

Revised Proposed Regulatory Language

KEY

Language originally proposed to be deleted is shown in ~~strikeout~~.

Language originally proposed to be added is shown in underline.

Language originally proposed to be added but now proposed to be removed is shown in ~~underline~~.

Language newly proposed to be added is shown in double-underline.

Language newly proposed to be deleted is shown in ~~double-strikeout~~.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 27.20, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 27.20. Groundfish Management Areas, Seasons, Depths, Exceptions, and Fishery Closure/Rule Change Process Described.

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 federal groundfish species as defined in Section 1.91 and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*.

(a) ~~Depth Constraints~~Restrictions: 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~~restriction depending on the defined areas and seasons specified in sections 27.25 through 27.50. ~~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~~Depth” is defined by approximating a particular depth contour by connecting the appropriate set of waypoints adopted in Section 35.00 of these regulations for the 20-fathom boundary line, and Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart C) for all other depth boundary lines.

(b) General Provisions.

(1) Take and/or possession 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~~Anchoring, drifting, or transiting in closed areas: ~~The 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 a closed area with no fishing gear~~

deployed in the water. In waters where groundfish species or species groups are closed to take or possession but authorized for take or possession in other areas, those species or species groups may be possessed aboard a vessel that is anchored, drifting, or transiting in or through that closed area. While anchored, drifting, or transiting through an area closed to take or possession of these groundfish species or species groups, no gear may be deployed other than for the take of crustaceans with hoop nets used pursuant to subsection 29.80(b), Dungeness crab traps used pursuant to subsection 29.80(c), and dip nets used pursuant to Section 28.80.

(B) Federal groundfish exempt from seasons and depth constraints: “Other Flatfish” as defined in subsection 1.91(a)(10), petrale sole, 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, except those listed in subsection 28.55(b)(1), 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 the take, transport ~~and~~/or possession of these species under this provision.

(D) Diving or Spearfishing: When diving or spearfishing, as authorized in Section 28.90, all species, except those listed in subsection 28.55(b)(1), 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) when taking ~~and~~/or possessing these species under this provision.

(2) Descending Devices: No person shall take or possess any federal groundfish as defined in Section 1.91 and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* from any boat or other floating device in ocean waters without having a descending device in possession and available for immediate use to assist in releasing rockfish to the depth of capture.

(c) Closed Season: During any closed season in any GMA, it is unlawful to take ~~and~~/or possess 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 GMA, waters that are closed for 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 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 federal groundfish or aggregate group of federal groundfish species, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. Season ~~and/or~~ depth modifications may differ by area, 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 federal groundfish or aggregate group of federal groundfish species, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. Bag limits may differ by 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 federal groundfish or aggregate group of federal groundfish species, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. Size limits may differ by 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: wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean.

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; ~~Code~~, and 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G, Sections 660.350, 660.351, 660.352, and 660.360.

Revised Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 27.25, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 27.25. Northern Groundfish Management Area.

This Section applies to take and/or possession of federal groundfish species 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~~restrictions effective for all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*:

~~(1) [1-7, as needed – following recommendations from the March 5-11, 2024 PFMC meeting.] January 1 through May 14: Closed. [varied dates within the range from January 1 – December 31 to be open or closed and may include full months or partial months that may be open in non-concurrent depths defined as “nearshore only,” or “offshore only.” A “nearshore only” fishery authorizes take or possession of all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* shoreward of the 20-fathom boundary line as defined in Section 35. An “offshore only” fishery is defined as:] January 1 through March 31: Closed.~~

(2) April 1 through April 30, October 1 through October 31, and December 1 through December 31:

(A) Take or possession of species and species groups listed in subsections 1. through 3. is authorized seaward of a line approximating [either the 50-fathom boundary line as defined by federal waypoints or the state waters boundary line] along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts. Take or possession of these species is prohibited shoreward of this line, except as provided in subsection 27.20(b). [The 50-fathom boundary line is defined by straight lines connecting the set of 50-fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal Regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G). The state water boundary line is defined in Section 35.00.]

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: Notwithstanding subsection 27.20(b)(1)(A), take 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 Northern Groundfish Management Area.

(3) May 1 through September 30, and November 1 through November 30: Take or possession of all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is authorized shoreward of the 20-fathom boundary line as defined in Section 35.00. Take or possession of all species of rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is prohibited seaward of this line, except as provided in subsection 27.20(b).

~~(2) May 15 through October 15: Open for all species with no depth constraints.~~

~~(3) October 16 through December 31: Closed.~~

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; Code, and 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G, Sections 660.350, 660.351, 660.352, and 660.360; and 14 CCR 27.20.

Revised Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 27.30, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 27.30. Mendocino Groundfish Management Area.

This Section applies to take and/or possession of federal groundfish species 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° 10' N. lat. (near Cape Mendocino, Humboldt County) and 38° 57.50' N. lat. (at Point Arena, Mendocino County).

(b) Seasons and depth ~~constraints~~restrictions effective for all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*:

~~(1) 1-7, as needed following recommendations from the March 5-11, 2024 PFMC meeting.) January 1 through May 14: Closed. [varied dates within the range from January 1 – December 31 to be open or closed and may include full months or partial months that may be open in non-concurrent depths defined as “nearshore only,” or “offshore only.” A “nearshore only” fishery authorizes take or possession of all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* shoreward of the 20 fathom boundary line as defined in Section 35.00. An “offshore only” fishery is defined as] January 1 through March 31: Closed.~~

~~(2) May 15 through July 15:~~

~~(2) April 1 through April 30, October 1 through October 31, and December 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 [either the 50-fathom boundary line as defined by federal waypoints or the state waters boundary line]~~ 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). [The 50-fathom boundary line is defined by straight lines connecting the set of 50-fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal Regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G). The state water boundary line is defined in Section 35.]~~

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: Notwithstanding subsection 27.20(b)(1)(A), Take~~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) July 16 through December 31: Open for all species with no depth constraints.~~

(3) May 1 through September 30 and November 1 through November 30: Take or possession of all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is authorized shoreward of the 20-fathom boundary line as defined in Section 35.00. Take or possession of all species of rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is prohibited seaward of this line, except as provided in subsection 27.20(b).

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; Code, and 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G, Sections 660.350, 660.351, 660.352, and 660.360; and 14 CCR 27.20.

Revised Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 27.35, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 27.35. San Francisco Groundfish Management Area.

This Section applies to take and/or possession of federal groundfish species 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~~restrictions effective for all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*:

~~(1) 1-7, as needed following recommendations from the March 5-11, 2024 PFMC meeting.] January 1 through May 14: Closed. [varied dates within the range from January 1 through December 31, may include open or closed periods for full or partial months that may be open in non-concurrent depths defined as “nearshore only,” or “offshore only.” A “nearshore only” fishery authorizes take or possession of all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* shoreward of the 20 fathom boundary line as defined in Section 35.00. An “offshore only” fishery is defined as] January 1 through March 31: Closed.~~

~~(2) May 15 through July 15:~~

(2) April 1 through April 30, October 1 through October 31, and December 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 [either the 50-fathom boundary line as defined by federal waypoints or the state waters boundary line]~~ 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). [The 50-fathom boundary line is defined by straight lines connecting the set of 50-fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal Regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G). The state waters boundary line is defined in Section 35.00.]~~

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: Notwithstanding subsection 27.20(b)(1)(A), Taketake 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.~~

(3) May 1 through September 30 and November 1 through November 30: Take or possession of all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is authorized shoreward of the 20-fathom boundary line as defined in Section 35.00. Take or possession of all species of rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is prohibited seaward of this line, except as provided in subsection 27.20(b).

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; Code, and 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G; Sections 660.350, 660.351, 660.352, and 660.360; and 14 CCR 27.20.

Revised Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 27.40, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 27.40. Central Groundfish Management Area.

This Section applies to take and/or possession of federal groundfish species 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). Within the Central Groundfish Management Area, seasons and depth restrictions may differ north and south of a line extending west of 36° N. lat. (near Point Lopez, Monterey County). The areas north and south of this line are referred to as the Central Groundfish Management Area – North of 36° N. lat. and the Central Groundfish Management Area – South of 36° N. lat.

(b) Central Groundfish Management Area – North of 36° N. lat. Seasons and depth ~~constraints~~restrictions effective for all species of rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*:

~~(1) [1-7, as needed – following recommendations from the March 5-11, 2024 PFMC meeting] January 1 through April 30: Closed. [varied dates within the range from January 1 through December 31, may include open or closed periods for full or partial months that may be open in non-concurrent depths defined as “nearshore only,” or “offshore only.” A “nearshore only” fishery authorizes take or possession of all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* shoreward of the 20 fathom boundary line as defined in Section 35.00. An “offshore only” fishery is defined as] January 1 through March 31: Closed.~~

(2) May 1 through September 30: Open for all species with no depth constraints.

(3) October 1 through December 31:

(2) April 1 through April 30, October 1 through October 31 and December 1 through December 31:

(A) Take and/or possession of species and species groups listed in subsections 1. Through 3. ~~Is~~is authorized seaward of a line approximating the ~~50 fathom depth contour [either the 50-fathom boundary line as defined by federal waypoints or the state waters boundary line]~~ 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). [The 50-fathom boundary line is defined by straight lines connecting the set of 50-fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal Regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G). ~~The state waters boundary line is defined in Section 35.00.]~~

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: Notwithstanding subsection 27.20(b)(1)(A), Take 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 – North of 36° N. lat.

(3) May 1 through September 30 and November 1 through November 30: Take or possession of all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is authorized shoreward of the 20-fathom boundary line as defined in Section 35.00. Take or possession of all species of rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is prohibited seaward of this line, except as provided in subsection 27.20(b).

(c) Central Groundfish Management Area – South of 36° N. lat. Seasons and depth restrictions effective for all species of rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*:

~~(1) 7, as needed following recommendations from the March 5-11, 2024 PFMC meeting) [varied dates within the range from January 1 through December 31, may include open or closed periods for full or partial months that may be open in non-concurrent depths defined as “all depth,” “nearshore only,” or “offshore only.” An “all depth” fishery authorizes take or possession of all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* in all depths. A “nearshore only” fishery authorizes take or possession of all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* shoreward of the 20-fathom boundary line as defined in Section 35.00. An “offshore only” fishery is defined as] January 1 through March 31: Closed.~~

(2) April 1 through June 30: Open for all species (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)) with no depth constraints.

(3) July 1 through September 30: Take or possession of all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is authorized shoreward of the 50-fathom boundary line as

defined by federal waypoints along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts. The 50-fathom boundary line is defined by straight lines connecting the set of 50-fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal Regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G). Take or possession of all species of rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is prohibited seaward of this line, except as provided in subsection 27.20(b).

(4) October 1 through December 31:

(A) Take or possession of species and species groups listed in subsections 1. through 3. is authorized seaward of a line approximating ~~either the 50-fathom boundary line as defined by federal waypoints or the state waters boundary line~~ along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts. Take or possession of these species is prohibited shoreward of this line, except as provided in subsection 27.20(b). ~~¶The 50-fathom boundary line is defined by straight lines connecting the set of 50-fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal Regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G). The state waters boundary line is defined in Section 35.00.~~

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: Notwithstanding subsection 27.20(b)(1)(A), take 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 Central Groundfish Management Area – South of 36° N. lat.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205 and 265, Fish and Game Code.
Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 1802 and 7071, Fish and Game Code; Code, and 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G, Sections 660.350, 660.351, 660.352, and 660.360.

Revised Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 27.45, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 27.45. Southern Groundfish Management Area.

This Section applies to take and/or possession of federal groundfish species 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~~Groundfish Exclusion 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~~take or possession of all federal groundfish is prohibited year-round. See Section 27.50.

(b) Seasons and depth ~~constraints~~restrictions effective for all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*:

~~(1) 7, as needed following recommendations from the March 5-11, 2024 PFMC meeting~~(1) January 1 through March 31: Closed. [varied dates within the range from January 1 through December 31, may include open or closed periods for full or partial months that may be open in non-concurrent depths defined as "all depth," "nearshore only," or "offshore only." An "all depth" fishery authorizes take or possession of all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* in all depths. A "nearshore only" fishery authorizes take or possession of all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* shoreward of the 20-fathom boundary line as defined in Section 35.00. An "offshore only" fishery is defined as:] January 1 through March 31: Closed.

(2) April 1 through June 30: Open for all species (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)) with no depth constraints.

~~(2) April 1 through September 15: Open for all species with no depth constraints.~~

~~(3) September 16 through December 31:~~

(3) July 1 through September 30: Take or possession of all species of rockfish (except as specified in subsection 28.55(b)(1)), lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is authorized shoreward of the 50-fathom boundary line as defined by federal waypoints along the mainland coast and along islands and offshore seamounts. The 50-fathom boundary line is defined by straight lines connecting the set

of 50-fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal Regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G). Take or possession of all species of rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, and all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* is prohibited seaward of this line, except as provided in subsection 27.20(b).

(4) October 1 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~~ ~~either the 50-fathom boundary line as defined by federal waypoints or the state waters boundary line~~ 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).~~ The 50-fathom boundary line is defined by straight lines connecting the set of 50-fathom waypoints as adopted in Federal Regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G). ~~The state waters boundary line is defined in Section 35.00.~~

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: Notwithstanding subsection 27.20(b)(1)(A), ~~Take~~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.

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

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 1802 and 7071, Fish and Game ~~Code; Code,~~ and 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G, Sections 660.350, 660.351, 660.352, and 660.360.

Revised Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 27.50, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 27.50. ~~Cowcod Conservation Areas~~Groundfish Exclusion Areas.

This Section applies to take ~~and~~/or possession of federal groundfish species 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~~Groundfish Exclusion Areas are defined as ocean waters off southern California within each of the following ~~two~~eight 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., 118° 02' W. long.; and~~

~~32° 42' N. lat., 118° 02' W. long.~~

(1) Hidden Reef is an area that is bound by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

33°46.14' N lat., 119°10.45' W long.;
33°46.14' N lat., 119°05.96' W long.;
33°41.40' N lat., 119°05.96' W long.;
33°41.40' N lat., 119°10.45' W long.; and
33°46.14' N lat., 119°10.45' W long.

(2) West of Santa Barbara Island is an area that is bound by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

33°33.64' N lat., 119°18.54' W long.;
33°33.64' N lat., 119°07.57' W long.;
33°27.90' N lat., 119°07.57' W long.;
33°27.90' N lat., 119°18.54' W long.; and
33°33.64' N lat., 119°18.54' W long.

(3) Potato Bank is an area that is bound by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

33°21.00' N lat., 119°53.00' W long.;
33°21.00' N lat., 119°45.67' W long.;
33°11.00' N lat., 119°45.67' W long.;
33°11.00' N lat., 119°53.00' W long; and
33°21.00' N lat., 119°53.00' W long.

(4) 107/118 Bank is an area that is bound by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

33°05.51' N lat., 119°41.29' W long.;
33°08.64' N lat., 119°36.71' W long.;
33°03.50' N lat., 119°31.69' W long.;
33°00.36' N lat., 119°36.27' W long.; and
33°05.51' N lat., 119°41.29' W long.

(5) Cherry Bank is an area that is bound by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

32°50.86' N lat., 119°29.40' W long.;
32°56.96' N lat., 119°19.82' W long.;

32°54.69' N lat., 119°17.78' W long.;
32°48.59' N lat., 119°27.35' W long.; and
32°50.86' N lat., 119°29.40' W long.

(6) Seamount 109 is an area that is bound by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

32°43.75' N lat., 119°37.00' W long.;
32°43.75' N lat., 119°34.29' W long.;
32°31.95' N lat., 119°26.94' W long.;
32°30.47' N lat., 119°29.71' W long.;
32°39.54' N lat., 119°37.00' W long.; and
32°43.75' N lat., 119°37.00' W long.

(7) 43-Fathom Spot is an area that is bound by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

32°42.00' N lat., 118°00.05' W long.;
32°42.00' N lat., 117°50.00' W long.;
32°36.70' N lat., 117°50.00' W long.;
32°36.18' N lat., 117°50.27' W long.;
32°36.18' N lat., 118°00.05' W long.; and
32°42.00' N lat., 118°00.05' W long.

(8) Northeast Bank is an area that is bound by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

32°27.39' N lat., 119°37.00' W long.;
32°27.39' N lat., 119°31.60' W long.;
32°20.00' N lat., 119°31.60' W long.;
32°20.00' N lat., 119°37.00' W long.; and
32°27.39' N lat., 119°37.00' W long.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection 27.20(b)(1)(A), take or possession of all federal groundfish species or species groups as defined in Section 1.91 are prohibited year-round in the Groundfish Exclusion Areas. Seasons and depth constraints (except as provided in subsection (c) below):

~~(1) 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) 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) 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) 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) From September 16 through December 31, take and/or possession is prohibited in all waters of 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 subsections (b)(1) and (b)(2) above 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 of these species 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 subsections (b)(1) and (b)(2) above 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 nonmotorized) 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;~~Code, and 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G; Sections 660.350, 660.351, 660.352, and 660.360; and ~~14 CCR 27.20.~~

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 28.27, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 28.27. Lingcod.

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth ~~constraints~~restrictions: 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~~restrictions as defined by Section 27.25.

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

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

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

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

(6) ~~Cowcod Conservation Areas~~Groundfish Exclusion Areas: ~~dates and depth constraints as defined~~ Closed to take of lingcod year-round as specified 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. See subsection 27.20(b)(2) for descending device regulations.

(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~~Code, and 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G; 660.350, 660.351, 660.352, and 660.360; and 14 CCR 27.20.

Revised Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 28.28, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 28.28. Cabezon.

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth ~~constraints~~restrictions: 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~~restrictions as defined by Section 27.25.

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

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

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

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

(6) ~~Cowcod Conservation Areas~~Groundfish Exclusion Areas: ~~Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined~~ Closed to take of cabezon year-round as specified by Section 27.50.

(b) Limit: 10 fish, within a Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenling complex (RCG complex, as defined in Section 1.91) ~~has~~ 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. See subsection 27.20(b)(2) for descending device regulations.

(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~~Code, and 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G, Sections 660.350, 660.351, 660.352, and 660.360; and 14 CCR ~~27.20~~

Revised Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 28.29, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 28.29. Kelp Greenling. Rock Greenling. (Genus *Hexagrammos*).

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth ~~constraints~~restrictions 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~~restrictions as defined by Section 27.25.

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

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

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

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

(6) ~~Cowcod Conservation Areas~~Groundfish Exclusion Areas: ~~Open and closed dates and depth constraints as defined~~ Closed to take of greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos* year-round as specified 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. See subsection 27.20(b)(2) for descending device regulations.

(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.

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~~Code, and 50

CFR Part 660, Subpart G, Sections 660.350, 660.351, 660.352, and 660.360; and 14
CCR 27.20.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 28.47, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 28.47. Petrale Sole and Starry Flounder.

Petrable 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, except in the Groundfish Exclusion Areas where these species may not be taken or possessed at any time. See section 27.50.

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

(c) Method of take: See subsection 27.20(b)(2) for descending device regulations.

(~~e~~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.

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, Sections 660.350, 660.351, 660.352, and 660.360; and ~~14 CCR 27.20.~~

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 28.48, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 28.48. Pacific Sanddab, Rock Sole, Sand Sole, Butter Sole, Curlfin Sole, Rex Sole, and Flathead Sole.

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, except in the Groundfish Exclusion Areas where these species may not be taken or possessed at any time. See section 27.50.

(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) Method of take: See subsection 27.20(b)(2) for descending device regulations.

(ed) 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, Sections 660.350, 660.351, 660.352, and 660.360; ~~and 14 CCR 27.20.~~

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 28.49, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 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 year-round in all depths, except in the ~~Cowcod Conservation Areas~~Groundfish Exclusion Areas where these species may not be taken or possessed at any time or depth, except for transit 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. See subsection 27.20(b)(2) for descending device regulations.

(d) 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.

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, Sections 660.350, 660.351, 660.352, and 660.360; and ~~14 CCR 27.20~~.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 28.54, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 28.54. California Scorpionfish (Sculpin).

(a) Open year-round in all depths, except in the Groundfish Exclusion Areas where these species may not be taken or possessed at any time. See section 27.50.

(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. See subsection 27.20(b)(2) for descending device regulations.

(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.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 702, 7071 and 8587.1, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 275, 1802 and 7071, Fish and Game Code; 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G, Sections 660.350, 660.351, 660.352, and 660.360; and ~~14 CCR 27.20.~~

Revised Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 28.85, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 28.55. Rockfish (Sebastes).

(a) Open areas, seasons, and depth ~~constraints~~restrictions: 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~~restrictions as defined by Section 27.25.

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

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

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

(5) Southern Groundfish Management Area: Open and closed dates and depth ~~constraints~~restrictions 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).~~ Groundfish Exclusion Areas: Take or possession of all rockfish is prohibited within the Groundfish Exclusion Areas as specified by Section 27.50.

(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, quillback rockfish, 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:

(A) In waters of the Northern Groundfish Management Area is of the four, one to four~~four~~ fish, within the RCG ~~bag~~ limit.

(B) In waters of the Mendocino Groundfish Management Area, San Francisco Groundfish Management Area, Central Groundfish Management Area, and Southern Groundfish Management Area is two fish within the RGC limit, regardless of which Groundfish Management Area the vermilion rockfish was taken in.

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

~~(4) The limit on copper rockfish is one 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. See subsection 27.20(b)(2) for descending device regulations.

(e) Fishing rules for rockfish may be changed during the year or inseason 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, 702, 7071 and 8587.1, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 1802, 7071 and 8585.5, Fish and Game Code; Code, and 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G, Sections 660.350, 660.351, 660.352, and 660.360; and ~~14 CCR 27.20.~~

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 28.56, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 28.56. Leopard Shark.

(a) Open year-round in all depths, except in the ~~Cowcod Conservation Areas~~Groundfish Exclusion 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) Method of take: See subsection 27.20(b)(2) for descending device regulations.

(e) 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, Sections 660.350, 660.351, 660.352, and 660.360; ~~and 14 CCR 27.20~~