



Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations for 2016 COWCOD Conservation Areas



*Ocean waters between 34°27' N. latitude (Point Conception) and the U.S.-Mexico Border. Area 1 is located south of the northern Channel Islands. Area 2 is located west of San Diego. See Section 27.50 for exact location coordinates. **In these areas, only the groundfish listed within this table may be taken or possessed (exception at end of table).***

Before engaging in ocean sport fishing for groundfish and associated species, please review one of the sources listed in Footnote 3 to receive the most up-to-date regulations.

Species	Time Period ^{3, 4}	Depth Limit ^{3, 4}	Daily Bag Limit ³	Min. Size Limit ^{3, 4, 6, 7}
Nearshore Rockfish¹ and Shelf Rockfish² ONLY , as defined in subsections 1.91(a)(1) and 1.91(a)(3), and Cabezon and Greenlings as defined in Sections 28.28 and 28.29	<u>Boat-based Anglers³</u> : Open: Mar 1–Dec 31 Closed: Jan 1–Feb 28	May only be taken or possessed in waters shallower than 120 ft (20 fm) deep SEE EXCEPTION AT END OF TABLE	10 fish in combination per person EXCEPT: Black Rockfish: 5 fish 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
	<u>Divers, Shore-based Anglers⁴</u> : Open year-round			
Lingcod (Section 28.27)	Same as Nearshore and Shelf Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenlings, above		3 fish per person	22" total length
Ocean Whitefish (Section 28.58)			10 fish per person	No size limit
California Sheephead (Section 28.26)			5 fish per person	12" total length
California Scorpionfish (Section 28.54)	<u>Boat-based Anglers²</u> : Open: Jan 1-Aug 31 Closed: Sep 1-Dec 31 <u>Divers, Shore-based Anglers²</u> : Open year-round	Same as Nearshore and Shelf Rockfish, Cabezon, and Greenlings, above	5 fish per person	10" total length
Pacific Sanddabs and "Other Flatfish"⁵ (Section 28.48)	Open year-round	No depth limit	Pacific sanddab: No limit All "Other Flatfish" ⁵ : 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish in combination, per Section 27.60	No size limit

THE GROUND FISH SPECIES LISTED BELOW MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED IN THE COWCOD CONSERVATION AREAS:

Canary, Cowcod, Bronzespotted and Yelloweye Rockfishes (Section 28.55)	Slope Rockfish as defined in subsections 1.91(a)(4)	Leopard Shark (Section 28.56)	Other Federal Groundfish (Section 28.49)
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FISHING IS CLOSED year-round, at all depths NO RETENTION at any time (zero fish per person)

1. "Nearshore rockfish" as described in subsection 1.91(a)(1) means black rockfish, black-and-yellow rockfish, blue rockfish, brown rockfish, calico rockfish, China rockfish, copper rockfish, gopher rockfish, grass rockfish, kelp rockfish, olive rockfish, quillback rockfish, and treefish.

2. "Shelf rockfish" as described in subsection 1.91(a)(3) means chilipepper rockfish, dusky rockfish, flag rockfish, greenblotched rockfish, greenspotted rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, harlequin rockfish, honeycomb rockfish, Mexican rockfish, pink rockfish, redstripe rockfish, rosethorn rockfish, rosy rockfish, shortbelly rockfish, silvergray rockfish, speckled rockfish, squarespot rockfish, starry rockfish, stripetail rockfish, tiger rockfish, vermilion rockfish, widow rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish. Take and possession of bronzespotted rockfish, canary rockfish, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish is prohibited.

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

4. 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.

5. In closed areas or during closed periods, 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.

6. 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).

7. 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 this booklet.

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)).