

Attachment 3 - Initial Statement of Reasons, Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations for 2005-2006

Proposed Recreational Groundfish* Fishing Seasons and Depths for 2005 and 2006

ROCKFISH AND LINGCOD MANAGEMENT AREA		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern	OR/CA border to 40°10' N lat.	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)	closed to boat-based anglers (1)	closed to boat-based anglers (1)	closed to boat-based anglers (1)	< 40 fm (1)	< 40 fm (1)	< 40 fm (1)	< 40 fm (1)	closed to boat-based anglers (1)	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)
North-Central	40°10' N lat. to 37°11' N lat.	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)	closed to boat-based anglers (1)	closed to boat-based anglers (1)	closed to boat-based anglers (1)	< 20 fm (1)	< 20 fm (1)	< 20 fm (1)	< 20 fm (1)	< 20 fm (1)	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)
Monterey South-Central	37°11' N lat to 36°00' N lat.	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)	closed to boat-based anglers (1)	closed to boat-based anglers (1)	closed to boat-based anglers (1)	< 20 fm (1)	< 20 fm (1)	< 20 fm (1)	< 20 fm (1)	< 20 fm (1)	closed to boat-based anglers (1,2)
Morro Bay South-Central	36°00' N lat. to 34°27' N lat.	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)	closed to boat-based anglers (1)	20-40 fm (1)	20-40 fm (1)	20-40 fm (1)	20-40 fm (1)	20-40 fm (1)	closed to boat-based anglers (1)	closed to boat-based anglers (1)	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)
Southern	34°27' to CA/Mex border	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)	30-60 fm (1)	30-60 fm (1)	30-60 fm (1)	30-60 fm (1)	<40 fm (1)	<40 fm (1)	<40 fm (1)	closed to boat-based anglers (1)	closed to boat-based anglers (1)	closed to boat-based anglers (1, 2)
Southern Scorpionfish (3)	34°27' to CA/Mex border	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	< 40 fm	< 40 fm	< 20 fm

* Except for flatfish caught with special sanddab gear and leopard sharks caught in specific enclosed bays, the proposed regulations apply to all federal groundfish species (including rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, kelp greenling and California scorpionfish) and associated state-managed species (rock greenling, California sheephead, and ocean whitefish).

KEY: < X fm means fishing is permitted in waters less than X fathoms.
 X-Y fm means fishing is permitted only between X fathoms and Y fathoms.
 Closed means fishing for the species or group of species is closed in all waters.

NOTES:

1. The closure or depth restriction only applies to boat-based anglers (anglers that fish from boats or vessels of any size or any other type of floating object, including kayaks and float tubes); the closure or depth restriction doesn't apply to shore-based anglers (anglers that fish from beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks, and other man-made objects connected to the shore) and divers (divers using spearfishing gear entering the water either from the shore or from a boat or other floating object).
2. Lingcod – In addition to the general groundfish season and depth closures listed in the table, retention of lingcod is prohibited in January, February, March, and December. This provision applies to all fishing modes (boat-based anglers, shore-based anglers, and divers) in all ocean waters off California.
3. California scorpionfish - Retention of California scorpionfish is prohibited from January through September in the Southern RLMA. This provision applies to all fishing modes.