



Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations for 2018 COWCOD Conservation Areas



*Located in ocean waters between 34°27' N. latitude (Point Conception) and the U.S.-Mexico Border.
See Section 27.50 for exact location coordinates. In these areas, within given depths, only the
Groundfish listed in this table may be taken or possessed (see Exception at end of table)*

Note: Shaded text indicates regulations that were updated in 2018. Before engaging in ocean sportfishing for groundfish and associated species, please review one of the resources listed in Footnote 3 to receive the most up-to-date regulations.

Species	Time Period ^{3, 4}	Depth Limit ^{3, 4}	Daily Bag Limit ³	Min. Size Limit ^{3, 6, 7}
Nearshore¹ Rockfish and Shelf Rockfish² ONLY , as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(1) and 1.91(a)(3), and Cabazon and Greenlings as defined in Sections 28.28 and 28.29	Boat-based Anglers⁴: Open: Mar 1-Dec 31 Closed: Jan 1–Feb 28 Divers, Shore-based Anglers⁴: Open year-round	Take is prohibited seaward of 20 fathoms (120 feet) in depth SEE EXCEPTION AT END OF TABLE	10 fish in combination per person EXCEPT: Cabazon: 3 fish per person _____ Canary rockfish: 2 fish per person _____ Black rockfish: 3 fish per person	See individual species and groups below: Cabazon: 15" total length _____ Kelp and/or rock greenlings: 12" total length
Lingcod (Section 28.27)	Same as Nearshore and Shelf Rockfishes, Cabazon, and Greenlings above		2 fish per person	22" total length
Ocean Whitefish (Section 28.58)			10 fish per person	No size limit
California Sheephead (Section 28.26)			5 fish per person	12" total length
California Scorpionfish (Section 28.54)	Boat-based Anglers⁴ Open: Jan 1- Aug 31 Closed: Sep 1- Dec 31 Divers, Shore-based Anglers⁴ Open year-round	Same as Nearshore and Shelf Rockfish, Cabazon, and Greenlings above	5 fish per person	10" total length
Pacific Sanddab and "Other Flatfish"⁵ (Section 28.48)	Open year-round	No depth limit	Pacific sanddab: No limit _____ All "Other flatfish" ⁵ : 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish total in combination, per Section 27.60	No size limit
Petrale Sole and Starry Flounder (Section 28.47)	Open year-round	No depth limit	No limit	No size limit

THE GROUND FISH SPECIES LISTED BELOW MAY NOT BE TAKEN IN THE COWCOD CONSERVATION AREAS:

Cowcod, Bronzespotted and Yelloweye Rockfishes (Section 28.55)	Slope Rockfishes as defined in subsections 1.91(a)(4)	Leopard Shark (Section 28.56)	Other Federal Groundfish (Sections 28.49)
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FISHING IS CLOSED year-round, at all depths NO RETENTION at any time (zero fish per person)

1. "Nearshore rockfish" as described in subsection 1.91(a)(1) means black rockfish, black-and-yellow rockfish, blue rockfish, brown rockfish, calico rockfish, China rockfish, copper rockfish, gopher rockfish, grass rockfish, kelp rockfish, olive rockfish, quillback rockfish, and treefish.

2. "Shelf rockfish" as described in sub-section 1.91(a)(3) mean bocaccio, canary rockfish, chilipepper rockfish, dusky rockfish, flag rockfish, greenblotched rockfish, greenspotted rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, harlequin rockfish, honeycomb rockfish, Mexican rockfish, pink rockfish, redstripe rockfish, rosethorn rockfish, rosy rockfish, shortbelly rockfish, silvergray rockfish, speckled rockfish, squarespotted rockfish, starry rockfish, stripetail rockfish, tiger rockfish, vermilion rockfish, widow rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish. Take and possession of bronzespotted rockfish, cowcod rockfish and yelloweye rockfish is prohibited.

3. Subject to in-season change. Call the Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline at **(831) 649-2801**, visit the Marine Region Web site at **www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine**, send an e-mail to **AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov**, or call your nearest CDFW office for the latest information.

Some marine protected areas (MPAs) restrict or prohibit sport fishing within MPAs. Check the current ocean sport fishing regulations booklet or the CDFW website at **www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network/Southern-California**, send an e-mail to **AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov**, or call your nearest CDFW office for more information.

4. Divers and shore-based anglers are exempt from season and depth restrictions affecting the RCG complex and other federally managed groundfish. However, when spear fishing during a boat-based closure, only spear fishing gear is allowed aboard any vessel or watercraft. Also, when angling from shore during a boat-based closure, no vessel or watercraft may be used to assist in taking or possessing species included in this table. The following definitions describe boat-based and shore-based anglers, and divers:

- Boat-based anglers are fishermen that fish from boats or vessels of any size or any other type of floating object, including kayaks and float tubes.
- Shore-based anglers are fishermen that fish from beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks and other manmade structures connected to the shore.
- Divers are spear fishermen entering the water either from the shore or from a boat or other floating object.

5. In closed areas or during closed periods, Pacific sanddab, butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole (defined as "Other flatfish: in subsection 1.91(a)(10)) may be taken.

6. See regulations for information on gear restrictions (Sections 28.65, 28.70, 28.90, 28.91, and 28.95) and fillet lengths (Section 27.65).

7. Total length is the longest straight-line measurement from the tip of the head with the mouth closed to the end of the longest lobe of the tail. A measurement method illustration is available in this booklet.

EXCEPTION: During the open season, groundfish may be possessed in closed areas and in water depths closed to fishing only aboard vessels in transit with no fishing gear in the water (Section 27.20(b)).