## Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations for 2022

**CENTRAL Management Area**

Ocean waters between 37°11’ N. latitude (Pigeon Point) and 34°27’ N. latitude (Point Conception)

Includes all of Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo Counties, and parts of Santa Barbara and San Mateo Counties

Note: Shaded text denotes regulations that have changed for 2022. Before engaging in ocean sportfishing for groundfish and associated species, please review one of the resources listed in Footnote 1 to receive the most up-to-date regulations.

### Table of Regulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Depth Limit</th>
<th>Daily Bag Limit</th>
<th>Min. Size Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| RCG Complex (includes all species of Rockfishes, Cabezon and Greenlings, Sections 1.91 and 28.55, 28.28, and 28.29) | Boat-based Anglers²:  
Open: Apr 1 - Dec 31  
Closed: Jan 1-Mar 31  
Divers, Shore-based Anglers²:  
Open year-round | Take is prohibited seaward of the 50 fathom (300 feet) Rockfish Conservation Area boundary line, which is a series of connected waypoints defined in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart C) | 10 fish in combination per person EXCEPT:  
Vermilion rockfish: 4 fish per person  
Quillback rockfish: 1 fish per person  
Copper rockfish: 1 fish per person  
See individual species and groups below:  
Cabezon: 15” total length  
Kelp and/or rock greenlings: 12” total length | 10 fish in combination per person EXCEPT:  
Vermilion rockfish: 4 fish per person  
Quillback rockfish: 1 fish per person  
Copper rockfish: 1 fish per person  
See individual species and groups below:  
Cabezon: 15” total length  
Kelp and/or rock greenlings: 12” total length |

### Exceptions

**THESE ROCKFISHES MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED IN CALIFORNIA:**

Bronzespotted Rockfish, Cowcod and Yelloweye Rockfish (Section 28.55)

FISHING IS CLOSED year-round, at all depths  
NO RETENTION at any time (zero fish per person)

### Species and Anglers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anglers Type</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Depth Limit</th>
<th>Daily Bag Limit</th>
<th>Min. Size Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boat-based Anglers²:</td>
<td>Apr 1 - Dec 31, Jan 1-Mar 31</td>
<td>2 fish per person</td>
<td>22” total length</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divers, Shore-based Anglers²:</td>
<td>Open year-round</td>
<td>10 fish per person</td>
<td>No size limit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Anglers within Elkhorn Slough¹:</td>
<td>Open year-round</td>
<td>3 fish per person</td>
<td>“36” total length</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Anglers outside of Elkhorn Slough:</td>
<td>Same as RCG Complex, above</td>
<td>3 fish per person</td>
<td>“36” total length</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divers, Shore-based Anglers²:</td>
<td>Open year-round</td>
<td>20 fish total in combination, per Section 27.60(a)</td>
<td>( \text{No depth limit} )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Sanddabs and “Other Flatfish”³:</td>
<td>Open year-round</td>
<td>Pacific sanddab: No limit</td>
<td>No size limit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Footnotes

1. See individual species and groups below:
2. Non-resident limit is 10 fish per person
3. Limit 20 fish total in combination, per Section 27.60(a)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
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<th>Daily Bag Limit</th>
<th>Min. Size Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Petrale Sole and Starry Flounder</td>
<td>Open year-round</td>
<td>No depth limit</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>No size limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Federal Groundfish</td>
<td>Same as RCG Complex, above</td>
<td>Soupfin shark: 1 fish per person</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Section 28.47)</td>
<td></td>
<td>All Other Federal Groundfish: 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish total in combination, per Section 27.60(a)</td>
<td>No size limit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. 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/Regions/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/Central-California, send an e-mail to AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov, or call your nearest CDFW office for more information.

2. Divers and shore-based anglers are exempt from season 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.

3. “Other Flatfish” are described in Section 1.91(a)(10) including only butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4. 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).

5. 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 (Section 1.62). A measurement method illustration is available in the current Ocean Sport Fishing Regulations booklet.

6. The sport fishery for leopard shark inside Elkhorn Slough is exempt from season restrictions that affect other federally managed groundfish (Section 28.56(a)(4)).

**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)).