Section 1.91, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 1.91. Federal Groundfish and Rockfish, Cabezon and Greenling (RCG) Complex.

(a) The species or species groups listed in subsections 1.91(a)(1) through 1.91(a)(12) constitute “federal groundfish” and are managed under the Federal Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan:


(2) “California Scorpionfish” (*Scorpaena guttata*)


(4) “Slope Rockfish” which means the following species of rockfish: aurora rockfish (*Sebastes aurora*), bank rockfish (*S. rufus*), blackgill rockfish (*S. melanostomus*), darkblotched rockfish (*S. crameri*), Pacific ocean perch (*S. alutus*), redbanded rockfish (*S. babcocki*), rougheye rockfish (*S. aleutianus*), sharpchin rockfish (*S. zacentrus*), shortrakcer rockfish (*S. borealis*), splitnose rockfish (*S. diploproa*), yellowmouth rockfish (*S. reedi*),

(5) “Sharks”, including only leopard shark (*Triakis semifasciata*), soupfin shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*), and spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*$suckleyi$)

(6) “Skates”, which means big skate (*Raja binoculata*), California skate (*R. inornata*), longnose skate (*R. rhina*), Roughtail/black skate (*Bathyraja trachura*), Aleutian skate (*B. aleutica*), Bering/sandpaper skate (*R. interrupta*), and all other genera and species of skates in the families Arhynchobatidae and Rajidae that occur off California.

(7) “Roundfish”, including only cabezon (*Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*), kelp greenling (*Hexagrammos decagrammms*), lingcod (*Ophiodon elongatus*), Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*), Pacific whiting (*Merluccius productus*), and sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*)

(8) “Thornyheads”, which means longspine thornyhead (*Sebastolobus altivelis*), and shortspine thornyhead (*Sebastolobus alascanus*)
(9) “Federally Managed Flatfish”, including only arrowtooth flounder (arrowtooth turbot) (*Atheresthes stomias*), Dover sole (*Microstomus pacificus*), English sole (*Parophrys vetulus*), petrale sole (*Opetetta jordani*), and starry flounder (*Platichthys stellatus*).

(10) “Other Flatfish”, including only butter sole (*Isopsetta isolepis*), curlfin sole (*Pleuronichthys decurrens*), flathead sole (*Hippoglossoides elassodon*), Pacific sanddab (*Citharichthys sordidus*), rex sole (*Glyptocephalus zachirus*), rock sole (*Lepidopsetta bilineata*), and sand sole (*Psettichthys melanostictus*).

(11) “Other fish”, including only ratfish (*Hydrolagus colliei*), finescale codling (*Antimora microlepis*), Pacific grenadier (rattail) (*Coryphaenoides acrolepis*) and all other genera and species of grenadiers in the family Macrouridae that occur off California.

(12) All genera and species of the family Scorpaenidae that occur off California and not specifically listed in (a)(1) through (a)(4) or (a)(8) above.

(b) “RCG Complex” means all species of rockfish (*Sebastes*), cabezon (*Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*), and kelp and rock greenlings (*genus Hexagrammos*).

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 265 and 8587.1, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 205 and 7071, Fish and Game Code.

Section 27.20, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:


Regulations that follow in sections 27.25 through 27.50 define fishing seasons and depth constraints that are effective within each Groundfish Management Area (GMA). These sections apply to take and possession of federally-managed federal groundfish species as defined in Section 1.91 and California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*, which are state-managed species known to associate with federal groundfish.

(a) Depth Constraints: In a GMA the take, retention and/or possession of certain federal groundfish and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* may be authorized or prohibited in waters shallower than, or deeper than, the identified depth constraint depending on the defined areas and seasons specified in sections 27.25 through 27.50. A depth constraint means that during the open season, the aforementioned species may not be taken or possessed in water depths deeper than the specified depth. Two specific definitions of “depth” apply off California. In waters shallower than 30 fathoms, “depth” is defined by general depth contour lines. In waters equal to or deeper than 30 fathoms, “depth” is defined by approximating a particular depth contour by connecting the appropriate set of waypoints adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart C).

(b) General Provisions.

(1) Take and/or Possession: During any open season in any Groundfish Management Area, in waters deeper than where fishing is authorized or within special closure areas established within a Groundfish Management Area, it is unlawful to take or possess the aforementioned species except of federal groundfish species or species groups and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is authorized or prohibited as provided in subsections (b)(1)(A) through (b)(1)(D) below and sections 27.25 through 27.50 of these regulations.
(A) Transit: The aforementioned species or species groups that are closed to take and/or possession in part of a GMA may be possessed aboard a vessel in transit through the closed area with no fishing gear deployed in the water.

(B) Federal groundfish exempt from seasons and depth constraints: “Other Flatfish” as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(10), petrale sole, and-starry flounder, California scorpionfish, leopard shark, and the federal groundfish species listed in Section 28.49 may be taken and/or possessed in all GMAs and depths year-round except as described in subsections 28.49(a) and 28.56(a).

(C) Shore Based Angling: When angling from shore (includes beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks, and other man-made structures connected to the shore), all species may be taken and/or possessed year-round (See subsection 27.50(b)(1) for exceptions in the Cowcod Conservation Areas). No vessel or watercraft (motorized or non-motorized) may be used to assist in taking, transport and/or possessing these species while angling from shore under this provision.

(D) Diving or Spearfishing: When diving or spearfishing, as authorized in Section 28.90, all species may be taken and/or possessed year-round (See subsection 27.50(b)(2) for exceptions in the Cowcod Conservation Areas). When boat-based groundfish fishing is closed, all types of fishing gear, except spearfishing gear, are prohibited to be aboard the vessel or watercraft (motorized or non-motorized) while spearfishing for the purpose of taking and/or possessing these species under this provision.

c) Closed Season: During any closed season in any Groundfish Management Area GMA, it is unlawful to take and/or possess the aforementioned species all species of rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, and greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* regardless of depth except as provided in subsections (b)(1)(A) through (b)(1)(D) above and sections 27.25 through 27.50 of these regulations.

(d) California Rockfish Conservation Area: Within any Groundfish Management Area GMA, waters that are closed for these certain species or species groups during specified times and/or closed in specified depths shall be known as the California Rockfish Conservation Area. See Section 27.51.

e) Fishery closure and/or rule change: When the department determines, based on the best available scientific information, that an annual harvest limit [optimum yield (OY), annual catch limit (ACL), annual catch target (ACT), recreational harvest guideline, or recreational harvest target] established in regulation by the NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service) for any species of federally-managed federal groundfish or aggregate group of federal groundfish species has been exceeded or is projected to be exceeded prior to the end of the year or that catches are less than predicted, the following rule changes may occur:

1) The department may modify the seasons and/or depth constraints for any species of federally-managed federal groundfish or aggregate group of federal groundfish species, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. Season and/or depth modifications may differ by Groundfish Management Area GMA, time of year, mode of fishing, or gear utilized.

2) The department may adjust existing bag or sub-bag limits or establish additional bag or sub-bag limits as needed for any species of federally-managed federal groundfish or aggregate
group of federal groundfish species, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. Bag limits may differ by Groundfish Management Area, time of year, mode of fishing, or gear utilized.

(3) The department may adjust existing size limits or establish additional size limits as needed for any species of federally managed federal groundfish or aggregate group of federal groundfish species, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. Size limits may differ by Groundfish Management Area, time of year, mode of fishing, or gear utilized.

(f) Notice of closure and/or rule change: The department shall give the public and the NOAA Fisheries no less than 10 calendar days’ notice of any fishery closure or rule change implemented pursuant to this Section via a department news release. Anglers and divers are advised to check the current rules before fishing. The latest fishing rules may be found on the department’s website at: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean, or by calling (831) 649–2801 for recorded information, or by contacting a department office.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 702, 7071 and 8587.1, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 1802 and 7071, Fish and Game Code; and 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G.

Section 27.25, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:

§ 27.25. Northern Groundfish Management Area.

This Section applies to take and/or possession of federally managed federal groundfish species as defined in Section 1.91, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. For specific definitions, applicability, and procedures, see sections 1.91 and 27.20. For size limits, bag and possession limits, and other regulations that apply to individual species, see specific sections beginning with Section 27.60.

(a) The Northern Groundfish Management Area means ocean waters between 42° 00’ N. lat. (the Oregon/California border) and 40° 10’ N. lat. (near Cape Mendocino, Humboldt County).

(b) Seasons and depth constraints (except as provided in subsection (c) below) effective for all species of rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*:

(1) January 1 through April 30: Closed.

(2) May 1 through October 31: Take of all species is prohibited seaward of a line approximating the 30–fathom depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts. The 30–fathom depth contour is defined by straight lines connecting the set of 30–fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G). Open for all species with no depth constraints.

(3) November 1 through December 31: Open for all species with no depth restrictions. Closed.

(c) Leopard shark may be taken or possessed in Humboldt Bay year–round.
Section 27.30, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:

§ 27.30. Mendocino Groundfish Management Area.

This Section applies to take and/or possession of federally managed federal groundfish species as defined in Section 1.91, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. For specific definitions, applicability, and procedures, see sections 1.91 and 27.20. For size limits, bag and possession limits, and other regulations that apply to individual species, see specific sections beginning with Section 27.60.

(a) The Mendocino Groundfish Management Area means ocean waters between 40° 00' 10" N. lat. (near Cape Mendocino, Humboldt County) and 38° 57.50' N. lat. (at Point Arena, Mendocino County).

(b) Seasons and depth constraints effective for all species of rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*:

1. Shelf rockfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(3), except bronzespotted rockfish, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish which may not be taken or possessed.

2. Slope rockfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(4)

3. Lingcod

(B) Nearshore species closure: Take and/or possession of nearshore rockfish as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(1), cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is prohibited in all waters of the Mendocino Groundfish Management Area.

3. November 1 through December 31: Open for all species with no depth constraints.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 702, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 1802 and 7071, Fish and Game Code; 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G; and 14 CCR 27.20.
Section 27.35, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:

§ 27.35. San Francisco Groundfish Management Area.

This Section applies to take and/or possession of federally-managed groundfish species as defined in Section 1.91, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. For specific definitions, applicability, and procedures, see sections 1.91 and 27.20. For size limits, bag and possession limits, and other regulations that apply to individual species, see specific sections beginning with Section 27.60.

(a) The San Francisco Groundfish Management Area means ocean waters between 38° 57.50’ N. lat. (at Point Arena, Mendocino County) and 37° 11’ N. lat. (at Pigeon Point, San Mateo County).

(b) Seasons and depth constraints (except as provided in subsection (c) below) effective for all species of rockfish, lingcod, cabezon and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*:

   (1) January 1 through March 31: Closed.

   (2) April 1 through July 15: Take of all species is prohibited seaward of a line approximating the 50–fathom depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts. The 50–fathom depth contour is defined by straight lines connecting the set of 50–fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G).

   (A) Take and/or possession of species and species groups listed in subsections 1. through 3. is authorized seaward of a line approximating the 50–fathom depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts. Take and/or possession of these species is prohibited shoreward of this line, except as provided in subsection 27.20(b). The 50–fathom depth contour is defined by straight lines connecting the set of 50–fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G).

      1. Shelf rockfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(3), except bronzespotted rockfish, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish which may not be taken or possessed

      2. Slope rockfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(4)

      3. Lingcod

   (B) Nearshore species closure: Take and/or possession of nearshore rockfish as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(1), cabezon, and greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is prohibited in all waters of the San Francisco Groundfish Management Area.

      (3) July 16 through December 31: Open for all species with no depth constraints.

   (c) Leopard shark may be taken or possessed in Drake’s Bay, Bolinas Bay, Tomales Bay, Bedega Harbor, and San Francisco Bay year-round.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 702, Fish and Game Code.
Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 1802 and 7071, Fish and Game Code; 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G; and 14 CCR 27.20.
Section 27.40, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:

§ 27.40. Central Groundfish Management Area.

This Section applies to take and/or possession of federally-managed federal groundfish species as defined in Section 1.91, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. For specific definitions, applicability, and procedures, see sections 1.91 and 27.20. For size limits, bag and possession limits, and other regulations that apply to individual species, see specific sections beginning with Section 27.60.

(a) The Central Groundfish Management Area means ocean waters between 37° 11’ N. lat. (at Pigeon Point, San Mateo County) and 34° 27’ N. lat. (at Point Conception, Santa Barbara County).

(b) Seasons and depth constraints (except as provided in subsection (c) below) effective for all species of rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*:

   (1) January 1 through March 31: Closed.
   
   (2) April 1 through December 31: Take of all species is prohibited seaward of a line approximating the 50-fathom depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts. The 50-fathom depth contour is defined by straight lines connecting the set of 50-fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G). Open for all species with no depth constraints.
   
   (3) October 1 through December 31:
   
   (A) Take and/or possession of species and species groups listed in subsections 1. through 3. is authorized seaward of a line approximating the 50-fathom depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts. Take and/or possession of these species is prohibited shoreward of this line, except as provided in subsection 27.20(b). The 50-fathom depth contour is defined by straight lines connecting the set of 50-fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G).
   
   1. Shelf rockfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(3), except bronzespotted rockfish, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish which may not be taken or possessed
   
   2. Slope rockfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(4)
   
   3. Lingcod
   
   (B) Nearshore species closure: Take and/or possession of nearshore rockfish as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(1), cabezon, and greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is prohibited in all waters of the Central Groundfish Management Area.
   
   (c) Leopard shark may be taken or possessed in Elkhorn Slough year-round.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205 and 265, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 1802 and 7071, Fish and Game Code; and 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G.
Section 27.45, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:

§ 27.45. Southern Groundfish Management Area.

This Section applies to take and/or possession of federally-managed federal groundfish species as defined in Section 1.91, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. For specific definitions, applicability, and procedures, see sections 1.91 and 27.20. For size limits, bag and possession limits, and other regulations that apply to individual species, see specific sections beginning with Section 27.60.

(a) The Southern Groundfish Management Area means ocean waters between 34°27’ N. lat. (at Point Conception, Santa Barbara County) and the U.S./Mexico border. The Cowcod Conservation Areas are special closure areas within the Southern Groundfish Management Area, where species authorizations, prohibitions, depth constraints and seasons differ from those of the Southern Groundfish Management Area. See Section 27.50.

(b) Seasons and depth constraints (except as provided in subsection (c) below) effective for all species of rockfish, lingcod, cabezon and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*:

(1) January 1 through the last day in February/March 31: Closed, except take of California scorpionfish is prohibited seaward of a line approximating the 100–fathom depth contour, defined by connecting the appropriate waypoints adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G).

(2) March/April 1 through December 31/September 15: Take of all species is prohibited seaward of a line approximating the 100–fathom depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts. The 100–fathom depth contour is defined by straight lines connecting the set of 100–fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G). Open for all species with no depth constraints.

(3) September 16 through December 31:

(A) Take and/or possession of species and species groups listed in 1. through 3. is authorized seaward of a line approximating the 50–fathom depth contour along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts. Take and/or possession of these species is prohibited shoreward of this line, except as provided in subsection 27.20(b). The 50–fathom depth contour is defined by straight lines connecting the set of 50–fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G).

1. Shelf rockfish, as defined in section 1.91(a)(3), except bronzespotted rockfish, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish which may not be taken or possessed

2. Slope rockfish, as defined in section 1.91(a)(4)

3. Lingcod

(B) Nearshore species closure: Take and/or possession of nearshore rockfish as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(1), cabezon, and greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is prohibited in all waters of the Southern Groundfish Management Area.

(c) Special exceptions to subsection (b) above:

(1) Regulations that apply to the Cowcod Conservation Areas are specified in Section 27.50.
(2) Leopard shark may be taken or possessed in Newport Bay, Alamitos Bay, Mission Bay, and San Diego Bay year-round.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205 and 265, Fish and Game Code.
Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 1802 and 7071, Fish and Game Code; and 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G.

Section 27.50, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:

§ 27.50. Cowcod Conservation Areas.

This Section applies to take and/or possession of federally-managed federal groundfish species as defined in Section 1.91, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus Hexagrammos. For specific definitions, applicability, and procedures, see sections 1.91 and 27.20. For size limits, bag and possession limits, and other regulations that apply to individual species, see specific sections beginning with Section 27.60.

(a) The Cowcod Conservation Areas are defined as ocean waters off southern California within each of the following two areas:

Area 1 is an area south of Point Conception that is bound by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

33° 50' N. lat., 119° 30' W. long.;
33° 50' N. lat., 118° 50' W. long.;
32° 20' N. lat., 118° 50' W. long.;
32° 20' N. lat., 119° 37' W. long.;
33° 00' N. lat., 119° 37' W. long.;
33° 00' N. lat., 119° 53' W. long.;
33° 33' N. lat., 119° 53' W. long.;
33° 33' N. lat., 119° 30' W. long.; and
33° 50' N. lat., 119° 30' W. long.

Area 2 is a smaller area west of San Diego that is bound by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

32° 42' N. lat., 118° 02' W. long.;
32° 42' N. lat., 117° 50' W. long.;
32° 36' 42" N. lat., 117° 50' W. long.;
32° 30' N. lat., 117° 53' 3" W. long.;
32° 30' N. lat., 117° 53' 3" W. long.;
32° 30' N. lat., 118° 02' W. long.; and
(b) Seasons and depth constraints (except as provided in subsection (c) below):

(1) January 1 through the last day in February: Closed, except take of California scorpionfish is prohibited seaward of a line approximating the 40–fathom depth contour along islands and offshore seamounts, defined by connecting the appropriate waypoints adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G). Take and/or possession of the following federal groundfish species is authorized year-round in all depths:

(A) California scorpionfish
(B) “Other flatfish” as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(10)
(C) Petrale sole
(D) Starry flounder.

(2) March 1 through December 31: Take of species or species groups listed in (A) through (G) below is prohibited seaward of a line approximating the 40–fathom depth contour along islands and offshore seamounts. The 40–fathom depth contour is defined by straight lines connecting the set of 40–fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G). For nearshore rockfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(1), cabezon, all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*, lingcod, and shelf rockfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(3):

(A) Nearshore rockfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(1) From January 1 through March 31, take and/or possession is prohibited in all waters of the Cowcod Conservation Areas, except as provided in subsection 27.50(c).

(B) Cabezon From April 1 through September 15, take and/or possession is authorized in the Cowcod Conservation Areas shoreward of a line approximating the 40-fathom depth contour. The 40-fathom depth contour is defined by straight lines connecting the set of 40-fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G).

(C) Greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* From September 16 through December 31, take and/or possession is prohibited in all waters of the Cowcod Conservation Areas.

(D) California sheephead
(E) Ocean whitefish
(F) Lingcod

(G) Shelf rockfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(3), except bronzespotted rockfish, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish which may not be taken or possessed within the Cowcod Conservation Areas.

(3) Take and/or possession of the following species or species groups is prohibited year-round in all depths of the Cowcod Conservation Areas:

(A) Slope rockfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(4)
(B) Leopard shark
(C) All federal groundfish species listed in Section 28.49
(D) Bronzespotted rockfish, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish.

(c) Special exceptions to subsection (b) above:

(1) Notwithstanding subsection 27.20(b)(1)(C), when angling from shore (includes beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks, and other man−made structures connected to the shore), only the species identified in (b)(1) and (b)(2) above and California scorpionfish may be taken and/or possessed year−round. No vessel or watercraft (motorized or non−motorized) may be used to assist in the taking, transport and/or possessing possession of these species while angling from shore under this provision.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection 27.20(b)(1)(D), when diving or spearfishing, as authorized in Section 28.90, only the species identified in (b)(1) and (b)(2) above and California scorpionfish may be taken and/or possessed year−round. Except for spearfishing gear, all other types of fishing gear are prohibited to be aboard the vessel or watercraft (motorized or non−motorized) while spearfishing for the purpose of when taking and/or possessing these species under this provision.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205 and 265, Fish and Game Code.
Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 1802 and 7071, Fish and Game Code; 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G; and 14 CCR 27.20.

Section 27.51, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:

§27.51. California Rockfish Conservation Area.

California Rockfish Conservation Areas (CRCA) means the ocean waters that are closed to recreational groundfish fishing at specified times, or closed in specified depths or areas. CRCA serve to minimize interaction with particular species of overfished groundfish that cannot be selectively avoided and thus must be protected from overharvest by closing times, depths, or areas to recreational fishing for federal groundfish and associated species and all greenlings of the genus Hexagrammos managed by California. See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50.

(a) In the CRCA, take and possession is prohibited for federally managed groundfish species as defined in Section 1.91, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, and all greenlings of the genus Hexagrammos:

(b) This regulation does not apply in cases where these species are possessed aboard a vessel in transit with no fishing gear deployed in the water.

Note: Authority: Section 205, Fish and Game Code.
Reference: Sections 200, 265 and 270, Fish and Game Code; and 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G.

Section 28.26, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:


(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints: See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and possession is authorized as follows: Closed season: January 1 through the last day in February with the following exceptions:

(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25. Shore Based Angling: When angling from shore (including beaches, banks,
piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks, and other artificial structures connected to the shore). California Sheephead may be taken and/or possessed year-round. No vessel or watercraft (motorized or non-motorized) may be used to assist in the take, transport and/or possession California Sheephead while angling from shore under this provision.

(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30. Diving or Spearfishing: When diving or spearfishing, California Sheephead may be taken and/or possessed year-round. During the closed season, January 1 through the last day in February, all types of fishing gear, except spearfishing gear, are prohibited to be aboard the vessel or watercraft (motorized or non-motorized) when taking and/or possessing California sheephead under this provision.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.50.

(b) Limit: Five Two.

(c) Minimum size: 12 inches total length. See subsection 27.65(b) for fillet size limit.

(d) Fishing rules for California sheephead may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e) or Section 52.10. See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 702, 7071 and 8587.1, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 1802 and 7071, Fish and Game Code; and 14 CCR 27.20.

Section 28.27, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 28.27. Lingcod.

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints: See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and/or possession is authorized as follows:

1. Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25.

2. Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

3. San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35.
(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.50.

(b) Limit: Two.

(c) Minimum size: 22 inches total length. See subsection 27.65(b) for fillet size limit.

(d) Method of take: When angling, gear is restricted to not more than two hooks and one line. For purposes of this section, a hook is a single hook, or double or treble hook with multiple points connected to a common shank.

(e) Fishing rules for lingcod may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 275, 702 and 8587.1, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 1802, Fish and Game Code; 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G; and 14 CCR 27.20.

Section 28.28, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:

§ 28.28. Cabezon.

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints: See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and/or possession is authorized as follows:

(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25.

(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.50.

(b) Limit: 10 fish, within a Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenling complex (RCG complex, as defined in Section 1.91) bag limit of 10 fish.
(c) Minimum size: 15 inches total length. See subsection 27.65(c) for fillet regulations.

(d) Method of take: When angling, gear is restricted to not more than two hooks and one line. For purposes of this section, a hook is a single hook, or double or treble hook with multiple points connected to a common shank.

(e) Fishing rules for cabezon may be changed during the year or in–season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e) or Section 52.10. See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 702 and 8587.1, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 1802 and 7071, Fish and Game Code; 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G; and 14 CCR 27.20.

Section 28.29, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:


(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints for greenlings of the genus Hexagrammos (including kelp and rock greenlings): See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and/or possession is authorized as follows:

(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25.

(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.50.

(b) Limit: For greenlings of the genus Hexagrammos, ten fish within a Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenling complex (RCG complex, as defined in Section 1.91) bag limit of 10 fish.

(c) Minimum size: 12 inches total length. See subsection 27.65(b) for fillet regulations.

(d) Method of take: When angling, gear is restricted to not more than two hooks and one line. For purposes of this section, a hook is a single hook, or double or treble hook with multiple points connected to a common shank.

(e) Fishing rules for greenlings of the genus Hexagrammos may be changed during the year or in–season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e) or Section 52.10. See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.
Section 28.47, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 28.47. Petrale Sole and Starry Flounder.

Petrale sole and starry flounder are federal groundfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a), and are subject to special regulations as follows. Regulations of this Section do not apply to other species of flounders or sole.

(a) Open year-round in all depths.

(b) Limit: There is no limit on petrale sole or starry flounder.

(c) Petrale sole and starry flounder may be taken in all depths.

(d) Fishing rules for petrale sole and starry flounder may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

Section 28.48, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:


Pacific sanddab, rock sole, sand sole, butter sole, curlfin sole, rex sole, and flathead sole are federal groundfish, also known in the aggregate as “other flatfish” pursuant to subsection 1.91(a)(10) and are subject to special regulations as follows. Regulations of this Section do not apply to other species of sanddabs, flounders, or sole.

(a) Open year-round in all depths.

(b) Limit: There is no limit on Pacific sanddab. The general bag limit of not more than 20 finfish in combination of all species with not more than 10 of any one species applies to rock sole, sand sole, butter sole, curlfin sole, rex sole, and flathead sole.

(c) Fishing rules for Pacific sanddab, rock sole, sand sole, butter sole, curlfin sole, rex sole, and flathead sole may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 702, Fish and Game Code.
Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 1802, Fish and Game Code; 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G; and 14 CCR 27.20.
Section 28.49, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:

§ 28.49. Soupfin Shark, Dover Sole, English Sole, Arrowtooth Flounder, Spiny Dogfish, Skates, Ratfish, Grenadiers, Finescale Codling, Pacific Cod, Pacific Whiting, Sablefish and Thornyheads.

Soupfin shark, Dover sole, English sole, arrowtooth flounder, spiny dogfish, all skates, ratfish, all grenadiers, finescale codling, Pacific cod, Pacific whiting, sablefish, longspine thornyhead, and shortspine thornyhead are federal groundfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a), and are subject to special regulations as follows. Regulations of this Section do not apply to other species of flounders, sole, sharks, or codlings unless otherwise specified.

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints: See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and possession is authorized as follows:

(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25.

(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Closed—year-round in all depths, except in the Cowcod Conservation Areas where these species may not be taken or possessed at any time or depth, except for transit as provided in subsection 27.20(b)(1)(A). See section 27.50.

(b) Limit:

(1) The limit on soupfin shark is one fish.

(2) The general bag limit of not more than 20 finfish in combination of all species with not more than 10 of any one species applies to Dover sole, English sole, arrowtooth flounder, spiny dogfish, all skates, ratfish, all grenadiers, finescale codling, Pacific cod, Pacific whiting, sablefish, longspine thornyhead and shortspine thornyhead.

(c) Method of take: When angling, gear is restricted to not more than two hooks and one line. For purposes of this section, a hook is a single hook, or a double or treble hook with multiple points connected to a common shank.

(ced) Fishing rules for soupfin shark, Dover sole, English sole, arrowtooth flounder, spiny dogfish, all skates, ratfish, all grenadiers, finescale codling, Pacific cod, Pacific whiting, sablefish, longspine thornyhead and shortspine thornyhead may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.
Section 28.54, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:

§ 28.54. California Scorpionfish (Sculpin).

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints: See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and possession is authorized as follows:

(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25.

(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.50—year-round in all depths.

(b) Limit: Five.

(c) Minimum size: 10 inches total length. See subsection 27.65(b) for fillet size limit.

(d) Method of take: When angling, gear is restricted to not more than two hooks and one line. For purposes of this section, a hook is a single hook, or double or treble hook with multiple points connected to a common shank.

(e) Fishing rules for California scorpionfish may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

Section 28.55, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:

§ 28.55. Rockfish (Sebastes).

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints: See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and possession is authorized as follows:
(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25.

(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Open and closed dates and depths constraints as defined by Section 27.50. Only Nearshore Rockfish, and Shelf Rockfish, as defined in subsections 1.91(a)(1) and 1.91(a)(3), may be taken and possessed, except as provided below in subsection (b)(1).

(b) Limit: Ten, within the Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenling complex (RCG complex, as defined in Section 1.91) limit of 10 fish, in any combination of species, except as provided below.

(1) The limit on bronzespotted rockfish, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish is zero. These species shall not be taken or possessed as part of the RCG limit.

(2) The limit on vermilion rockfish is five (5) fish, within the RCG bag limit.

(3) The limit on quillback rockfish is one (1) fish, within the RCG bag limit.

(4) The limit on copper rockfish is one (1) fish, within the RCG bag limit.

(5) In the Cowcod Conservation Areas (see Section 27.50), the limit on slope rockfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(4), is zero. These species shall not be taken or possessed as part of the RCG limit in the Cowcod Conservation Areas.

(c) Size limit: None. See subsection 27.65(b) for fillet regulations.

(d) Method of take: When angling, gear is restricted to not more than two hooks and one line. For purposes of this section, a hook is a single hook, or a double or treble hook with multiple points connected to a common shank.

(e) Fishing rules for rockfish may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 399, 702, 7071 and 8587.1, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 399, 1802, 7071 and 8585.5, Fish and Game Code; 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G; and 14 CCR 27.20.
Section 28.56, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:

§ 28.56. Leopard Shark.

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth constraints: See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and possession is authorized as follows:

(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25, except that take and possession is authorized year-round in Humboldt Bay.

(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35, except that take and possession is authorized year-round in Drake’s Bay, Bolinas Bay, Tomales Bay, Bodega Harbor, and San Francisco Bay.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40, except that take and possession is authorized year-round in Elkhorn Slough.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45, except that take and possession is authorized year-round in Newport Bay, Alamitos Bay, Mission Bay, and San Diego Bay.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Closed, year-round in all depths, except in the Cowcod Conservation Areas where leopard shark may not be taken or possessed at any time or depth except for transit as provided in subsection 27.20(b)(1)(A). See Section 27.50.

(b) Limit: Three.

(c) Minimum size: 36 inches total length. See subsection 27.65(b) for fillet regulations.

(d) Fishing rules for leopard shark may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 702, Fish and Game Code.
Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 1802, Fish and Game Code; 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G; and 14 CCR 27.20.

Section 28.58, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:


(a) Open year-round in all depths, areas, seasons, and depth constraints: See Section 27.20 through Section 27.50 for definitions, special closure areas, and exceptions. Take and possession is authorized as follows:

(1) Northern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.25.
(2) Mendocino Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.30.

(3) San Francisco Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.35.

(4) Central Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.40.

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.45.

(6) Cowcod Conservation Areas: Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined by Section 27.50.

(b) Limit: The general bag limit of not more than 20 finfish in combination of all species with not more than 10 of any one species applies to ocean whitefish. See subsection 27.65(b) for fillet size limit.

(c) Fishing rules for ocean whitefish may be changed during the year or in-season by the department under the authority of subsection 27.20(e). See subsection 27.20(f) for additional information.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 275 and 702, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 275 and 1802, Fish and Game Code; and 14 CCR 27.20.

Section 28.65, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 28.65. General.

Except as provided in this article, fin fish may be taken only on hook and line or by hand. Any number of hooks and lines may be used in all ocean waters and bays except:

(a) San Francisco Bay, as described in Section 27.00, where only one line with not more than three hooks may be used.

(b) On public piers, no person shall use more than two rods and lines, two hand lines, or two nets, traps or other appliances used to take crabs.

(c) When rockfish (genus Sebastes), California scorpionfish (Scorpaena guttata), lingcod (Ophiodon elongatus), cabezon (Scorpaenichthys marmoratus), or kelp or rock greenlings (Hexagrammos decagrammus and Hexagrammos lagocephalus), or species listed in Section 28.49 are aboard or in possession, where only one line with not more than two hooks may be used pursuant to sections 28.55, 28.54, 28.27, 28.28 or 28.29, or 28.49, respectively.

(d) No gaff hook shall be used to take or assist in landing any fin fish shorter than the minimum size limit. For the purpose of this section a gaff hook is any hook with or without a handle used to assist in landing fish or to take fish in such a manner that the fish does not take the hook voluntarily in its mouth. No person shall take fin fish from any boat or other floating device in ocean waters without having a landing net in possession or available for immediate use to assist in landing undersize fish of species having minimum size limits; the opening of any such landing net shall be not less than eighteen inches in diameter.
(e) North of Point Conception (34°27'00" N. lat.), where only one rod and line may be used by each angler fishing for salmon, or fishing from any boat or floating device with salmon on board.

(f) Mousetrap gear prohibited: It is unlawful to use, assist in using, or to possess aboard any vessel, hook-and-line gear commonly termed “mouse traps” constructed of a hook(s) or lure(s), attached to one end of a line that is attached to a float, or floats at the other end, and that when fished, is not attached directly to a person or vessel. Possession of such gear aboard a vessel shall be prima facie evidence that the gear is being used in violation of this regulation.

(g) North of Point Conception to 40°10'00" N. lat. (near Cape Mendocino), Section 27.80(a)(3) applies to each angler fishing for salmon or fishing from any boat or floating device with salmon on board.


Section 28.90, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 28.90. Diving, Spearfishing.

Persons who are floating or swimming in the water may use spearfishing gear and skin or SCUBA diving equipment to take fin fish other than giant (black) sea bass, garibaldi, gulf grouper, broomtail grouper, trout, salmon, or broadbill, except that:

(a) No person may possess or use a spear within 100 yards of the mouth of any stream in any ocean waters north of Ventura County.

(b) When spearfishing for or in possession of federal groundfish species or associated species all greenlings of the genus Hexagrammos as authorized pursuant to subsection 27.20(b)(1)(D), in an area or during a season closed to the take of these species, no fishing gear except spearfishing gear may be aboard the vessel or watercraft.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 265 and 8587.1, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 205 and 7071, Fish and Game Code; and 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G.