Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations for 2015
CENTRAL Management Area

Ocean waters between 37°11' N. latitude (Pigeon Point) and 34°27' N. latitude (Point Conception)
Includes all of Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo counties, and parts of Santa Barbara and San Mateo counties

Note: Shaded text indicates regulations that have changed for 2015. Before engaging in ocean sport fishing for groundfish and associated species, please review one of the sources listed in Footnote 1 to receive the most up-to-date regulations.

Species	Time Period[1, 2]	Depth Limit[1, 2]	Daily Bag Limit[1]	Min. Size Limit[1, 4, 5]
RCG Complex[1] (including all species of **Rockfish, Cabezon** and **Greenlings**, Sections 1.91 and 28.55, 28.28, and 28.29)	Boat-based Anglers[2]: **Open**: Apr 1–Dec 31 **Closed**: Jan 1–Mar 31 Divers, Shore-based Anglers[2]: Open year-round	May only be taken or possessed in waters *shoreward* of the 240 ft (40 fm) depth contour, defined in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G) ***SEE EXCEPTION AT END OF TABLE***	10 fish in combination per person **EXCEPT:** Black Rockfish: 5 per person Cabezon: 3 fish per person Bocaccio: 3 fish per person	See individual species and groups below Cabezon: 15" total length Kelp and/or rock greenlings: 12" total length

THESE ROCKFISHES MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED IN CALIFORNIA:

Bronzespotted Rockfish, Canary Rockfish, Cowcod, and Yelloweye Rockfish (Section 28.55)

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

Ocean Whitefish (Section 28.58)	Same as RCG Complex above		10 fish per person	No size limit
California Sheephead (Section 28.26)			5 fish per person	12" total length
Lingcod (Section 28.27)			3 fish per person	22" total length
California Scorpionfish (Section 28.54)	Boat-based Anglers[2]: **Open**: Apr 1-Aug 31 **Closed**: Jan 1-March 31, and Sep 1-Dec 31 Divers, Shore-based Anglers[2]: OPEN year-round	Same as RCG Complex, above	5 fish per person	10" total length
Leopard Shark[6] (Section 28.56)	All Anglers - *within Elkhorn Slough*[1]: Open year-round *Outside of Elkhorn Slough*: Same as RCG Complex above	All Anglers - *within Elkhorn Slough*[1]: No depth limit *Outside of Elkhorn Slough*: Same as RCG Complex above	3 fish per person	36" total length
Pacific Sanddabs and "Other Flatfish"[3] (Section 28.48)	OPEN year-round[3]	No depth limit[3]	Pacific sanddab: No limit All "Other Flatfish"[3]: 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish total in combination, per Section 27.60	No size limit

Other Federal Groundfish (Section 28.49)	Same as RCG Complex, above	Petrale sole and starry flounder: No limit Soupfin shark: 1 fish per person All Other Federal Groundfish: 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish total in combination, per Section 27.60	No size limit

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

Some marine protected areas (MPAs) restrict or prohibit sport fishing. Check the current ocean sport fishing regulations booklet or the MPA website at **www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/ccmpas_list.asp**, send an e-mail to **AskMPA@dfg.ca.gov**, or call your nearest CDFW office for more information.

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

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

3. During the closed season, Pacific sanddab, butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole (defined as “Other Flatfish” in subsection 1.91(a)(10)) may be taken.

4. See regulations for information on gear restrictions (Sections 28.65, 28.70, 28.75, 28.90, 28.91, and 28.95) and fillet lengths (Section 27.65).

5. Total length is the longest straight-line measurement from the tip of the head with the mouth closed to the end of the longest lobe of the tail. A measurement method illustration is available in the current Ocean Sport Fishing Regulations booklet.

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

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