



Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations for 2016 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*

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 Complex¹ (including all species of Rockfish , Cabezon and Greenlings , Sections 1.91, 28.55, 28.28, and 28.29)	<u>Boat-based Anglers²:</u> Open: Apr 1–Dec 31 Closed: Jan 1–Mar 31 <u>Divers, Shore-based Anglers²:</u> Open year-round	May only be taken or possessed in waters <i>shoreward</i> 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	<i>See individual species and groups below</i> 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)	<u>Boat-based Anglers²:</u> Open: Apr 1-Aug 31 Closed: Jan 1-March 31, and Sep 1-Dec 31 <u>Divers, Shore-based Anglers²:</u> Open year-round	Same as RCG Complex, above	5 fish per person	10" total length
Leopard Shark⁶ (Section 28.56)	<u>All Anglers - <i>within Elkhorn Slough¹</i>:</u> Open year-round <u>Outside of Elkhorn Slough:</u> Same as RCG Complex above	<u>All Anglers - <i>within Elkhorn Slough¹</i>:</u> No depth limit <u>Outside of Elkhorn Slough:</u> 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 <hr/> Soupfin shark: 1 fish per person <hr/> All other federal groundfish: 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish total in combination, per Section 27.60	No size limit
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1. Subject to in-season change. Call the Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline at **(831) 649-2801**, visit the CDFW website at www.wildlife.ca.gov/regions/marine, send an e-mail to AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov, or call your nearest CDFW office for the latest information.

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

2. Divers and shore-based anglers are exempt from season 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. (Section 27.20(b)).