTS complex fishery** occurring north of 40°10' N. lat. will be increased or reduced as follows: Dover sole will be increased to 31,000 lb (14,061 kg) provided only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used during the entire period or reduced to 12,500 lb (5,670 kg) if small footrope gear is used at any time during the entire period; shortspine thornyhead will be increased to 2,800 lb (1,270 kg) provided only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used during the entire period or reduced to 0 lb (0 kg) if small footrope gear is used at any time during the entire period; longspine thornyhead will be increased to 14,000 lb (6,350 kg) provided only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used during the entire period or reduced to 0 lb (0 kg) if small footrope gear is used at any time during the entire period; and sablefish will be increased to 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) provided only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used during the entire period or reduced to 3,000 lb (1,361 kg) if small footrope gear is used at any time during the entire period.
- ' For May-October, the 2-month cumulative limits for the **flatfish fishery (including arrowtooth flounder and petrale sole)** occurring north of 40°10' N. lat. will either be increased or restricted as follows: Arrowtooth flounder will be increased to 200,000 lb (90,719 kg) provided only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used during the entire period or reduced to 5,000 lb (2,268 kg) if small footrope gear is used at any time during the entire period; the 'all other flatfish' category will remain at 100,000 lb (45,359 kg) provided only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used during the entire period or reduced to 20,000 lb (9,072 kg) if small footrope gear is used at any time during the entire period; and the petrale sole sublimit of the 'all other flatfish' category remains at 30,000 lb (13,608 kg) provided only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used during the entire period or is further restricted from 30,000 lb (13,608 kg) to 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) if small footrope gear is used at any time during the entire period.
- ' For May-October, the small footrope limits for **yellowtail rockfish landed with flatfish** north of 40°10' N. lat. will be increased from 3,000 lb (1,361 kg) per month to 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) per 2 months.

**South of 40°10' N. lat.** (south), the trawl RCA will remain as previously scheduled for the May through June cumulative limit period until such time that coordinates for a new boundary line are announced in a future Federal Register document. [*Note: The future trawl RCA boundary will be shifted to a line approximating 200 fm (366 m) for the offshore boundary for the remainder of the year, to be announced in a future public notice expected in mid to late May. Inshore trawl RCA boundaries will remain as previously scheduled.*] In addition, measures to slow the incidental catch of bocaccio rockfish inshore of the trawl RCA are being implemented by prohibiting trawling inshore of 200 fm (366 m) during July and August. While most of the trawl trip limits will remain as previously scheduled, the trip limits for DTS complex and petrale sole will be increased. The trip limit for the DTS complex will be increased to allow access to more abundant groundfish stocks in times and areas where bocaccio rockfish are less likely to be intercepted. The petrale sole sublimit within flatfish will be increased to allow some retention of petrale sole caught in flatfish trawls that is currently being discarded.

The limited entry trawl gear trip limit changes south of 40°10' N. lat. are as follows:

- ' For May-December, the 2-month cumulative limits for the **DTS complex fishery** occurring south of 40°10' N. lat. will be increased as follows: Dover sole will be increased to 31,000 lb (14,061 kg) for May-June and September-December and 35,000 lb (15,876 kg) for July-August; shortspine thornyhead will be increased to 2,800 lb (1,270 kg) for May-June and September-December and 3,100 lb (1,406 kg) for July-August; longspine thornyhead will be increased to 14,000 lb (6,350 kg) for May-June and September-December and 16,000 lb (7,257 kg) for July-August; and sablefish will be increased to 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) for May-June and September-December and 12,000 lb (5,443 kg) for July-August.
- ' For May-October, the 2-month cumulative sublimit for **petrale sole landed with the 'all other flatfish' category** south of 40°10' N. lat. will be increased to 20,000 lb (9,072 kg).

**For participants in the whiting fishery**, midwater trawl gear is only required for participation in the whiting primary season within the trawl RCA. In addition, language was added to the top of Table 3 (North) and Table 3 (South) stating that midwater trawl gear is permitted both shoreward and seaward of the trawl RCAs.

### **Limited Entry Fixed Gear**

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**Retention of Pacific halibut** caught incidentally to the limited entry longline primary sablefish fishery may be retained by appropriately licensed longline vessels. Beginning May 1 and continuing until the halibut quota (70,000 lbs) is taken, vessels authorized to participate in the primary sablefish fishery, licensed by the International Pacific Halibut Commission for commercial fishing in Area 2A (waters off Washington, Oregon, California), and fishing with longline gear north of Pt. Chehalis, WA (46°53'18" N. lat.) may land up to the following cumulative limits: 150 lb (68 kg) dressed weight of halibut per 1,000 lb (454 kg) dressed weight of sablefish, plus up to two additional halibut per fishing trip in excess of this ratio. "Dressed" halibut in this area means halibut landed eviscerated with their heads on. Halibut taken and retained in the primary sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis may only be landed north of Pt. Chehalis and may not be possessed or landed south of Pt. Chehalis.

**Voluntary closure for sablefish fishermen:** To further protect yelloweye rockfish, the "C-shaped" yelloweye rockfish conservation area (YRCA) in the North Coast subarea (Washington Marine Area 3) is designated as an area to be avoided (a voluntary closure) by commercial fixed gear (longline) sablefish fishermen and salmon trollers. Coordinates for this voluntary closure are included at right and are available at 50 CFR 660.304 (d). The "C-shaped" YRCA off Washington is a mandatory closed area for recreational groundfish and Pacific halibut fishing.

**Correction to Pt. Fermin/Newport South Jetty (Huntington Flats) Area:** For the limited entry fixed gear and open access fixed gear fleets, there is an area between Pt. Fermin and the Newport South Jetty scheduled to open during July through August. Federal regulations incorrectly displayed this as an area that applies to all Federal groundfish species in the limited entry fixed gear and open access tables (Tables 4 (South) and 5 (South)). Thus, beginning May 1 federal regulations have been corrected to read: Between a line drawn due south from Point Fermin (33°42' 30" N. lat.; 118°17' 30" W. long.) and a line drawn due west from the Newport South Jetty (33°35'37" N. lat.; 117°52'50" W. long.) vessels fishing for all federal groundfish species, except all rockfish and lingcod, with hook-and-line and/or trap (or pot) gear may operate from shore to a boundary line approximating 50 fm (91 m) in the months of July and August. Tables 4 (South) and 5 (South) correct the error by specifying which species are subject to the Pt. Fermin/Newport South Jetty opening.

## **Open Access**

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**Yellowtail rockfish retention for salmon trollers:** For the May-December period, the general open access limit for yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat. continues to be 200 lb per month for combined minor shelf, widow and yellowtail rockfish. Participants in the salmon troll fishery in this area have a specific yellowtail rockfish limit of up to 1 lb (0.45 kg) of yellowtail rockfish per 2 lb (0.91 kg) of salmon landed, with a cumulative limit of up to 200 lb (136 kg) per month. This trip limit applies to vessels fishing for salmon both within and outside the non-trawl gear rockfish conservation areas (non-trawl RCAs). This limit is within the 200 lb (136 kg) per month combined limit for minor shelf rockfish, widow rockfish and yellowtail rockfish, and not in addition to that limit. All groundfish species taken in the salmon troll fishery other than yellowtail rockfish are subject to the open access limits, seasons, and non-trawl RCA restrictions listed in Table 5 (North). Additionally, a new section has been added to the end of the open access table, Table 5 (North), listing the limits for the salmon troll fishery.

**Voluntary closure for salmon trollers:** To further protect yelloweye rockfish, the "C-shaped" yelloweye rockfish conservation area (YRCA) in the North Coast subarea (Washington Marine Area 3)

### **Coordinates for the YRCA, a voluntary closure for fixed gear sablefish fishermen and salmon trollers**

Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA) as described at 50 CFR 660.304 (d) is a C-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.; 124°59' W. long.;  
48°11' N. lat.; 124°59' W. long.;  
48°11' 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.

is designated as an area to be avoided (a voluntary closure) by commercial fixed gear (longline) sablefish fishermen and salmon trollers. Coordinates for this voluntary closure are included previously under the limited entry fixed gear section in this public notice and are available at 50 CFR 660.304 (d). The “C-shaped” YRCA off Washington is a mandatory closed area for recreational groundfish and Pacific halibut fishing.

**Clarification of who is subject to restrictions for the non-trawl gear RCA:** There has been some confusion among fishermen and managers about which open access participants are subject to the non-trawl RCA restrictions. The non-trawl RCA is closed to fishing for groundfish using non-trawl gear (limited entry or open access longline and pot or trap, open access hook-and-line, jig gear, pot or trap, gillnet, set net, trammel net, spear, or any other non-trawl gear). Fishing with non-trawl gear for groundfish or Pacific halibut is prohibited within the non-trawl gear RCA. Fishing for salmon with troll gear is allowed within the non-trawl RCA; however, no groundfish may be retained either within or outside the RCA on a trip when any fishing occurs within the RCA (except that yellowtail rockfish, subject to the limits for salmon trollers in Table 5 (North), may be retained both inside and outside the non-trawl RCA). If salmon trollers fish exclusively outside the RCA during the entire trip, then all groundfish may be retained, subject to the trip limits in the open access tables (Table 5 (North) and Table 5 (South)).

**Clarification on groundfish retention in the pink shrimp and prawn trawl fisheries:** Participants in the open access pink shrimp trawl and prawn trawl fisheries may retain groundfish caught both within and outside the trawl RCA, subject to the trip limits and restrictions in the open access tables (Table 5 (North) and Table 5 (South)).

**Correction to Pt. Fermin/Newport South Jetty (Huntington Flats) Area:** For the limited entry fixed gear and open access fixed gear fleets, there is an area between Pt. Fermin and the Newport South Jetty scheduled to open during July through August. Federal regulations incorrectly displayed this as an area that applies to all Federal groundfish species in the limited entry fixed gear and open access tables (Tables 4 (South) and 5 (South)). Thus, beginning May 1 federal regulations have been corrected to read: Between a line drawn due south from Point Fermin (33°42' 30" N. lat.; 118°17' 30" W. long.) and a line drawn due west from the Newport South Jetty (33°35'37" N. lat.; 117°52'50" W. long.) vessels fishing for all federal groundfish species, except all rockfish and lingcod, with hook-and-line and/or trap (or pot) gear may operate from shore to a boundary line approximating 50 fm (91 m) in the months of July and August. Tables 4 (South) and 5 (South) correct the error by specifying which species are subject to the Pt. Fermin/Newport South Jetty opening.

#### **Recreational Fishery- off California north of 40°10' N. latitude**

For California's recreational fishery north of 40°10' N. lat. to the California/Oregon border, the greenling bag limit bag limit is corrected to read: North of 40°10' N. lat., the bag limit is 10 rockfish per day, of which no more than 2 may be bocaccio, 1 may be canary rockfish, and no more than 1 per day up to a maximum of 2 per boat may be yelloweye rockfish. The following daily bag limits also apply: no more than 10 cabezon per day and no more than 10 kelp greenling and 10 rock greenling per day. Multi-day limits are authorized by a valid permit issued by California and must not exceed the daily limit multiplied by the number of days in the fishing trip.

**Table 3 (North). Trip Limits and Gear Requirements<sup>1/</sup> for Limited Entry Trawl Gear North of 40°10' N. Latitude<sup>2/</sup>**

**Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections IV. A. and B. NMFS Actions before using this table**

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
<b>Rockfish Conservation Area<sup>10/</sup> (RCA):</b> North of 40°10' N. lat.	100 fm - 250 fm (line modified to incorporate petrale sole fishing grounds)	100 fm - 250 fm	shoreline - 250 fm	50 fm - 200 fm		50 fm - 200 fm (line modified to incorporate petrale sole fishing grounds)
Small footrope or midwater trawl gear is required shoreward of the RCA; all trawl gear (large footrope, midwater trawl, and small footrope gear) is permitted seaward of the RCA.						
A vessel may have more than one type of limited entry bottom trawl gear on board, but the most restrictive trip limit associated with the gear on board applies for that trip and will count toward the cumulative trip limit for that gear. A vessel may not have limited entry bottom trawl gear on board if that vessel also has trawl gear on board that is permitted for use within a RCA, including limited entry midwater trawl gear, regardless of whether the vessel is intending to fish within a RCA on that fishing trip. <b>See IV.A.(14)(iv) for details.</b>						
<b>1 Minor slope rockfish<sup>3/</sup></b>	1,800 lb/ 2 months					
<b>2 Pacific ocean perch</b>	3,000 lb/ 2 months					
<b>3 DTS complex</b>						
<b>4 Sablefish</b>	6,000 lb/ 2 months		10,000 lb/ 2 months providing that only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used to land any groundfish species during the entire limit period. If small footrope gear is used at any time in any area (North or South, inshore or offshore of RCA) during the entire limit period, then 3,000 lb/2 mo.			
<b>5 Longspine thornyhead</b>	8,000 lb/ 2 months	9,000 lb/ 2 months	14,000 lb/ 2 months providing that only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used to land any groundfish species during the entire limit period. If small footrope gear is used at any time in any area (North or South, inshore or offshore of RCA) during the entire limit period, then retention of thornyheads prohibited.			
<b>6 Shortspine thornyhead</b>	2,300 lb/ 2 months	2,400 lb/ 2 months	2,800 lb/ 2 months providing that only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used to land any groundfish species during the entire limit period. If small footrope gear is used at any time in any area (North or South, inshore or offshore of RCA) during the entire limit period, then retention of thornyheads prohibited.			
<b>7 Dover sole</b>	26,000 lb/ 2 months		31,000 lb/ 2 months providing that only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used to land any groundfish species during the entire limit period. If small footrope gear is used at any time in any area (North or South, inshore or offshore of RCA) during the entire limit period, then 12,500 lb/2 mo.			
<b>8 Flatfish</b>						
<b>9 All other flatfish<sup>4/</sup></b>	100,000 lb/ 2 months	All other flatfish plus petrale & rex sole: 100,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 30,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole providing that only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used to land any groundfish species during the entire limit period. If small footrope gear is used at any time in any area (North or South, inshore or offshore of RCA) during the entire limit period, then 20,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 10,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.			100,000 lb/ 2 months	
<b>10 Petrale sole</b>	Not limited				Not limited	
<b>11 Rex sole</b>	Included in all other flatfish					
<b>12 Arrowtooth flounder</b>	30,000 lb/ trip	200,000 lb/ 2 months providing that only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used to land any groundfish species during the entire limit period. If small footrope gear is used at any time in any area (North or South, inshore or offshore of RCA) during the entire limit period, then 5,000 lb/2 mo.				
<b>13 Whiting<sup>5/</sup></b>	20,000 lb/ trip		Primary Season (only mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA)		10,000 lb/ trip	
<b>14 Other Fish<sup>9/</sup></b>	Not limited					
<b>15 Use of small footrope bottom trawl<sup>7/</sup> or mid-water trawl is required for landing all of the following species:</b>						
<b>16 Minor shelf rockfish and widow rockfish<sup>3/</sup></b>	300 lb/ month		1,000 lb/ month, no more than 200 lb/ month of which may be yelloweye rockfish		300 lb/ month	
<b>17 Widow rockfish</b>						
<b>18 mid-water trawl - permitted within the RCA</b>	CLOSED <sup>6/</sup>		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 <sup>6/</sup>	12,000 lb/ 2 months
<b>19 Canary rockfish</b>	100 lb/ month		300 lb/ month		100 lb/ month	
<b>20 Yellowtail</b>						
<b>21 mid-water trawl - permitted within the RCA</b>	CLOSED <sup>6/</sup>		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	
<b>22 small footrope trawl<sup>7/</sup></b>	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. Total yellowtail landings not to exceed 10,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,000 lb of which may be landed without flatfish.					
<b>23 Minor nearshore rockfish</b>	300 lb/ month					
<b>24 Lingcod<sup>8/</sup></b>	800 lb/ 2 months		1,000 lb/ 2 months		800 lb/ 2 months	

<sup>1/</sup> Gear requirements and prohibitions are explained above. See IV. A.(14).

<sup>2/</sup> "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.

<sup>3/</sup> 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.

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

<sup>5/</sup> 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 IV. B.(3).

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

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

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

<sup>9/</sup> 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.

<sup>10/</sup> 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 IV. 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<sup>1/</sup> for Limited Entry Trawl Gear South of 40°10' N. Latitude<sup>2/</sup>**  
**Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections IV. A. and B. NMFS Actions before using this table**

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
<b>Rockfish Conservation Area<sup>10/</sup> (RCA):</b>						
40°10' - 38° N. lat.	50 fm - 250 fm (line modified to incorporate petrale sole fishing grounds)	60 fm - 250 fm		shoreline - 200 fm	60 fm - 200 fm	60 fm - 200 fm (line modified to incorporate petrale sole fishing grounds)
38° - 34°27' N. lat.	50 fm - 150 fm	60 fm - 150 fm		shoreline - 200 fm	60 fm - 200 fm	60 fm - 200 fm (line modified to incorporate petrale sole fishing grounds)
South of 34°27' N. lat.	100 fm - 150 fm along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm around islands			shoreline - 200 fm	100 fm - 200 fm along the mainland coast; shoreline - 200 fm around islands	100 fm - 200 fm along the mainland coast; shoreline - 200 fm around islands (line modified to incorporate petrale sole fishing grounds)
Small footrope or midwater trawl gear is required shoreward of the RCA; all trawl gear (large footrope, midwater trawl, and small footrope gear) is permitted seaward of the RCA.						
A vessel may have more than one type of limited entry bottom trawl gear on board, but the most restrictive trip limit associated with the gear on board applies for that trip and will count toward the cumulative trip limit for that gear. A vessel may not have limited entry bottom trawl gear on board if that vessel also has trawl gear on board that is permitted for use within a RCA, including limited entry midwater trawl gear, regardless of whether the vessel is intending to fish within a RCA on that fishing trip. <b>See IV.A.(14)(iv) for details.</b>						
<b>1 Minor slope rockfish<sup>3/</sup></b>						
2	40°10' - 38° N. lat.		1,800 lb/ 2 months			
3	South of 38° N. lat.		30,000 lb/ 2 months			
<b>4 Splitnose</b>						
5	40°10' - 38° N. lat.		1,800 lb/ 2 months			
6	South of 38° N. lat.		30,000 lb/ 2 months			
<b>7 DTS complex</b>						
8	Sablefish		6,000 lb/ 2 months	10,000 lb/ 2 months	12,000 lb/ 2 months	10,000 lb/ 2 months
9	Longspine thornyhead		8,000 lb /2 months	9,000 lb/ 2 months	14,000 lb/ 2 months	16,000 lb/ 2 months
10	Shortspine thornyhead		2,300 lb/ 2 months	2,400 lb/ 2 months	2,800 lb/ 2 months	3,100 lb/ 2 months
11	Dover sole		26,000 lb/ 2 months		31,000 lb/ 2 months	35,000 lb/ 2 months
<b>12 Flatfish</b>						
13	All other flatfish <sup>4/</sup>		70,000 lb/ 2 months	All other flatfish plus petrale & rex sole: 70,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 20,000 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 <sup>5/</sup>		20,000 lb/ trip		Primary Season (only mid-water trawl permitted within the RCA)	10,000 lb/ trip
18	Other Fish <sup>6/</sup>		Not limited			
<b>19 Use of small footrope bottom trawl<sup>7/</sup> or mid-water trawl is required for landing all of the following species:</b>						
20	Minor shelf rockfish, widow, and chilipepper rockfish <sup>8/</sup>		300 lb/ month			
21	Widow rockfish					
22	mid-water trawl - permitted within the RCA		CLOSED <sup>6/</sup>			12,000 lb/ 2 months
23	Canary rockfish		100 lb/ month	300 lb/ month		100 lb/ month
24	Bocaccio		CLOSED <sup>6/</sup>			
25	Cowcod		CLOSED <sup>6/</sup>			
26	Minor nearshore rockfish		300 lb/ month			
27	Lingcod <sup>8/</sup>		800 lb/ 2 months	1,000 lb/ 2 months		800 lb/ 2 months

1/ Gear requirements and prohibitions are explained above. See IV. 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 IV. 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 IV. 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 IV. A.(19)(e), that may vary seasonally.

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

**Table 4 (South). Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 40°10' N. Latitude<sup>1/</sup>**

**Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections IV. A. and B. NMFS Actions before using this table**

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
<b>Rockfish Conservation Area<sup>7/</sup> (RCA):</b> South of 40°10' N. lat.	20 fm - 150 fm		20 fm - 150 fm (See footnote 9 for description of Pt. Fermin/Newport South Jetty open area)		20 fm - 150 fm	
<b>1 Minor slope rockfish<sup>4/</sup></b>						
2 40°10' - 38° N. lat.	1,800 lb/ 2 months	No more than 25% of weight of sablefish landed/ trip				1,800 lb/ 2 months
3 South of 38° N. lat.	30,000 lb/ 2 months					
<b>4 Splitnose</b>						
5 40°10' - 38° N. lat.	1,800 lb/ 2 months					
6 South of 38° N. lat.	20,000 lb/ 2 months					
<b>7 Sablefish</b>						
8 40°10' - 36° N. lat.	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 800 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months					
9 South of 36° N. lat.	350 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,050 lb					
<b>10 Longspine thornyhead</b>	9,000 lb/ 2 months					
<b>11 Shortspine thornyhead</b>	2,000 lb/ 2 months					
<b>12 Dover sole</b>	5,000 lb/ month When fishing for Pacific sanddabs, vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 11 mm (0.44 inches) point to shank, and up to 1 lb (0.45 kg) of weight per line are not subject to the RCAs.					
<b>13 Arrowtooth flounder</b>						
<b>14 Petrale sole</b>						
<b>15 Rex sole</b>						
<b>16 All other flatfish<sup>2/</sup></b>						
<b>17 Whiting<sup>3/</sup></b>	10,000 lb/ trip					
<b>18 Minor shelf rockfish, widow, and yellowtail rockfish<sup>4/</sup></b>	100 lb/ 2 month	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>	200 lb/ 2 months	250 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months	100 lb/ 2 months
<b>19 Canary rockfish</b>	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>					
<b>20 Yelloweye rockfish</b>	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>					
<b>21 Cowcod</b>	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>					
<b>22 Bocaccio</b>	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>					
<b>23 Minor nearshore rockfish</b>						
24 Shallow nearshore	200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>	400 lb/ 2 months	500 lb/ 2 months	400 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months
25 Deep nearshore	200 lb/ 2 months		200 lb/ 2 months	400 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months
26 California scorpionfish	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>		800 lb/ 2 months		CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>	
<b>27 Lingcod<sup>6/</sup></b>	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>		400 lb/ month, when nearshore open			CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>
<b>28 Other fish<sup>8/</sup></b>	Not limited					

1/ "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.

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

3/ 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 IV. B.(3).

4/ Chilipepper rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish and POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

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

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

7/ 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 IV. A.(19)(e) that may vary seasonally.

8/ 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.

9/ During July-August, between a line drawn due south from Point Fermin (33° 42' 30" N. lat.; 118° 17' 30" W. long.) and a line drawn due west from the Newport South Jetty (33° 35' 37" N. lat.; 117° 52' 50" W. long.) vessels fishing for all federal groundfish species, except all rockfish and lingcod, with hook&line and/or trap (or pot) gear may operate from shore to a boundary line approximating 50 fm.

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



**Table 5 (North). 2003 Trip Limits for Open Access Gears North of 40°10' N. Latitude<sup>1/</sup>**

**Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections IV. A. and C. NMFS Actions before using this table**

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
<b>Rockfish Conservation Area<sup>8/</sup> (RCA):</b>							
North of 46°16' N. lat.		0 fm - 100 fm					
46°16' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.		27 fm - 100 fm					
1	Minor slope rockfish <sup>2/</sup>	Per trip, no more than 25% of weight of the sablefish landed					
2	Pacific ocean perch	100 lb/ month					
3	Sablefish	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 800 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months					
4	Thornyheads	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>					
5	Dover sole	3,000 lb/month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs.					
6	Arrowtooth flounder						
7	Petrale sole						
8	Rex sole						
9	All other flatfish <sup>3/</sup>						
10	Whiting	300 lb/ month					
11	Minor shelf rockfish, widow and yellowtail rockfish <sup>2/</sup>	200 lb/ month					
12	Canary rockfish	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>					
13	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>					
14	Cowcod	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>					
15	Minor nearshore rockfish	3,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 900 lb of which may be species other than black or blue rockfish <sup>4/</sup>					
16	Lingcod <sup>6/</sup>	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>		300 lb/ month			CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>
17	Other Fish <sup>7/</sup>	Not limited					
<b>18 PINK SHRIMP EXEMPTED TRAWL (not subject to RCAs)</b>							
19	North	<p><b>Effective April 1 - October 31, 2003:</b> groundfish 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/month; canary, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of these species count toward the per day and per trip groundfish limits and do not have species-specific limits. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.</p>					
<b>20 PRAWN EXEMPTED TRAWL (not subject to RCAs)</b>							
21	North	<p>Groundfish 300 lb/trip. Limits and closures in this table also apply and are counted toward the 300 lb groundfish per trip limit. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of the target species landed, except that the amount of spiny dogfish landed may exceed the amount of target species landed. Spiny dogfish are limited by the 300 lb/trip overall groundfish limit. The daily trip limits for sablefish coastwide and the overall groundfish "per trip" limit may not be multiplied by the number of days of the trip.</p>					
<b>22 SALMON TROLL</b>							
23	North	<p>Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1lb of yellowtail rockfish for every 2 lbs of salmon landed, with a cumulative limit of 200 lb/month, both within and outside of the RCA. This limit is within the 200 lb per month combined limit for minor shelf rockfish, widow rockfish and yellowtail rockfish, and not in addition to that limit. All groundfish species are subject to the open access limits, seasons and RCA restrictions listed in the table above.</p>					

1/ "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.

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

3/ "Other flatfish" means all flatfish at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 5 with species specific management measures, including trip limits.

4/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09'30" N. lat.), and between Destruction Island (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Point (46°38'10" N. lat.), there is an additional limit of 100 lbs or 30 percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip.

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

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

7/ 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.

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

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

**Table 5 (South). 2003 Trip Limits for Open Access Gears South of 40°10' N. Latitude<sup>1/</sup>**

**Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections IV. A. and C. NMFS Actions before using this table**

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
<b>Rockfish Conservation Area<sup>7/</sup> (RCA):</b>						
South of 40°10' N. lat.	20 fm - 150 fm		20 fm - 150 fm (See footnote 8 for description of Pt. Fermin/Newport South Jetty open area)		20 fm - 150 fm	
<b>1 Minor slope rockfish<sup>2/</sup></b>						
<b>2 40°10' - 38° N. lat.</b>	Per trip, no more than 25% of weight of the sablefish landed					
<b>3 South of 38° N. lat.</b>	10,000 lb/ 2 months					
<b>4 Splitnose</b>	200 lb/ month					
<b>5 Sablefish</b>						
<b>6 40°10' - 36° N. lat.</b>	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 800 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months					
<b>7 South of 36° N. lat.</b>	350 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,050 lb					
<b>8 Thornyheads</b>						
<b>9 40°10' - 34°27' N. lat.</b>	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>					
<b>10 South of 34°27' N. lat.</b>	50 lb/ day, no more than 2,000 lb/ 2 months					
<b>11 Dover sole</b>	3,000 lb/month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs. When fishing for Pacific sanddabs, vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 11 mm (0.44 inches) point to shank, and up to 1 lb of weight per line are not subject to the RCAs.					
<b>12 Arrowtooth flounder</b>						
<b>13 Petrale sole</b>						
<b>14 Rex sole</b>						
<b>15 All other flatfish<sup>3/</sup></b>						
<b>16 Whiting</b>	300 lb/ month					
<b>17 Minor shelf rockfish, widow and chilipepper rockfish<sup>2/</sup></b>	100 lb/ 2 month	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>	200 lb/ 2 months	250 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months	100 lb/ 2 months
<b>18 Canary rockfish</b>	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>					
<b>19 Yelloweye rockfish</b>	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>					
<b>20 Cowcod</b>	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>					
<b>21 Bocaccio</b>	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>					
<b>22 Minor nearshore rockfish</b>						
<b>23 Shallow nearshore</b>	200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>	400 lb/ 2 months	500 lb/ 2 months	400 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months
<b>24 Deep nearshore</b>	200 lb/ 2 months		200 lb/ 2 months	400 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months
<b>25 California scorpionfish</b>	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>		800 lb/ 2 months		CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>	
<b>26 Lingcod<sup>4/</sup></b>	CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>		300 lb/ month, when nearshore open			CLOSED <sup>5/</sup>
<b>27 Other Fish<sup>6/</sup></b>	Not limited					
<b>28 PINK SHRIMP EXEMPTED TRAWL GEAR (not subject to RCAs)</b>						
<b>29 South</b>	<p><b>Effective April 1 - October 31, 2003:</b> Groundfish 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/ month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/ month; canary, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of these species count toward the per day and per trip groundfish limits and do not have species-specific limits. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.</p>					
<b>30 PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF 38°57'30" N. LAT., CALIFORNIA HALIBUT AND SEA CUCUMBER EXEMPTED TRAWL</b>						
<b>31 EXEMPTED TRAWL Rockfish Conservation Area<sup>8/</sup> (RCA):</b>						
<b>32 40°10' - 38° N. lat.</b>	50 fm - 250 fm	60 fm - 250 fm	shoreline - 200 fm		60 fm - 200 fm	
<b>33 38° - 34°27' N. lat.</b>	50 fm - 150 fm	60 fm - 150 fm	shoreline - 200 fm		60 fm - 200 fm	
<b>34 South of 34°27' N. lat.</b>	100 fm - 150 fm along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm around islands		shoreline - 200 fm		100 fm - 200 fm along the mainland coast; shoreline - 200 fm around islands	
<b>35</b>	<p>Groundfish 300 lb/trip. Trip limits in this table also apply and are counted toward the 300 lb groundfish per trip limit. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of the target species landed, except that the amount of spiny dogfish landed may exceed the amount of target species landed. Spiny dogfish are limited by the 300 lb/trip overall groundfish limit. The daily trip limits for sablefish coastwide and thornyheads south of Pt. Conception and the overall groundfish "per trip" limit may not be multiplied by the number of days of the trip. Vessels participating in the California halibut fishery south of 38°57'30" N. lat. are allowed to (1) land up to 100 lb/day of groundfish without the ratio requirement, provided that at least one California halibut is landed and (2) land up to 3,000 lb/month of flatfish, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs, sand sole, stary flounder, rock sole, curfin sole, or California scorpionfish (California scorpionfish is also subject to the trip limits and closures in line 25).</p>					

1/ "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.

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

3/ "Other flatfish" means all flatfish at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 5 with species specific management measures, including trip limits.

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

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

6/ 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.

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

8/ During July-August, between a line drawn due south from Point Fermin (33° 42' 30" N. lat.; 118° 17' 30" W. long.) and a line drawn due west from the Newport South Jetty (33° 35' 37" N. lat.; 117° 52' 50" W. long.), vessels fishing for all federal groundfish species, except all rockfish and lingcod, with hook&line and/or trap (or pot) gear may operate from shore to a boundary line approximating 50 fm.

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

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*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).

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**To receive Pacific Coast Groundfish public notices via e-mail, please e-mail your request to [westcoastgroundfish@noaa.gov](mailto:westcoastgroundfish@noaa.gov)**