

CDFW Recreational Season Lengths and Depth Restrictions for Select California Groundfish (1999-2024)

The following are summarized recreational season and depth limit regulations for select California groundfish from 1999 through 2024, including most inseason changes. Information was compiled from California's sport fishing booklet and supplemental booklets, as well as some emergency rulemakings or press releases

Nearshore rockfish is defined as: black, black-and-yellow, blue, brown, calico, China, copper, gopher, grass, kelp, olive, quillback, and treefish rockfishes.

Shelf rockfish is defined as: bocaccio, canary, cowcod, widow, yelloweye, yellowtail, shortbelly, bronzespotted, chameleon, chilipepper, dwarf-red, flag, freckled, greenblotched, greenspotted, greenstriped, halfbanded, honeycomb, Mexican, pink, pinkrose, pygmy, redstripe, rosethorn, rosy, silvergrey, speckled, squarespot, starry, striptail, swordspine, tiger, and vermilion rockfishes.

Table 1. Key to information and visual formatting found in subsequent tables in this document.

Key	Meaning
	Fishing allowed in all waters
>#	Fishing authorized seaward of the boundary depth listed (used 2023 and after)
<#	Fishing authorized shoreward of the boundary depth listed (used 2023 and after)
20	Depth closed greater than 20fm
30	Depth closed greater than 30fm
40	Depth closed greater than 40fm
50	Depth closed greater than 50fm
60	Depth closed greater than 60fm
75	Depth closed greater than 75fm
100	Depth closed greater than 100fm
30-60	Depth open between 30-60fm
	Fishery Closed
Number	In-season change to depth and < or > for directionality if appropriate
	Inseason closure to fishery

CALIFORNIA RECREATIONAL REGULATORY HISTORY, 1999

Prior to the year 2000, the recreational groundfish fishery in California had few restrictions. The fishery was open year-round for the federally managed groundfish such as rockfishes, lingcod, cabezon, greenlings (kelp and rock), California scorpionfish, sanddabs, and for the groundfish associated species like California sheephead and ocean whitefish. There were no depth restrictions for any of these species.

Statewide groundfish and associated species season and depth restrictions prior to the year 2000.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod, Sanddabs												

CALIFORNIA RECREATIONAL REGULATORY HISTORY, 2000

Beginning in the year 2000, following the overfished status declaration of the lingcod stock, and some of the rockfishes changes to season lengths began occurring to restrict access to the resource for parts of the year. Additionally, geographic management areas were implemented to allow for more adaptive management of fish stocks.

Beginning in 2000, three management areas were implemented, and included: the Northern Management Area, which covered the area between the California/Oregon border (42° N lat.) to near Cape Mendocino (40°10' N lat.); the Central Management Area, which covered the area between near Cape Mendocino to Lopez Point (36°00' N lat.); and the Southern Management Area, which covered the area between Lopez Point and the border with Mexico.

Northern Management Area
California/Oregon border to near Cape Mendocino, 40°10' N lat.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish												
Lingcod ¹												
Sanddabs												

Central Management Area
Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Lopez Point (36° 00' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean Whitefish												
Nearshore rockfish, Shelf rockfish												
Lingcod ¹												
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area
Lopez Point (36° 00' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish												
Nearshore rockfish, Shelf rockfish												
Lingcod ¹												
Sanddabs												

Notes for 2000:

1. Statewide emergency lingcod closure in November and December; closure applied to boat-based anglers, but not to shore-based anglers.

CALIFORNIA RECREATIONAL REGULATORY HISTORY, 2001

Northern Management Area^{1, 2, 3}
California/Oregon Border to Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish												
Shelf rockfish ³ , Lingcod ³												
Sanddabs												

Central Management Area^{1, 2, 3}
Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish					20	20					20	20
California sheephead, Ocean whitefish												
Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp)											20	20
Shelf rockfish ³ , Lingcod ³												
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area^{1, 2, 3}
Point Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to the U.S./Mexico border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish											20	20
California scorpionfish, Ocean whitefish	20	20									20	20
California sheephead												
Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp)											20	20
Shelf rockfish ³ , Lingcod ³												
Sanddabs												

Notes for 2001:

1. Emergency action was taken by the Commission in order to conform to federal regulations; closures did not apply to shore-based anglers.
2. Inseason emergency closure on October 29 prohibited angling for shelf and slope rockfishes and lingcod. Possession of these fishes was prohibited in state waters. In waters less than 20 fathoms, fishing for nearshore rockfishes, California scorpionfish, cabezon, and greenlings continued to be permitted (including waters around offshore rocks and islands less than 20 fathoms). Fishing for California sheephead continued to be permitted in all waters except the Cowcod Conservation Areas.
3. On January 1, 2000 the California Fish and Game Commission adopted regulations to be effective through 2002 that closed lingcod, nearshore, and shelf rockfishes as follows: south of Lopez Point to the Mexico border Jan. - Feb.; and north of Lopez Point to Cape Mendocino Mar. - Apr. New regulations that superceded the regulations adopted January 1, 2000 went into effect Mar. 5, 2001. These new regulations included a different regional management boundary between the central and southern management areas – Point Conception instead of Lopez Point. Because of the delay in implementation (March instead of January), the area between Lopez Point and Point Conception was closed from Jan. 1 - Feb. 28, 2001 (as part of the southern area under the 2000 regulations). This area then was open to fishing from March 1- 4, 2001 (as part of the 2000 open fishing period for the southern area). However, once the 2001 regulations took affect on Mar. 5, 2001, this section of coast was closed again from Mar. 5 – Apr. 30 (as part of the central area under the 2001 regulations).

CALIFORNIA RECREATIONAL REGULATORY HISTORY, 2002

Northern Management Area ^{1, 2, 3}

California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod												
California sheephead ¹												
Cabezon ¹												
Greenlings (rock, kelp) ¹												
Sanddabs												

Central Management Area ^{1, 2, 3}

Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish					20	20	20	20	20	20		
California sheephead ¹												
Cabezon ¹												
Greenlings (rock, kelp) ¹												
Ocean whitefish ²							20	20	20	20	20	20
Shelf rockfish ² , Lingcod ²					20	20	20	20	20	20		
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area ^{1, 2, 3}

Point Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to the U.S./Mexico border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish ²							20	20	20	20		
California sheephead ¹												
Cabezon ¹												
Greenlings (rock, kelp) ¹												
Ocean whitefish ²							20	20	20	20	20	20
Shelf rockfish ² , Lingcod ²							20	20	20	20		
Sanddabs												

Notes for 2002:

1. Inseason emergency closure took effect for greenlings on July 1, cabezon on July 29, and California sheephead on November 1. Closures do not apply to shore-based anglers, or spearfishing from shore or a man-made structure.
2. The emergency closure for shelf rockfish, lingcod, California scorpionfish, and ocean whitefish went into effect July 1. Nearshore fishing was still allowed in waters shallower than 20 fathoms for nearshore rockfishes, California scorpionfish, and ocean whitefish. There was a special allowance for two shelf rockfish ONLY if taken incidental to nearshore fishing in less than 20 fathoms EXCLUDING bocaccio, canary, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish, which could not be taken.
3. Management Area boundaries changed January 10, 2002.

CALIFORNIA RECREATIONAL REGULATORY HISTORY, 2003

Northern Management Area ^{2, 3}

California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish ³ , California scorpionfish ³												
California sheephead ² , Cabezon ² , Greenlings (rock, kelp) ²												
Ocean whitefish												
Shelf rockfish ³ , Lingcod ³												
Sanddabs												

Central Management Area ^{2, 3}

Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
California scorpionfish ³	20	20					20	20	20	20	20	
California sheephead ²												
Cabezon ² , Greenlings (rock, kelp) ²							20	20	20			
Ocean whitefish							20	20	20	20	20	20
Nearshore rockfish ³ , Shelf rockfish ³ , Lingcod ³							20	20	20	20	20	
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area ^{1, 2, 3}

Point Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to the U.S./Mexico border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
California scorpionfish ^{1, 3}	20	20					20	20	30	30	30	
California sheephead ²												
Cabezon ² , Greenlings (rock, kelp) ²							20	20	30			
Ocean whitefish							20	20	30	30	30	30
Nearshore rockfish ³ , Shelf rockfish ³ , Lingcod ³							20	20	30	30	30	
Sanddabs												

Notes for 2003:

1. Fishing for California scorpionfish was allowed in less than 50 fathoms during July and August, only in the area of Huntington Flats, as defined by California Code of Regulations, Title 14, subsection 27.82(d)(7).
2. Inseason emergency closures on October 8 for cabezon, greenlings, and California sheephead to all recreational take in all waters at all depths.
3. Inseason emergency closure on December 8 for nearshore rockfishes, California scorpionfish, shelf rockfishes, and lingcod.

California Recreational Regulatory History, 2004

Northern Management Area ^{1, 2}

California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40°10'N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish					30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Black rockfish ¹						30	30	30				
Lingcod ²					30	30	30	30	30	30		
Sanddabs												

North-Central Management Area ^{2, 3}

Near Cape Mendocino (40°10'N lat.) to Lopez Point (36°00'N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish	30	30						20	20	20		
Lingcod ²	30	30						20	20	20		
Sanddabs												

South-Central Management Area²
Lopez Point (36° 00' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish	30	30			20	20		20	20	20	20	20
Lingcod ²	30	30			20	20		20	20	20		
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area²
Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish			60	60	60	60	60	60	30	30	60	60
California scorpionfish			60	60							60	60
Lingcod ²			60	60	60	60	60	60	30	30		
Sanddabs												

Notes for 2004:

1. Inseason change on May 16 reduced rockfish bag limit to zero in May, and September through December.
2. Inseason change on April 1 decreased lingcod bag limit from two to one fish and increased size limit from 24 to 30 inches.
3. Inseason change on March 1 closed rockfish, lingcod and associated species on Cordell Bank (Marin County).

California Recreational Regulatory History, 2005

Northern Management Area¹
California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Black rockfish, California sheephead, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish					30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Cabezon ¹					30	30	30	30	30	30	30	
Lingcod					30	30	30	30	30	30	30	
Sanddabs												

North-Central Management Area¹
Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish							20	20	20	20	20	20
Cabezon ¹							20	20	20	20	20	
Lingcod							20	20	20	20	20	
Sanddabs												

Monterey South – Central Management Area¹
Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Lopez Point (36° 00' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish							20	20	20	20	20	20
Cabezon ¹							20	20	20	20	20	
Lingcod							20	20	20	20	20	
Sanddabs												

Morro Bay South – Central Management Area¹
Lopez Point (36° 00' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon ¹ , Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					40	40	40	40	40			
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area¹
Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish			30-60	60	60	60	60	60	30	30	60	60
California scorpionfish										30	60	60
Cabezon ¹			30-60	60	60	60	60	60	30	30	60	
Lingcod				60	60	60	60	60	30	30	60	
Sanddabs												

Notes for 2005:

1. Inseason change on November 18 closed cabezon statewide for December.

California Recreational Regulatory History, 2006

Northern Management Area¹
California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Black rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish					30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Lingcod					30	30	30	30	30	30	30	
Sanddabs												

North-Central Management Area^{2, 3}
Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish							30	30	30	30	30	30
Lingcod							30	30	30	30	30	
Sanddabs												

Monterey South – Central Management Area^{2, 3}
Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Lopez Point (36° 00' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish							30	30	30	30	30	30
Lingcod							30	30	30	30	30	
Sanddabs												

Morro Bay South – Central Management Area⁴
Lopez Point (36° 00' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					40	40	40	40	40	40		
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area ^{5, 6}
Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean Whitefish, Shelf rockfish			60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Lingcod				60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	
Sanddabs												

Notes for 2006:

1. Inseason change on March 28 decreased the fishing depth limit from 40 to 30 fathoms in the Northern management area, and opened the months of November and December to recreational fishing (except for lingcod which was closed).
2. Inseason change on March 28 kept depth limit at 20 fathoms in the North-Central and Monterey South-Central management areas, but opened December to recreational fishing (except for lingcod which was closed).
3. Inseason change on July 1 liberated the fishing depth limit from 20 fathoms to 30 fathoms in the North-Central and Monterey South-Central management areas (except for lingcod which was closed).
4. Inseason change on July 1 opened October to recreational fishing in the Morro Bay South-Central management area.
5. Inseason change on March 28 allowed recreational fishing in the Southern Management area during October (with 30 fathom depth limit), November (60 fathom depth limit), and December (60 fathom depth limit), except for lingcod which was closed to all fishing.
6. Inseason change on July 1 liberated the fishing depth limit from 30 fathoms to 60 fathoms in the Southern Management area for the remainder of the season (except for lingcod which remained closed in December).

California Recreational Regulatory History, 2007

Northern Management Area ¹

California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Black rockfish, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					30	30	30	30	30			
California sheephead, Ocean whitefish					30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Sanddabs												

North-Central Management Area ¹

Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Shelf rockfish, Lingcod						30	30	30	30			
California sheephead, Ocean whitefish						30	30	30	30	30	30	
Sanddabs												

Monterey South – Central Management Area

Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Lopez Point (36° 00' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
Sanddabs												

Morro Bay South – Central Management Area
Lopez Point (36° 00' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish, shelf rockfish, Lingcod					40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area ²
Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings (rock, kelp), Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish			60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
California scorpionfish	40	40	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Lingcod				60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	
Sanddabs												

Notes for 2007:

1. Inseason emergency closure on October 1 north of Pigeon Point (37°11'N. lat) for nearshore rockfish, black rockfish, cabezon, greenlings, shelf rockfish and lingcod.
2. Cowcod Conservation area (west of San Diego) was open to recreational fishing from March through December from shore to 20 fathoms

California Recreational Regulatory history, 2008

Northern Management Area ^{1, 3}

California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Black rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish					20	20	20	20				
Lingcod					20	20	20	20				
Sanddabs												

North-Central North of Point Arena Management Area ^{1, 2, 3}
Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod						20	20	20				
Sanddabs												

North - Central South of Point Arena Management Area ^{1, 2}
Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod						20	20	20	20	20	20	
Sanddabs												

Monterey South – Central Management Area
Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Lopez Point (36° 00' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
Sanddabs												

Morro Bay South – Central Management
Lopez Point (36° 00' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area ⁴
Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish			60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
California scorpionfish	40	40	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Lingcod				60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	
Sanddabs												

Notes for 2008:

1. Inseason change on May 9 decreased depth limit from 30 fathoms to 20 fathoms in the Northern and North-Central Management Areas.
2. Inseason emergency change on September 2 split the North-Central Management Area into two areas: North-Central North of Point Arena, and North-Central South of Point Arena.
3. Inseason emergency closure on September 2 for nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, California scorpionfish, cabezon, greenlings, Ocean whitefish, shelf rockfish and lingcod for the Northern and North-Central North of Point Arena Management areas.
4. Cowcod Conservation area (west of San Diego) was open to recreational fishing from March through December from shore to 20 fathoms.

California Recreational Regulatory history, 2009

Northern Management Area
California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Black rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20	20			
Sanddabs												

North-Central - North of Point Arena Management Area
Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20				
Sanddabs												

North-Central South of Point Arena Management Area
Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod						20	20	20	20	20	20	
Sanddabs												

Monterey South – Central Management Area
Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Lopez Point (36° 00' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
Sanddabs												

Morro Bay South – Central Management Area
Lopez Point (36° 00' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area
Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish			60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
California scorpionfish	40	40	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Lingcod				60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	
Sanddabs												

California Recreational Regulatory history, 2010

Northern Management Area
California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Black rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20				
Sanddabs												

North-Central - North of Point Arena Management Area
Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20				
Sanddabs												

North-Central South of Point Arena Management Area
Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod						30	30	30	30	30		
Sanddabs												

Monterey South – Central Management Area
Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Lopez Point (36° 00' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
Sanddabs												

Morro Bay South – Central Management Area
Lopez Point (36° 00' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area
Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish			60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
California scorpionfish	40	40	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Lingcod				60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	
Sanddabs												

California Recreational Regulatory History, 2011

Northern Management Area
California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Black rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20	20	20		
Sanddabs												

Mendocino Management Area
Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20				
Sanddabs												

San Francisco Management Area
Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod						30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Sanddabs												

Central Management Area
Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California					40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40

sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod												
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area
Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish			60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
California scorpionfish	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Lingcod			60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Sanddabs												

Notes for 2011:

1. As part of the biennial management specification process, the North-Central North of Point Arena Management area was renamed the Mendocino Management Area, the North-Central South of Point Arena Management Area was renamed the San Francisco Management Area, and the Monterey South-Central and Morro Bay South-Central Management Areas were combined into the Central Management Area.
2. Due to a delay in the federal regulatory process, recreational regulations for 2011 in California did not go into effect until June 11, 2011.

California Recreational Regulatory History, 2012

Northern Management Area
California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Black rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20	20	20		
Sanddabs												

Mendocino Management Area
Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20				
Sanddabs												

San Francisco Management Area
Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod						30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Sanddabs												

Central Management Area
Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area
Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish			60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	50	50
California scorpionfish	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	50	50
Lingcod			60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	50	50
Sanddabs												

Notes for 2012:

1. Sub-bag limit for greenling increased from two fish to 10 fish within the 10 fish daily RGC bag limit.
2. High encounter rates for cowcod in the SMA lead to inseason action to restrict anglers' maximum fishing depth from 60fm to 50fm.

California Recreational Regulatory History, 2013

Northern Management Area

California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Black rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20	20	20		
Sanddabs												

Mendocino Management Area

Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20	20			
Sanddabs												

San Francisco Management Area

Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod						30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Sanddabs												

Central Management Area

Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area

Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish			50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
California scorpionfish	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Lingcod			50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Sanddabs												

Notes for 2013-2014:

1. Season in Mendocino Management Area was extended two weeks from previous years.
2. More optimistic results from 2011 bocaccio stock assessment allowed increase of daily sub-bag limit from two fish to three fish, and removal of minimum size limit.

California Recreational Regulatory History, 2014

Northern Management Area

California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20	20	20		
Sanddabs												

Mendocino Management Area

Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20	20			
Sanddabs												

San Francisco Management Area

Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod						30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Sanddabs												

Central Management Area

Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
California scorpionfish	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area

Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod			50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
California scorpionfish	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Sanddabs												

Notes for 2014:

1. Based on projected estimates for 2014, it was predicted that the California scorpionfish annual catch limit would be exceeded unless closed. Thus, in-season action was taken to close the fishery from November 15 through the end of year.

CALIFORNIA RECREATIONAL REGULATORY HISTORY, 2015

Northern Management Area

California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20	20	20		

Sanddabs												
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Mendocino Management Area

Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20	20	20		
California scorpionfish					20	20	20	20				
Sanddabs												

San Francisco Management Area

Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod				30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
California scorpionfish					30	30	30	30				
Sanddabs												

Central Management Area

Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod				40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
California scorpionfish				40	40	40	40	40				
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area

Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod			60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
California scorpionfish	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60				
Sanddabs												

Notes for 2015:

- Final federal regulations published on March 9, 2015, with state regulations effective March 10. Changes to regulations included new season dates, a statewide five fish sub-bag limit for black rockfish, reduced boat based season for California scorpionfish in the Southern Management Area, and liberalizing the depth restriction from 50 to 60 fathoms in the Southern Management Area. A statewide increase to a 3 fish daily bag limit for Lingcod.

CALIFORNIA RECREATIONAL REGULATORY HISTORY, 2016

Northern Management Area

California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20	20	20		
Sanddabs												

Mendocino Management Area

Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20	20	20		
California scorpionfish					20	20	20	20				
Sanddabs												

San Francisco Management Area

Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod				30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
California scorpionfish				30	30	30	30	30				
Sanddabs												

Central Management Area

Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod				40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
California scorpionfish				40	40	40	40	40				
Sanddabs												

Southern Management Area

Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod			60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
California scorpionfish	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60				
Sanddabs												

California Recreational Regulatory History, 2017

Northern Management Area

California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					30	30	30	30	30	30	20	20
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Mendocino Management Area

Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
California scorpionfish					20	20	20	20				
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

San Francisco Management Area

Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod				40	40	40	40	40	40	40	30	30
California scorpionfish				40	40	40	40	40				
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Central Management Area

Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	40	40	40
California scorpionfish				50	50	50	50	50					
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole													

Southern Management Area
Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod			60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
California scorpionfish	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60				
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Notes for 2017:

- Inseason action was taken from the Oregon/California border to Point Conception to revert fishing depths to those in effect during 2016 effective October 16. This change was made due to high catches of yelloweye rockfish during the summer.

California Recreational Regulatory History, 2018

Northern Management Area
California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					30	30	30	30	20	20	20	20
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Mendocino Management Area
Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
California scorpionfish					20	20	20	20				
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

San Francisco Management Area
Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod				40	40	40	40	40	30	30	30	30
California scorpionfish				40	40	40	40	40				
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Central Management Area
Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod				50	50	50	50	50	40	40	40	40
California scorpionfish				50	50	50	50	50				

Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												
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Southern Management Area
Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod			60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
California scorpionfish	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60				
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Notes for 2018:

- Inseason action was taken from the Oregon/California border to Point Conception to revert fishing depths to those in effect during 2016 effective August 25. This change was made due to high catches of yelloweye rockfish during the summer.

California Recreational Regulatory History, 2019

Northern Management Area
California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					30	30	30	30	30	30		
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Mendocino Management Area
Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20	20	20		
California scorpionfish					20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

San Francisco Management Area
Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod				40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
California scorpionfish				40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Central Management Area
Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
California scorpionfish				50	50	50	50	50	40	40	50	50
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Southern Management Area
Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod			75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
California scorpionfish	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Notes for 2019:

1. Inseason action was taken effective June 1, 2019 to modify bag or sub-bag limits for lingcod (1->2 S 40 10), canary (2->3) and black rockfish (3->4). See separate bag limit regulation document for details.

California Recreational Regulatory History, 2020

Northern Management Area

California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					30	30	30	30	30	30		
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Mendocino Management Area

Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					20	20	20	20	20	20		
California scorpionfish					20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

San Francisco Management Area

Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod				40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
California scorpionfish				40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Central Management Area

Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
California scorpionfish				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Southern Management Area

Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod			75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
California scorpionfish	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Notes for 2020: Fishery participation was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning in mid-March. Stay at home orders throughout the state resulted in closures of many ocean access points, and most businesses were closed and/or had severely reduced operations. No changes to regulations were made in response to the pandemic.

California Recreational Regulatory History, 2021

Northern Management Area

California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					30	30	30	30	30	30		
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Mendocino Management Area

Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					30	30	30	30	30	30		
California scorpionfish					30	30	30	30	30	30		
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

San Francisco Management Area

Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
California scorpionfish				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Central Management Area

Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
California scorpionfish				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Southern Management Area

Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod			100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
California scorpionfish	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Notes for 2021: New biennial specifications cycle resulted in increased depths in the Mendo and Southern MAs. Also, removal of sub-bag limits for canary and black rockfishes, and cabezon. New sub-bag limit for vermilion rockfish of 5-fish.

California Recreational Regulatory History, 2022

Northern Management Area

California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					30	30	30	30	30	30		
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Mendocino Management Area

Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod					30	30	30	30	30	30		
California scorpionfish					30	30	30	30	30	30		
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

San Francisco Management Area

Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
California scorpionfish				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Central Management Area

Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
California scorpionfish				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Southern Management Area

Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, Cabezon, Greenlings, Ocean whitefish, Shelf rockfish, Lingcod			100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
California scorpionfish	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole												

Notes for 2022: Reduced sub-bag limits statewide for quillback rockfish (1-fish), copper rockfish (1-fish), and vermilion rockfish (4-fish) were effective Jan 1 in federal regulations, and Jan 6 in state regulations.

California Recreational Regulatory History, 2023

Northern Management Area

California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Cabezon, Greenlings,												
Shelf rockfish, Slope rockfish, Lingcod								>50	>50	>50		
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole, "Other groundfish"												

Mendocino Management Area

Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Cabezon, Greenlings,												
Shelf rockfish, Slope rockfish, Lingcod					>50	>50	>50		>50	>50	>50	>50
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole, "Other groundfish"												

San Francisco Management Area

Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Cabezon, Greenlings,												
Shelf rockfish, Slope rockfish, Lingcod					>50	>50	>50		>50	>50	>50	>50
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole, California scorpionfish, "Other groundfish"												

Central Management Area

Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Cabezon, Greenlings,												
Shelf rockfish, Slope rockfish, Lingcod									>50	>50	>50	>50
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole, California scorpionfish, "Other groundfish"												

Southern Management Area

Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Cabezon, Greenlings,												
Shelf rockfish, Slope rockfish, Lingcod									>50	>50	>50	>50
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole, California scorpionfish, "Other groundfish"												

Notes for 2023: Significant changes to season structures pre-season including development of all depth and "offshore only" fisheries. During an "offshore only" fishery retention of nearshore rockfish, cabezon and greenlings is prohibited for all boat-modes. Fisheries for "other flatfish," starry flounder and Petrale sole, California scorpionfish, and "other groundfish" are open year-round in all depths in all Areas (CCA regs apply). Inseason actions in response to quillback rockfish catches) prohibited retention statewide effective Aug 7, closed the nearshore fishery (offshore only fishery effective) in the Northern MA (Aug 21), and in the Mendocino, San Francisco, and Central Management Areas (Sept 1).

California Recreational Regulatory History, 2024

Northern Management Area

California/Oregon Border to near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Cabezon, Greenlings,					<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20	
Shelf rockfish, Slope rockfish, Lingcod				>50	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	>50	<20	>50
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole, "Other groundfish"												

Mendocino Management Area

Near Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N lat.) to Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Cabezon, Greenlings,					<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20	
Shelf rockfish, Slope rockfish, Lingcod				>50	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	>50	<20	>50
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole, "Other groundfish"												

San Francisco Management Area

Point Arena (38° 57' N lat.) to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Cabezon, Greenlings,					<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20	
Shelf rockfish, Slope rockfish, Lingcod				>50	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	>50	<20	>50
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole, California scorpionfish, "Other groundfish"												

Central Management Area – North of 36° N lat

Pigeon Point (37° 11' N lat.) to Point Lopez (36°00' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Cabezon, Greenlings,					<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20	
Shelf rockfish, Slope rockfish, Lingcod				>50	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	>50	<20	>50
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole, California scorpionfish, "Other groundfish"												

Central Management Area – South of 36° N lat

Point Lopez (36°00' N lat.) to Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Cabezon, Greenlings,							<50	<50	<50			
Shelf rockfish, Slope rockfish, Lingcod							<50	<50	<50	>50	>50	>50
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole, California scorpionfish, "Other groundfish"												

Southern Management Area

Pt. Conception (34° 27' N lat.) to US/Mexico Border

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nearshore rockfish, Cabezon, Greenlings,							<50	<50	<50			
Shelf rockfish, Slope rockfish, Lingcod							<50	<50	<50	>50	>50	>50
Sanddabs, Starry Flounder, Petrale Sole, California scorpionfish, "Other groundfish"												

Notes for 2024: Significant changes to season structures mid-biennium were made to avoid interactions with quillback rockfish. Split of Central Management Area into two zones, north and south of Point Lopez (36°00' N lat.) allows for different seasons/depths north and south of that line as quillback are rarely encountered south of 36°00' N lat. Changes to seasons/depths were effective in federal waters April 1, and in state waters April 19. As such, all seasons/depths shown

here are not shown as inseason changes as they became effective early in the fishing season. Not shown in this document, is the Cowcod Conservation Areas were repealed for the 2024 season and replaced with 8 smaller Groundfish Exclusion Areas that are within the Southern Management Area.