STAFF SUMMARY

2027 Groundfish Fisheries Regulations

Background

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) would be asked to adopt regulations for the 2027 recreational and commercial groundfish fisheries. This is an annual process to adopt current harvest limits, sector-specific sharing of the catch limits, and season structure and regulations to provide opportunity while not exceeding those limits. The Commission would also be asked to review the 2025 commercial nearshore logbook report.

Public involvement to date

ODFW staff hosted two open public meetings to discuss and seek input on 2027 commercial nearshore groundfish management measures: a meeting in Tillamook on September 2 and a meeting in Port Orford on September 3, both with virtual and in-person options. Around 30 commercial fishers and members of the public attended these two meetings.

Input on recreational groundfish seasons and regulations for 2027 was obtained at a series of in-person public meetings one online only in early August and four in-person meetings in Brookings, North Bend, Newport (with virtual option), and Tillamook in early October (31 total participants).

The federal regulations are set via a two-year Pacific Fishery Management Council process with multiple opportunities for public involvement via advisory bodies and public comment opportunities. Additionally, following Council action, the National Marine Fisheries Service publishes proposed rules, requests public comments, and incorporates comments into the final rule.

Additional input on both fisheries was received throughout the year in person as well as via email and phone, and the Saltwater Sportsman Show in February.

Overview of proposed rule changes

The Commission will review the legislatively mandated annual commercial nearshore logbook report. There is no Commission action associated with this review.

The proposed rule changes: (1) adopt federal regulations by reference including annual catch limits but excluding state waters from new line marking requirements for trap and longline gear; (2) set state harvest guidelines between the commercial and recreational sectors for key species; (3) adopt fishery regulations, management measures, and seasons for both fisheries, such as commercial bi-monthly vessel limits and recreational daily bag limits. The season structures and regulations are set to maximize opportunity while staying within long-term sustainable harvest limits. Many of the proposed regulations are the same as they were in 2026. Notable exceptions are: (1) allow a 1-fish sub-bag limit for yelloweye rockfish during the month of May in the recreational fishery, and (2) increase the cabezon bi-monthly vessel limit from 2,000 pounds to 2,500 pounds in the commercial nearshore fishery.