

be challenged later in proceedings to enforce its requirements (See section 307(b)(2)).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Ammonia, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Lead, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Reporting and

recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides, Volatile organic compounds.

Adam Ortiz, Regional Administrator, Region III.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, EPA amends 40 CFR part 52 as follows:

PART 52—APPROVAL AND PROMULGATION OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

1. The authority citation for part 52 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.

Subpart V—Maryland

2. In § 52.1070:

a. Amend the table in paragraph (d) by adding an entry for “Raven Power Fort Smallwood, LLC—H.A. Wagner Generating Station” at the end of the table; and

b. Amend the table in paragraph (e) by adding an entry for “Regional Haze Plan from 2018–2028” at the end of the table.

The additions read as follows:

§ 52.1070 Identification of plan.

(d) \* \* \*

Table with 5 columns: Name of source, Permit No./type, State effective date, EPA approval date, Additional explanation. Row 1: Raven Power Fort Smallwood, LLC—H.A. Wagner Generating Station, Consent Order .., 7/6/2021, 4/1/24, [INSERT Federal Register CITATION], Consent Order approved via Docket EPA—R03—OAR—2022—0912, as an element of Maryland’s February 8, 2022 Regional Haze Plan from 2018–2028, Appendix 19.

Table with 5 columns: Name of non-regulatory SIP revision, Applicable geographic area, State submittal date, EPA approval date, Additional explanation. Row 1: Regional Haze Plan from 2018–2028, State-wide ....., 2/8/2022, 4/1/24, [INSERT Federal Register CITATION].

[FR Doc. 2024–06415 Filed 3–29–24; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 221206–0261]

RIN 0648–BM97

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2023–2024 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule; inseason adjustments to biennial groundfish management measures.

SUMMARY: This final rule announces routine inseason adjustments to management measures in commercial and recreational groundfish fisheries. This action is intended to allow fishing vessels to access more abundant groundfish stocks while protecting rebuilding stocks.

DATES: This final rule is effective April 1, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Electronic Access: This rule is accessible at the Office of the Federal Register website at https://www.federalregister.gov. Background information and documents are available at the Pacific Fishery Management Council’s website at https://www.pcouncil.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Sean Matson: 206–526–6187 or sean.matson@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PCGFMP) and its implementing regulations at title 50 in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 660, subparts C through G, regulate

fishing for over 90 species of groundfish seaward of Washington, Oregon, and California. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) develops groundfish harvest specifications and management measures for 2-year periods (biennia). NMFS published the final rule to implement harvest specifications and management measures for the 2023–2024 biennium for most species managed under the PCGFMP on December 16, 2022 (87 FR 77007). The management measures set at the start of the biennial harvest specifications cycle help the various sectors of the fishery attain, but not exceed, the catch limits for each stock. The Council, in coordination with Pacific Coast Treaty Indian Tribes and the States of Washington, Oregon, and California, recommends adjustments to the management measures during the fishing year to achieve this goal.

At its March 2024 meeting, the Council recommended inseason measures, modifying fixed gear regulations in the area south of lat. 40°10’ N, including within the Non-

Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundaries, and commercial fixed gear trip limits for certain species within the limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) fisheries, including lingcod, the other flatfish complex, and the minor shelf rockfish complex. The purpose of these inseason measures is to promote the conservation of quillback rockfish and vermillion/sunset rockfish off California, while balancing the economic benefits of fishing opportunity. The Council also recommended modifications to Federal regulations, concerning the portion of the California recreational fishery that falls within Federal waters, which include changes to season dates and depth limits, and revisions to the sub-bag limit for vermilion/sunset rockfish south of lat. 40°10' N. The March recommendations were communicated in a letter to NMFS dated March 20, 2024.

The recommendations were based on analysis using newly available information on catch and attainment, and input from industry at the March meeting. Pacific Coast groundfish fisheries are managed using harvest specifications or limits (e.g., overfishing limits [OFL], acceptable biological catch [ABC], annual catch limits [ACL], and

harvest guidelines [HG]) recommended biennially by the Council and based on the best scientific information available at that time (50 CFR 660.60(b)). During development of the harvest specifications, the Council also recommends management measures (e.g., trip limits, area closures, and bag limits) that are meant to control catch so as not to exceed the harvest specifications. The harvest specifications and management measures developed for the 2023–2024 biennium used data through the 2021 fishing year. Each of the adjustments to management measures discussed below are based on updated fisheries information that was unavailable when the analysis for the current harvest specifications was completed. As new fisheries data becomes available, adjustments to management measures are assessed and associated mortality is projected, so as to help harvesters achieve but not exceed the harvest limits.

*Management Measures for Commercial Fixed Gear, LE and OA Fisheries*

Non-Trawl RCA

At the March 2024 meeting, the Council recommended actions to reduce

fishing mortality of quillback rockfish and vermillion/sunset rockfish, off California, through the 2024 fishing season. Quillback rockfish off California is an overfished stock. Vermilion/sunset rockfish is managed in a stock complex, however, fishing mortality for the stock has exceeded the harvest specification contributions to the complex for several years. The recommended actions would reduce fishing mortality of these species, while further narrowing the scope of restrictions and minimizing the economic impact to fishing communities to the extent possible. These included a recommendation to adjust the Non-Trawl RCA latitudinal boundaries for the area between lat. 40°10' N and lat. 36° N (to utilize a boundary at lat. 37°07' N rather than lat. 36° N), so that the area between lat. 37°07' N and lat. 34°27' N, from 50 to 75 fathoms (fm), would be closed to fishing, and in the area from lat. 40°10' N to lat. 37°07' N, the 3 nautical mile line to 75fm, would be closed to fishing. The recommended non-trawl boundaries, as well as those under current regulations are shown in tables 1a and 1b.

TABLE 1a—NON-TRAWL ROCKFISH CONSERVATION AREA BOUNDARIES, SOUTH OF LAT. 40°10' N: CURRENT REGULATION

Area (latitude)	Depth	Months
40°10' N–36° N	Shoreward EEZ–75 fm line	January through December.
36° N–34°27' N	50–75 fm line	January through December.

TABLE 1b—NON-TRAWL ROCKFISH CONSERVATION AREA BOUNDARIES, SOUTH OF LAT. 40°10' N: COUNCIL RECOMMENDED

Area (latitude)	Depth	Months
40°10' N–37°07' N	Shoreward EEZ–75 fm line	January through December.
37°07' N–34°27' N	50–75 fm line	January through December.

Trip Limits

The recommended modifications of the Non-Trawl RCA in California necessitated corresponding changes to the latitude lines designating area-specific LE and OA trip limits for lingcod, the other flatfish complex, and the minor shelf rockfish complex (defined at § 660.11), south of lat. 40°10' N (table 2a).

For the minor shelf rockfish complex south of lat. 40°10' N, in the LE fishery; in addition to exchanging the lat. 36° N boundary, in favor of the lat. 37°07' N boundary, one latitudinal stratum was added with separate trip limits, dividing the area south of lat. 40°10' N into three

strata under Council recommendations, compared with two strata under current regulations. The new management area boundaries and corresponding trip limits for minor shelf rockfish are shown in table 2b.

For minor shelf rockfish south of lat. 40°10' N, in the OA fishery; in addition to exchanging the lat. 36° N boundary, in favor of the lat. 37°07' N boundary, one latitudinal stratum was added with separate trip limits, dividing the area south of lat. 40°10' N into three strata under Council recommendations, compared with two strata under current regulations. The new management area boundaries and corresponding trip

limits for minor shelf rockfish are shown in table 2b.

The Council's Groundfish Management Team (GMT) analyzed the combination of proposed changes (*Agenda Item F.8.a Supplemental GMT Report 1, March 2024*) to trip limit amounts, by area strata, for minor shelf rockfish south of lat. 40°10' N. These combinations included a specifically designed balance of modest increases, as well as decreases, in trip limits, together with the changes to the Non-Trawl RCA boundaries. The GMT found in their analysis that quillback rockfish encounters between lat. 36° and 37°07' N have been rare throughout the

relevant time series. Only 0.7 percent of commercial quillback rockfish landings occurred south of lat. 37°07' N over the most recent 5-year period (2019–2023), and only 3.7 percent over a much longer time series (1992–2022). As such, the changes in trip limits south of lat. 37°07' N are congruent with both maintaining adequate access by commercial fishers to groundfish resources and the

conservation needs of quillback rockfish off California, which was recently determined to be overfished (NMFS notified the Council of the overfished status determination for quillback rockfish on December 14, 2023; *Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 2, March 2024*), and maintaining catches of vermilion/sunset rockfish at a sustainable level (catches have been high since 2015).

Trip limits with corresponding areas are shown in Table 2. Recommended changes for the remaining lingcod, other flatfish complex, and minor shelf rockfish species did not involve any new limits themselves, only the redesignation of the latitudinal boundaries for existing limits, in accordance with the new recommended Non-Trawl RCA boundaries.

TABLE 2a—TRIP LIMITS UNDER CURRENT REGULATION, AND COUNCIL-RECOMMENDATIONS, FOR LE AND OA NON-TRAWL FISHERIES, SOUTH OF LAT. 40°10' N: CURRENT REGULATION

Fleet	Species	Lat. area	Limit
LE .....	Lingcod .....	40°10' N–36° N .....	1,600 lb (726 kg)/2 months seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/2 months inside the non-trawl RCA.
	Minor shelf rockfish	South of 36° N .....	1,600 lb (726 kg)/2 months.
		40°10' N–34°27' N ..	6,000 lb (2,722 kg)/2 months, of which no more than 500 lb (227 kg) may be vermilion/sunset.
	Other flatfish .....	South of 34°27' N ....	6,000 lb (2,722 kg)/2 months, of which no more than 3,000 lb (1,361 kg) may be vermilion/sunset.
OA .....	Lingcod .....	40°10' N–36° N .....	10,000 lb (4,536 kg)/month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/month inside the non-trawl RCA.
		South of 36° N .....	10,000 lb (4,536 kg)/month.
	Minor shelf rockfish	40°10' N–36° N .....	700 lb (318 kg)/2 months seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/2 months inside the non-trawl RCA.
		South of 36° N .....	700 lb (318 kg)/2 months.
		40°10' N–36° N .....	3,000 lb (1,361 kg)/2 months, of which no more than 300 lb (136 kg) may be vermilion/sunset.
Other flatfish .....	South of 36° N .....	3,000 lb (1,361 kg)/2 months, of which no more than 900 lb (408 kg) may be vermilion/sunset.	
	40°10' N–36° N .....	5,000 lb (2,268 kg)/month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/month inside the non-trawl RCA.	
		South of 36° N .....	5,000 lb (2,268 kg)/month.

TABLE 2b—TRIP LIMITS UNDER CURRENT REGULATION, AND COUNCIL-RECOMMENDATIONS, FOR LE AND OA NON-TRAWL FISHERIES, SOUTH OF LAT. 40°10' N: COUNCIL RECOMMENDED

Fleet	Species	Area	Limit
LE .....	Lingcod .....	40°10' N–37°07' N ..	1,600 lb (726 kg)/2 months seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/2 months inside the non-trawl RCA.
	Minor shelf rockfish	South of 37°07' N ....	1,600 lb (726 kg)/2 months.
		40°10' N–37°07' N ..	6,000 lb (2,722 kg)/2 months, of which no more than 500 lb (227 kg) may be vermilion/sunset.
		37°07' N–34°27' N ..	8,000 lb (3,629 kg)/2 months, of which no more than 500 lb (227 kg) may be vermilion/sunset.
	Other flatfish .....	South of 34°27' N ....	5,000 lb (2,268 kg)/2 months, of which no more than 3,000 lb (1,361 kg) may be vermilion/sunset.
OA .....	Lingcod .....	40°10' N–37°07' N ..	10,000 lb (4,536 kg)/month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/month inside the non-trawl RCA.
		South of 37°07' N ....	10,000 lb (4,536 kg)/month.
	Minor shelf rockfish	40°10' N–37°07' N ..	700 lb (318 kg)/2 months seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/2 months inside the non-trawl RCA.
		South of 37°07' N ....	700 lb (318 kg)/2 months.
		40°10' N–37°07' N ..	3,000 lb (1,361 kg)/2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermilion/sunset.
	Other flatfish .....	37°07' N–34°27' N ..	4,000 lb (1,814 kg)/2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermilion/sunset.
South of 34°27' N ....		3,000 lb (1,814 kg)/2 months, of which no more than 900 lb may be vermilion/sunset.	
		40°10' N–37°07' N ..	5,000 lb (2,268 kg)/2 months seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/2 months inside the non-trawl RCA.
		South of 37°07' N ....	5,000 lb (2,268 kg)/month.

Pacific Halibut

At its March 2024 meeting, the Council also recommended new annual

trip limit ratios for the incidental catch of Pacific halibut in the primary (tier) sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington, starting for the

2024 season. These measures are reviewed each season. The Council recommended a trip limit ratio of 130 lb of dressed Pacific halibut per 1,000 lb of

sablefish, plus two additional halibut for the primary fishery north of Point Chehalis, as recommended by the Council's Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP). This trip limit is a reduction from last year when it was 150 lb of dressed Pacific halibut per 1,000 lb of sablefish. The GAP related during their discussion of this topic that this reduction was likely warranted given the reduction in the overall allocation for incidental catch in the sablefish fishery from 70,000 lbs in 2023 to 50,000 lbs in 2024 (89 FR 19275, March 18, 2024). Additionally, the GAP noted that it expects the new trip limit to be an adequate amount to utilize the overall allocation and prevent waste of bycatch. If necessary, incidental trip limits could be updated later in the year, by the Council, through inseason action.

*California Recreational Groundfish Fisheries in Federal Waters*

The Council recommended modifications to Federal regulations concerning the portion of the California recreational groundfish fishery that falls within Federal waters, consistent with California state regulations for the fishery. The State of California recently revised its state regulations, including changes to season dates and depth limits for the California rockfish, cabezon, and greenling (RCG) complex as well as for lingcod, and revising a sub-bag limit for vermilion/sunset rockfish south of lat. 40°10' N. The Council recommended changes were presented to the Council by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (*Agenda Item F.8.a Supplemental CDFW Report 2 March*

2024) in a request for consistent action in federal waters, discussed by the GMT, and recommended by the GAP (*Agenda Item F.8.a Supplemental GAP Report 1 March 2024*). The GMT did not analyze nor make a recommendation regarding CDFW's proposal. The federal regulations for the California recreational groundfish fishery for RCG and lingcod that were set at the beginning of 2023 are summarized in Table 3, inseason actions that were taken during 2023 are not incorporated. The Council recommended regulations for 2024 are summarized in Table 4. Table 3 and Table 4 are summaries only. Refer to 50 CFR 660.360(c)(3)(i)(A) for a detailed description of the California recreational groundfish fishery structure.

**Table 3 – Summary of the California recreational groundfish fishery season structure, by month, area, and depth, currently in regulation**

Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern	Closed all depths				Open all depths				Open >50 fm			
Mendocino	Closed all depths				Open >50 fm		Open all Depths		Open >50 fm			
San Francisco	Closed all depths				Open >50 fm		Open all depths		Open >50 fm			
Central	Closed all depths				Open all depths				Open >50 fm			
Southern	Closed all depths				Open all depths				>50 fm			

**Table 4 – Summary of California recreational groundfish season structure, by month, area, and depth, according to March 2024 Council recommendations. Open in depths greater or less than 50 fm shown as “>50 fm” or “<50 fm” respectively.**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern	Closed in EEZ			>50 fm	Closed in the EEZ					>50 fm	Closed in EEZ	>50 fm
Mendocino	Closed in EEZ			>50 fm	Closed in the EEZ					>50 fm	Closed in EEZ	>50 fm
San Francisco	Closed in EEZ			>50 fm	Closed in the EEZ					>50 fm	Closed in EEZ	>50 fm
Central N of 36°	Closed in EEZ			>50 fm	Closed in the EEZ					>50 fm	Closed in EEZ	>50 fm
Central S of 36°	Closed in EEZ			Open all depths			<50 fm			>50 fm		
Southern	Closed in EEZ			Open all depths			<50 fm			>50 fm		

#### Classification

This final rule makes routine inseason adjustments to the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery management measures, based on the best scientific information available, consistent with the PCGFMP and its implementing regulations.

This action is taken under the authority of 50 CFR 660.60(c) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

The aggregate data upon which these actions are based are available for public inspection by contacting Dr. Sean Matson in NMFS West Coast Region (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, above), or to view at the NMFS West Coast Groundfish website: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/west-coast-groundfish>.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b), NMFS finds good cause to waive prior public notice and an opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. These revisions are in response to new information about the fishery, and to conservation issues that need to be addressed for the 2024 fishing year. The adjustments to management measures in this document increase trip limits and decrease size limits for fisheries off California to allow additional economic opportunity, while keeping catch within

allocations established by the 2023–2024 harvest specifications. The GMT found in their analysis that the boundary change to the Non-Trawl RCA would likely result in an increase in lingcod, cabezon, other flatfish, minor nearshore, and minor shelf species catch from lat. 36° N to 37°07' N, while minimizing impacts to quillback rockfish, and reducing catch of vermilion/sunset rockfish to sustainable levels, within that area. The risk of the changes established in this final rule resulting in exceedances of the corresponding harvest limits is low, and the risk to quillback rockfish is minimal, particularly in areas south of lat. 37°07' N. At the same time, the changes would yield positive economic impacts to commercial non-trawl fishermen that fish in Federal waters in that area. This economic opportunity would not otherwise occur without the Non-Trawl RCA boundary move and the associated trip limit changes. This rule also makes Council recommended changes to regulations pertaining to the California recreational groundfish fishery within federally managed waters, in order to create consistency with current state regulations within California jurisdiction. This is necessary to ensure consistent management and enforcement across the state and federally managed fisheries. No aspect of this action is controversial, and

changes of this nature were anticipated in the final rule for the 2023–2024 harvest specifications and management measures, which published on December 16, 2022 (87 FR 77007).

Trip limit ratios to cover incidental catch of Pacific halibut in the fixed gear sablefish primary (tier) fishery are set annually, in alignment with the overall allocation for incidental catch in this fishery that is established by NMFS in mid-March of each year. Halibut is internationally managed, with specifications that publish out of sync with groundfish regulations, and therefore measures to account for incidental catch in the sablefish fishery must be updated each year through inseason action. Updating these limits in a timely fashion is a critical conservation need in the West Coast LE sablefish primary (tier) fishery.

Delaying implementation of this rule to allow for public comment would have negative effects on the conservation of California quillback rockfish, which was recently determined to be overfished, as well as the conservation of vermilion/sunset rockfish, whose catch has been unsustainably high in recent years. Delay in implementation would also likely reduce the economic benefits to the commercial fishing industry and the businesses that rely on that industry, because it is unlikely the new regulations would publish and could be

implemented in time to realize the projected benefits to fishing communities and the resource. A delay in implementation could also contribute to unnecessarily discarded and largely wasted fish; fish which could otherwise be landed to provide food and revenue, and whose use would assist in the responsible use of the resource. Therefore, providing a comment period for this action could significantly limit the economic benefits to the fishery, and would hamper the achievement of optimum yield from the affected fisheries.

Therefore, the NMFS finds reason to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1) so that this final rule may become effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**. The adjustments to management measures in this document affect fisheries by increasing opportunity and allowing greater economic benefit. These adjustments were requested by the Council's advisory bodies, as well as by members of industry during the Council's March 2024 meeting, and the changes are recommended unanimously by the Council. No aspect of this action is controversial, and changes of this nature were anticipated in the biennial harvest

specifications and management measures established through a notice and comment rulemaking for 2023–2024 (87 FR 77007).

#### List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 660

Fisheries, Fishing, Indian fisheries.

#### Carrie Diane Robinson,

*Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

For the reasons set out in the preamble, NMFS amends 50 CFR part 660 as follows:

#### PART 660—FISHERIES OFF WEST COAST STATES

- 1. The authority citation for part 660 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*, and 16 U.S.C. 7001 *et seq.*

- 2. In § 660.231, revise paragraph (b)(3)(iv) to read as follows:

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

(3) \* \* \*

(iv) Incidental Pacific halibut retention north of Pt. Chehalis, WA (46°53.30' N lat.). From April 1 through the closure date set by the International Pacific Halibut Commission for Pacific

halibut in all commercial fisheries, vessels authorized to participate in the sablefish primary 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°53.30' N lat.) may possess and land up to 130 lb (59 kg) dressed weight of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 lb (454 kg) dressed weight of sablefish landed, and up to two additional Pacific halibut in excess of the 130-lbs-per-1,000-lb limit per landing. NMFS publishes the International Pacific Halibut Commission's regulations setting forth annual management measures, including the closure date for Pacific halibut in all commercial fisheries, in the **Federal Register** by March 15 each year, 50 CFR 300.62. "Dressed" Pacific halibut in this area means halibut landed eviscerated with their heads on. Pacific halibut taken and retained in the sablefish primary fishery north of Pt. Chehalis may only be landed north of Pt. Chehalis and may not be possessed or landed south of Pt. Chehalis.

\* \* \* \* \*

- 3. Revise table 2 (South) to part 660, subpart E, to read as follows:

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

**Table 2 (South) to Part 660, Subpart E -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 40°10' N lat.**  
Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

4/1/2024

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
<b>Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)<sup>1/</sup>:</b>						
1	40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.		Shoreward EEZ <sup>1/</sup> - 75 fm line <sup>1/</sup>			
2	37°07' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.		50 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 75 fm line <sup>1/</sup>			
3	South of 34°27' N lat.		100 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 150 fm line <sup>1/</sup> (also applies around islands and banks)			
See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Bank, and EFHCAs).						
4	Minor Slope rockfish <sup>2/</sup> & Darkblotched rockfish		40,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 6,000 lb may be blackgill rockfish			
5	Splittnose rockfish		40,000 lb/ 2 months			
6	Sablefish					
7	40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat.		4,500 lb/ week, not to exceed 9,000 lb /2 months			
8	South of 36°00' N lat.		2,500 lb/ week			
9	Longspine thornyhead		10,000 lb/ 2 months			
10	Shortspine thornyhead					
11	40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.		2,000 lb/ 2 months		2,500 lb/ 2 months	
12	South of 34°27' N lat.		3,000 lb/ 2 months			
13	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder		10,000 lb/ month			
14	Other Flatfish <sup>3/</sup>					
15	40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.		10,000 lb/ month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/month inside the non-trawl RCA			
16	South of 37°07' N lat.		10,000 lb/ month			
17	Whiting		10,000 lb/ trip			
18	Minor Shelf Rockfish <sup>2/</sup>					
19	40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.		6,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 500 lb may be vermilion/sunset			
20	37°07' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.		8,000 lb /2 month period, of which no more than 500 lb may be vermilion/sunset			
21	South of 34°27' N lat.		5,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 3,000 lb may be vermilion/sunset			
22	Widow rockfish					
23	40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.		10,000 lb/ 2 months			
24	South of 34°27' N lat.		8,000 lb/ 2 months			
25	Chilipepper rockfish					
26	40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.		10,000 lb. / 2 months			
27	South of 34°27' N lat.		8,000 lb. / 2 months			
28	Canary rockfish		3,500 lb/ 2 months			
29	Yelloweye rockfish		CLOSED			
30	Quillback rockfish		0 lb/ 2 months			
31	Cowcod		CLOSED			
32	Bronzespotted rockfish		CLOSED			
33	Bocaccio		8,000 lb/ 2 months			
34	Minor Nearshore Rockfish					
35	40°10' N lat. - 36° N lat. Shallow nearshore <sup>4/</sup>		0 lb/ 2 months			
36	South of 36° N lat. Shallow nearshore <sup>4/</sup>		2,000 lb/ 2 months			
37	40°10' N lat. - 36° N lat. Deeper nearshore <sup>5/</sup>		0 lb/ 2 months			
38	South of 36° N lat. Deeper nearshore <sup>5/</sup>		2,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 75 lb may be copper rockfish			
39	California Scorpionfish		3,500 lb/ 2 months			
40	Lingcod <sup>6/</sup>					
41	40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.		1,600 lb / 2 months seaward of the Non-Trawl RCA; 0 lb / 2 months inside the non-trawl RCA			
42	South of 37°07' N lat.		1,600 lb / 2 months			
43	Pacific cod		1,000 lb/ 2 months			
44	Spiny dogfish		200,000 lb/ 2 months	150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months	
45	Longnose skate		Unlimited			
46	Other Fish <sup>7/</sup>		0 lb / 2 months			
47	Cabezon in California					
48	40°10' N lat. - 36° N lat.		0 lb/ 2 months			
49	South of 36° N lat.		Unlimited			
50	Big Skate		Unlimited			

TABLE 2 (South)

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting. LEFG vessels may be allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using non-bottom contact hook and line only. See § 660.230 (d) of the regulations for more information.

2/ Minor Shelf and Slope Rockfish complexes are defined at § 660.11. Pacific ocean perch is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish. Blackgill rockfish have a species specific trip sub-limit within the Minor Slope Rockfish cumulative limit. Yellowtail rockfish are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.

3/ "Other Flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ "Shallow Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(1).

5/ "Deeper Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(2).

6/ The commercial minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) total length South of 42° N lat.

7/ "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

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

■ 4. Revise table 3 (South) to part 660, subpart F, to read as follows:

**Table 3 (South) to Part 660, Subpart F -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears South of 40°10' N lat.**  
 Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

4/1/2024

Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) <sup>1/</sup> :		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
1	40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.	Shoreward EEZ <sup>1/</sup> - 75 fm line <sup>1/</sup>					
2	37°07' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	50 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 75 fm line <sup>1/</sup>					
3	South of 34°27' N lat.	100 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 150 fm line <sup>1/</sup> (also applies around islands and banks)					
See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Bank, and EFHCAs).							
4	Minor Slope Rockfish <sup>2/</sup> & Darkblotched rockfish	10,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 2,500 lb may be blackgill rockfish					
5	Splitnose rockfish	200 lb/ month					
6	Sablefish						
7	40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat.	3,000 lb/ week, not to exceed 6,000 lb/ 2 months					
8	South of 36°00' N lat.	2,000 lb/ week, not to exceed 6,000 lb/ 2 months					
9	Shortpine thornyheads						
10	40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	50 lb/ month					
11	Longspine thornyheads						
12	40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	50 lb/ month					
13	Shortpine thornyheads and longspine thornyheads						
14	South of 34°27' N lat.	100 lb/ day, no more than 1,000 lb/ 2 months					
15	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder <sup>38/</sup>	5,000 lb/ month					
16	Other Flatfish <sup>37/</sup>						
17	40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.	5,000 lb/ month seaward of the Non-Trawl RCA; 0 lb/month inside the Non-Trawl RCA					
18	South of 37°07' N lat.	5,000 lb/ month					
19	Whiting	300 lb/ month					
20	Minor Shelf Rockfish <sup>2/</sup>						
21	40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.	3,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermilion/sunset					
22	37°07' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	4,000 lb/ 2 month, of which no more than 300 lb may be vermilion/sunset					
23	South of 34°27' N lat.	3,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 900 lb may be vermilion/sunset					
24	Widow rockfish						
25	40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	6,000 lb/ 2 months					
26	South of 34°27' N lat.	4,000 lb/ 2 months					
27	Chilipepper rockfish						
28	40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	6,000 lb/ 2 months					
29	South of 34°27' N lat.	4,000 lb/ 2 months					
30	Canary rockfish	1,500 lb/ 2 months					
31	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED					
32	Cowcod	CLOSED					
33	Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED					
34	Quillback rockfish	0 lb/ 2 months					
35	Bocaccio	6,000 lb/ 2 months					
36	Minor Nearshore Rockfish						
37	40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat. Shallow nearshore <sup>4/</sup>	0 lb/ 2 months					
38	South of 36°00' N lat. Shallow nearshore <sup>4/</sup>	2,000 lb/ 2 months					
39	40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat. Deeper nearshore <sup>5/</sup>	0 lb/ 2 months					
40	South of 36°00' N lat. Deeper nearshore <sup>5/</sup>	2,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 75 lb may be copper rockfish					
41	California Scorpionfish	3,500 lb/ 2 months					
42	Lingcod <sup>6/</sup>						
43	40°10' N lat. - 37°07' N lat.	700 lb / month seaward of the non-trawl RCA; 0 lb/ month inside the non-trawl RCA					
44	South of 37°07' N lat.	700 lb / month					
45	Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
46	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months		100,000 lb/ 2 months	
47	Longnose skate	Unlimited					
48	Big skate	Unlimited					
49	Other Fish <sup>7/</sup>	Unlimited					
50	Cabezon in California						
51	40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat.	0 lb/ month					
52	South of 36°00' N lat.	Unlimited					

TABLE 3 (South)



Table 3 (South) Continued

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

4/1/2024

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
<b>Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)<sup>1/</sup>:</b>						
1	40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat.		Shoreward EEZ <sup>1/</sup> - 75 fm line <sup>1/</sup>			
2	36°00' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.		50 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 75 fm line <sup>1/</sup>			
3	South of 34°27' N lat.		100 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 150 fm line <sup>1/</sup> (also applies around islands and banks)			
See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Bank, and EFHCAs).						
59	<b>SALMON TROLL</b> (subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish, as described below)					
60	South of 40°10' N lat.		Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lb of yellowtail rockfish for every 2 lb of Chinook salmon landed, with a cumulative limit of 200 lb/month, both within and outside of the RCA. This limit is within the 4,000 lb per 2 month limit for minor shelf rockfish between 40°10' and 34°27' N lat., and not in addition to that limit. All groundfish species are subject to the open access limits, seasons, size limits and RCA restrictions listed in the table above, unless otherwise stated here.			
61	<b>RIDGEBACK PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF 38°57.50' N lat., CA HALIBUT AND SEA CUCUMBER NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL</b>					
62	<b>NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) for CA Halibut, Sea Cucumber &amp; Ridgeback Prawn:</b>					
63	40°10' N lat. - 38°00' N lat.		100 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 200 fm line <sup>1/</sup>		100 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 200 fm line <sup>1/</sup>	
64	38°00' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.		100 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 150 fm line <sup>1/</sup>			
65	South of 34°27' N lat.		100 fm line <sup>1/</sup> - 150 fm line <sup>1/</sup>			
66			Groundfish: 300 lb/trip. Species-specific limits described in the table above 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°57.50' 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, starry flounder, rock sole, curffin sole, or California scorpionfish (California scorpionfish is also subject to the trip limits and closures in line 29).			
67	<b>PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL GEAR</b> (not subject to RCAs)					
69	South		Effective April 1 - October 31: 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 rockfish, 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 all groundfish species count toward the per day, per trip or other species-specific sublimits described here and the species-specific limits described in the table above do not apply. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.			

TABLE 3 (South) Continued

<sup>1/</sup> The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-m depth contour boundary south of 42° N lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting. Open access vessels may be allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using hook and line only. See § 660.330 (d) of the regulations for more information.

<sup>2/</sup> Minor Shelf and Slope Rockfish complexes are defined at § 660.11. Pacific ocean perch is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish. Blackgill rockfish have a species specific trip sub-limit within the minor slope rockfish cumulative limits. Yellowtail rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.

<sup>3/</sup> "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curffin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

<sup>4/</sup> "Shallow Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(1).

<sup>5/</sup> "Deeper Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(2).

<sup>6/</sup> The commercial minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) South of 42° N lat.

<sup>7/</sup> "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and includes kelp greening off California and leopard shark.

<sup>8/</sup> Open access vessels may be allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using hook and line only. See § 660.330 (d) of the regulations for more information.

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

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-C**

■ 5. In § 660.360, revise paragraphs (c)(3)(i)(A)(1) through (5), (c)(3)(ii)(A)(1) through (5), (c)(3)(ii)(B), and (c)(3)(iii)(A)(1) through (5) to read as follows:

**§ 660.360 Recreational fishery—management measures.**

- \* \* \* \* \*
- (c) \* \* \*
- (3) \* \* \*
- (i) \* \* \*
- (A) \* \* \*

(1) Between 42° N lat. (California/Oregon border) and 40°10' N lat. (Northern Management Area), recreational fishing for the RCG Complex and lingcod is closed in the EEZ from January 1 through March 31, is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from April 1 through April 30, is closed in the EEZ

from May 1 to September 30, is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from October 1 through October 31, closed in the EEZ from November 1 through November 30, and prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from December 1 through December 31.

(2) Between 40°10' N lat. and 38°57.50' N lat. (Mendocino Management Area), recreational fishing for the RCG Complex and lingcod is closed from in the EEZ from January 1 through March 31, is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from April 1 through April 30, is closed in the EEZ from May 1 to September 30,

is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from October 1 through October 31, closed in the EEZ from November 1 through November 30, and prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from December 1 through December 31.

(3) Between 38°57.50' N lat. and 37°11' N lat. (San Francisco Management Area), recreational fishing for the RCG Complex and lingcod is closed in the EEZ from January 1 through March 31, is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from April 1 through April 30, is closed in the EEZ from May 1 to September 30, is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of

the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from October 1 through October 31, closed in the EEZ from November 1 through November 30, and prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from December 1 through December 31. Closures around Cordell Bank (see paragraph (c)(3)(i)(C) of this section) also apply in this area.

(4) Between 37°11' N lat. and 34°27' N lat. (Central Management Area),

(i) Between 37°11' N lat. and 36° N lat., recreational fishing for the RCG Complex and lingcod is closed in the EEZ from January 1 through March 31, is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from April 1 through April 30, is closed in the EEZ from May 1 to September 30, is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from October 1 through October 31, closed in the EEZ from November 1 through November 30, and prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from December 1 through December 31.

(ii) Between 36° N lat. and 34°27' N lat., recreational fishing for the RCG Complex and lingcod is closed from January 1 through March 31, is open at all depths from April 1 through June 30; is prohibited in the EEZ seaward of a boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from July 1 through September 30, and is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of a boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from October 1 through December 31.

(5) South of 34°27' N lat. (Southern Management Area), recreational fishing for the RCG Complex and lingcod is closed from January 1 through March 31, open at all depths from April 1 through June 30; is prohibited in the EEZ seaward of a boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from July 1 through September 30, and is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of a boundary line approximating the 50 fm

(91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from October 1 through December 31.

\* \* \* \* \*

(ii) \* \* \*

(A) \* \* \*

(1) Between 42° N lat. (California/Oregon border) and 40°10' N lat. (Northern Management Area), recreational fishing for the RCG Complex and lingcod is closed in the EEZ from January 1 through March 31, is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from April 1 through April 30, is closed in the EEZ from May 1 to September 30, is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from October 1 through October 31, closed in the EEZ from November 1 through November 30, and prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from December 1 through December 31.

(2) Between 40°10' N lat. and 38°57.50' N lat. (Mendocino Management Area), recreational fishing for the RCG Complex and lingcod is closed from in the EEZ from January 1 through March 31, is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from April 1 through April 30, is closed in the EEZ from May 1 to September 30, is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from October 1 through October 31, closed in the EEZ from November 1 through November 30, and prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from December 1 through December 31.

(3) Between 38°57.50' N lat. and 37°11' N lat. (San Francisco Management Area), recreational fishing for the RCG Complex and lingcod is closed in the EEZ from January 1 through March 31, is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts

from April 1 through April 30, is closed in the EEZ from May 1 to September 30, is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from October 1 through October 31, closed in the EEZ from November 1 through November 30, and prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from December 1 through December 31. Closures around Cordell Bank (see paragraph (c)(3)(i)(C) of this section) also apply in this area.

(4) Between 37°11' N lat. and 34°27' N lat. (Central Management Area),

(i) Between 37°11' N lat. and 36° N lat., recreational fishing for the RCG Complex and lingcod is closed in the EEZ from January 1 through March 31, is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from April 1 through April 30, is closed in the EEZ from May 1 to September 30, is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from October 1 through October 31, closed in the EEZ from November 1 through November 30, and prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from December 1 through December 31.

(ii) Between 36° N lat. and 34°27' N lat., recreational fishing for the RCG Complex and lingcod is closed from January 1 through March 31, is open at all depths from April 1 through June 30; is prohibited in the EEZ seaward of a boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from July 1 through September 30, and is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of a boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from October 1 through December 31.

(5) South of 34°27' N lat. (Southern Management Area), recreational fishing for the RCG Complex and lingcod is closed from January 1 through March 31, open at all depths from April 1 through June 30; is prohibited in the EEZ seaward of a boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts

from July 1 through September 30, and is prohibited in the EEZ shoreward of a boundary line approximating the 50 fm (91 m) depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts from October 1 through December 31.

(B) *Bag limits, hook limits.* In times and areas when the recreational season for the RCG Complex is open, there is a limit of two hooks and one line when fishing for the RCG complex. The bag limit is 10 RCG Complex fish per day coastwide, with a sub-bag limit of 4 fish for vermilion rockfish between 42° N lat. and 40°10' N lat., a sub-bag limit of 2 fish for vermilion/sunset rockfish south of 40°10' N lat., and 1 fish for copper rockfish. These sub-bag limits count towards the bag limit for the RCG Complex and are not in addition to that limit. Retention of yelloweye rockfish, bronzedspotted rockfish, quillback rockfish, and cowcod is prohibited. Multi-day limits are authorized by a valid permit issued by California and must not exceed the daily limit multiplied by the value of days in the fishing trip.

\* \* \* \* \*

(iii) \* \* \*

(A) \* \* \*

(1) Between 42° N lat. (California/Oregon border) and 40°10' N lat. (Northern Management Area), recreational fishing for lingcod in the EEZ is open from April 1 through April 30, October 1 through October 31, and December 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, recreational fishing for lingcod in the EEZ is closed from January 1 through March 31, May 1 through September 30, and November 1 through November 30).

(2) Between 40°10' N lat. and 38°57.50' N lat. (Mendocino Management Area), recreational fishing for lingcod in the EEZ is open from April 1 through April 30, October 1 through October 31, and December 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, recreational fishing for lingcod in the EEZ is closed from January 1 through March 31, May 1 through September 30, and November 1 through November 30).

(3) Between 38°57.50' N lat. and 37°11' N lat. (San Francisco Management Area), recreational fishing for lingcod in the EEZ is open from April 1 through April 30, October 1 through October 31, and December 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, recreational fishing for lingcod in the EEZ is closed from January 1 through March 31, May 1 through September 30, and November 1 through November 30).

(4) Between 37°11' N lat. and 34°27' N lat. (Central Management Area),

(i) Between 37°11' N lat. and 36° N lat., recreational fishing for lingcod in

the EEZ is open from April 1 through April 30, October 1 through October 31, and December 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, recreational fishing for lingcod is closed in the EEZ from January 1 through March 31, May 1 through September 30, and November 1 through November 30).

(ii) Between 36° N lat. and 34°27' N lat., recreational fishing for lingcod in the EEZ is open from April 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, recreational fishing for the lingcod in the EEZ is closed from January 1 through March 31).

(5) South of 34°27' N lat. (Southern Management Area), recreational fishing for lingcod in the EEZ is open from April 1 through December 31 (*i.e.*, recreational fishing for lingcod in the EEZ is closed from January 1 through March 31).

\* \* \* \* \*

[FR Doc. 2024-06775 Filed 3-29-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 240229-0063]

RIN 0648-BL80

### Fisheries Off West Coast States; Emergency Action To Temporarily Modify Continuous Transit Limitations for California Recreational Vessels

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Temporary rule; emergency action; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This emergency rule temporarily modifies a continuous transit requirement for California recreational vessels. This modification will temporarily allow recreational vessels to anchor overnight and/or stop to fish for non-groundfish species inside the seasonal Recreational Rockfish Conservation Area off the coast of California, also known as the 50-fathom (91-meter) offshore fishery. This emergency measure will prevent the possible cancellation of thousands of recreational fishing trips during the 2024 recreational fishing season off California.

**DATES:** Effective April 1, 2024 until September 30, 2024. Comments must be submitted by May 1, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:**

### Electronic Access

This emergency rule is accessible via the internet at the Office of the Federal Register website at <https://www.federalregister.gov/>. The continuing environmental effects of the California recreational fishery were previously considered under the *Environmental Assessment for Amendment 30 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan, 2023-2024 Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures*. This document is available on the NMFS West Coast Region website at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/west-coast-groundfish.html>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lynn Massey, phone: 562-900-2060, or email: [lynn.massey@noaa.gov](mailto:lynn.massey@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Pacific Coast Groundfish fishery in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) seaward of Washington, Oregon, and California is managed under the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) developed the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* The Secretary of Commerce approved the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP and implemented the provisions of the plan through Federal regulations at 50 CFR part 660, subparts C through G. Species managed under the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP include more than 90 species of roundfish, flatfish, rockfish, sharks, and skates.

The recreational fishery sector off the California coast benefits the economy through tourism, bait and tackle sales, and other commerce that brings income to California coastal fishing communities. NMFS, the Council, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) manage recreational fisheries within five districts: the Northern Management Area between 42° North latitude (N lat.) and 40°10' N lat., the Mendocino Management Area between 40°10' N lat. and 38°57.50' N lat., the San Francisco Management Area between 38°57.50' N lat. and 37°11' N lat., the Central Management Area between 37°11' N lat. and 34°27' N lat., and the Southern Management Area between 34°27' N lat. and the U.S./Mexico border. The California recreational groundfish fishery primarily targets lingcod, nearshore rockfish, and shelf rockfish with hook-and-line gear. Primary catch controls for this fishery include season dates, depth closures, bag limits, and area closures, all of which are tools used to keep catch