



Marine
Resources

Exhibit G. Groundfish

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Salem, December 6, 2019

Maggie Sommer, Marine Resources Program

photo: Ian Chun



Outline

- **Issue 1. Nearshore Logbook & Fishery Report**
- **Issue 2. 2020 Groundfish Regulations**
 - Federal regulation updates
 - Harvest guidelines
 - Commercial fishery management measures
 - Recreational fishery management measures

Issue 1. Nearshore Fishery Report

Annual report on the Commercial Nearshore fishery

72401
YEAR: _____ NEARSHORE LOGBOOK

Vessel Operator's Commercial License Number: _____

Vessel Operator's Name (print): _____ Permit Number: _____

Vessel Name: _____ Vessel Number: _____

Date	Port	Set Number	Area Fished	Depth in Fathoms	Gear Code	Number of Hooks and People	Hours Fished and Target Species	Catch Category	Species Columns (list estimated POUNDS of retained and released catch for each species)										
									Black RF 442	Blue RF 445	Lingcod 494	Cabezon 550	China RF 448	Kelp Greening 481	Yellowtail RF 433				
Start	Minimum	Hooks	Hours	Retained	L = live														
				Target	D = dead														
End	Maximum	People	Hours	Released	B = legal size														
					S = sub legal														
Start	Minimum	Hooks	Hours	Retained	L = live														
				Target	D = dead														
End	Maximum	People	Hours	Released	B = legal size														
					S = sub legal														
Start	Minimum	Hooks	Hours	Retained	L = live														
				Target	D = dead														
End	Maximum	People	Hours	Released	B = legal size														
					S = sub legal														

Vessel Operator's Signature: _____

User Codes: B11 = Bullhauge
C = C
E = E
T = Trip
LW = Lingcod
LG = Lobster
O = Other

Species Codes: 422 = Yellowtail
442 = Black RF
445 = Blue RF
494 = Lingcod
550 = Cabezon
448 = China RF
481 = Kelp Greening
433 = Yellowtail RF

Release Codes: L = Live
D = Dead
B = Legal Size
S = Sub Legal

Comments: _____

2018

The Oregon Commercial Nearshore Fishery Data Update



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Resources Program
2040 SE Marine Science Drive
Newport, OR 97365
(541) 867-4741
<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/>

Brett T. Rodomsky
Tori R. Calavan
Keith M. Matteson

June 2019



Photo: ODFW Marine Reserves

Commercial Nearshore Fishery

ODFW-issued limited entry black and blue rockfish permits allow harvest of those species (plus deacon RF) up to specified limits

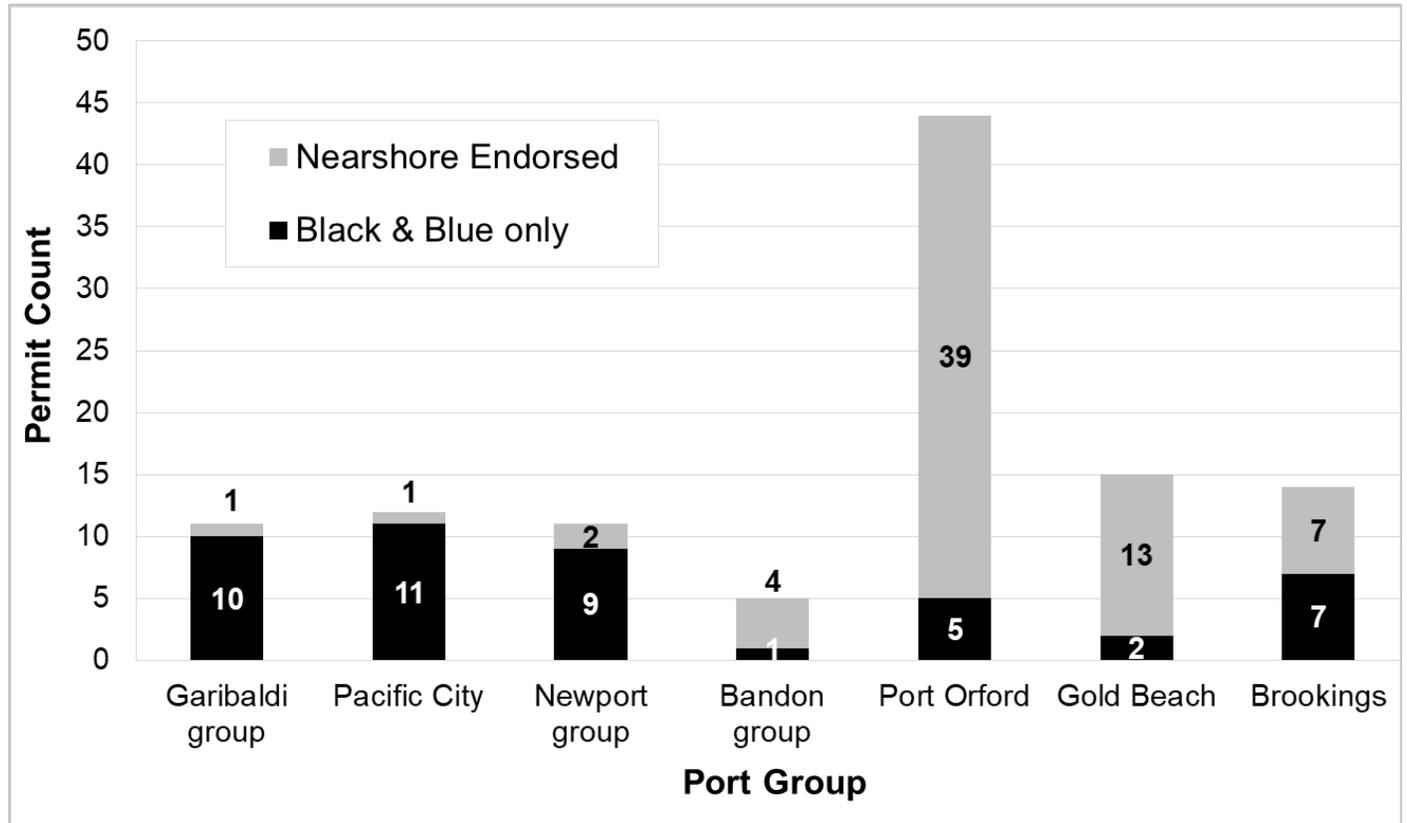
Nearshore endorsements on some permits also allow harvest of cabezon, greenling, and other nearshore rockfish species



Commercial Nearshore Permits, 2018

112 total Black & Blue
Rockfish permits

67 with nearshore
endorsements



Regulations limit total annual commercial catch, and bimonthly catch by each permitted vessel.

Photo: Carla Sowell

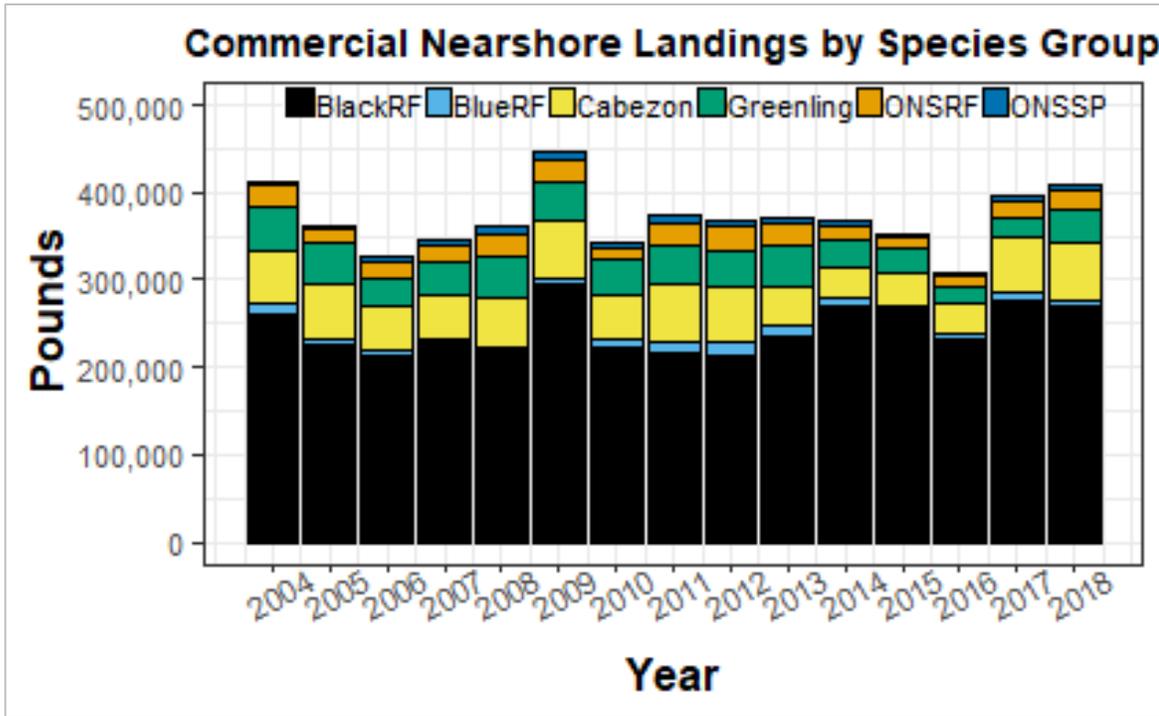
Commercial Nearshore Fleet



Vessels average ~25'
North coast fishing is more seasonal,
and more focused on black rockfish

Port Orford has the most activity coastwide
South coast is more year-round, with more
targeting other nearshore species

Commercial Nearshore Landings



Majority of landed catch is black RF
Most trips land ~ 60 – 250 lbs

Most nearshore rockfish and about half of black rockfish are sold live

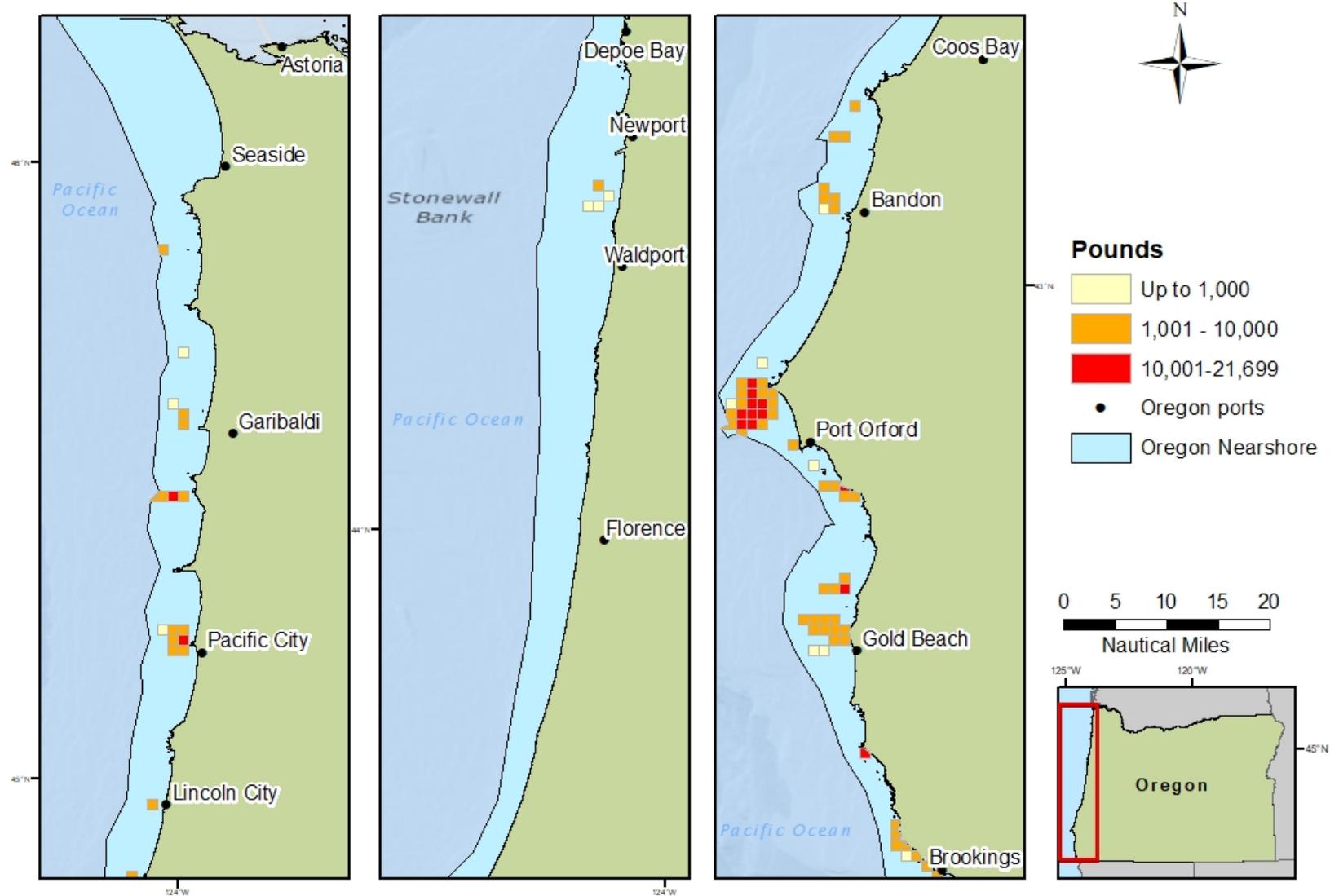


Comm. Nearshore Trips and Landings (pounds), 2018

Period	Trip Count	Black RF	Blue & Deacon RF	Other Near-shore RF	Greenling	Cabezon
1 (Jan-Feb)	219	19,751	707	1,538	3,107	8,106
2 (Mar-Apr)	400	47,303	1,203	1,706	6,249	15,378
3 (May-Jun)	576	57,141	1,382	4,349	6,736	18,993
4 (Jul-Aug)	506	59,744	1,197	4,912	8,901	10,818
5 (Sep-Oct)	461	52,835	1,647	4,769	10,197	10,026
6 (Nov-Dec)	300	32,657	1,394	2,636	4,331	1,405
Total	2,462	269,430	7,530	19,910	39,521	64,636
Attainment (% HG)		97.9		96.5	12.4	97.1

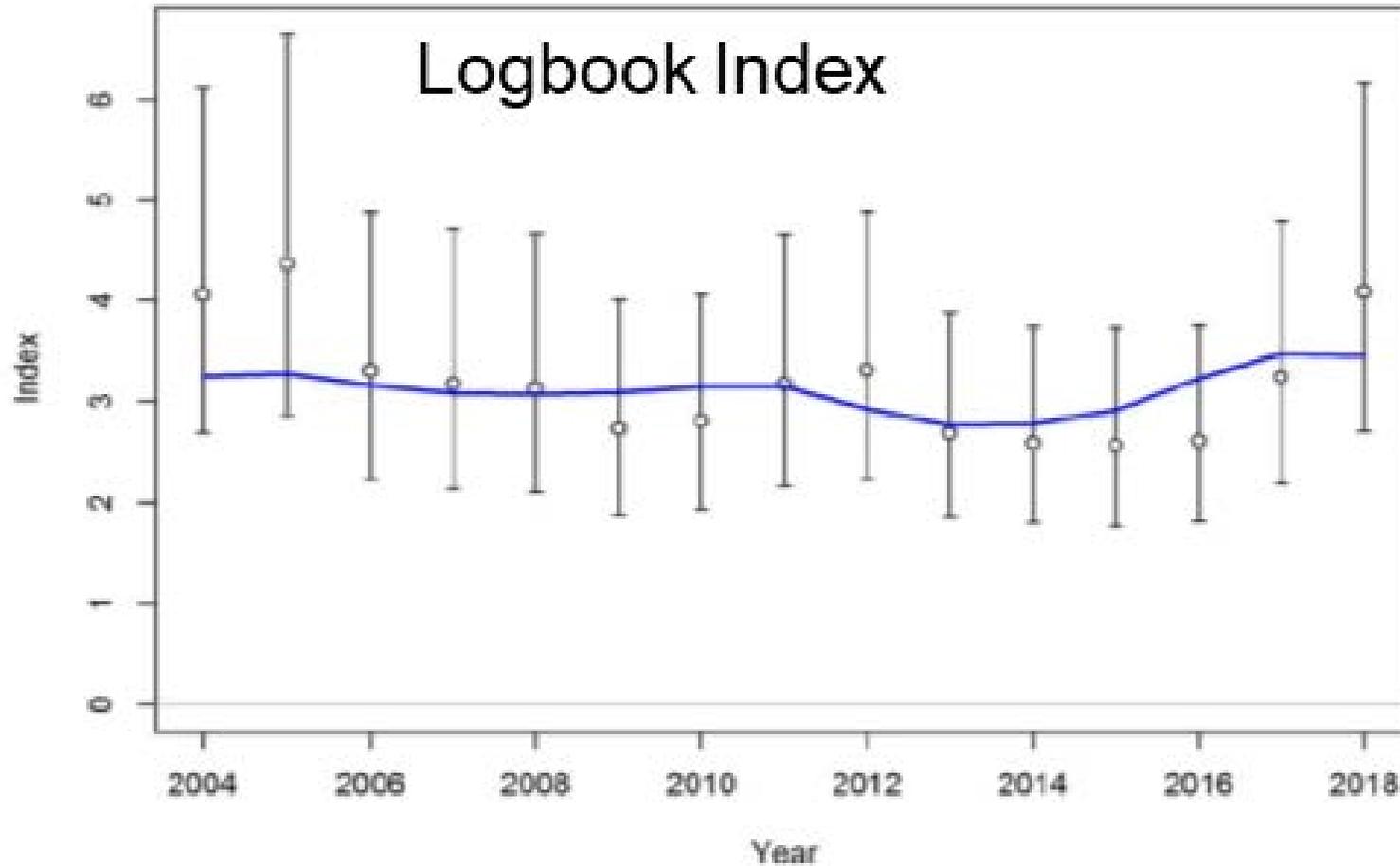
(2018 Commercial Fishery Data Update, Table 10)

2018 Commercial Nearshore Catch by Area



NAD 1983; Scale: 1:875,000; GRS 80; Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

Commercial Nearshore Logbook Data Uses



Commercial Nearshore Logbook index of cabezon catch used in the 2019 cabezon stock assessment

Issue 2. 2020 Groundfish Regulations

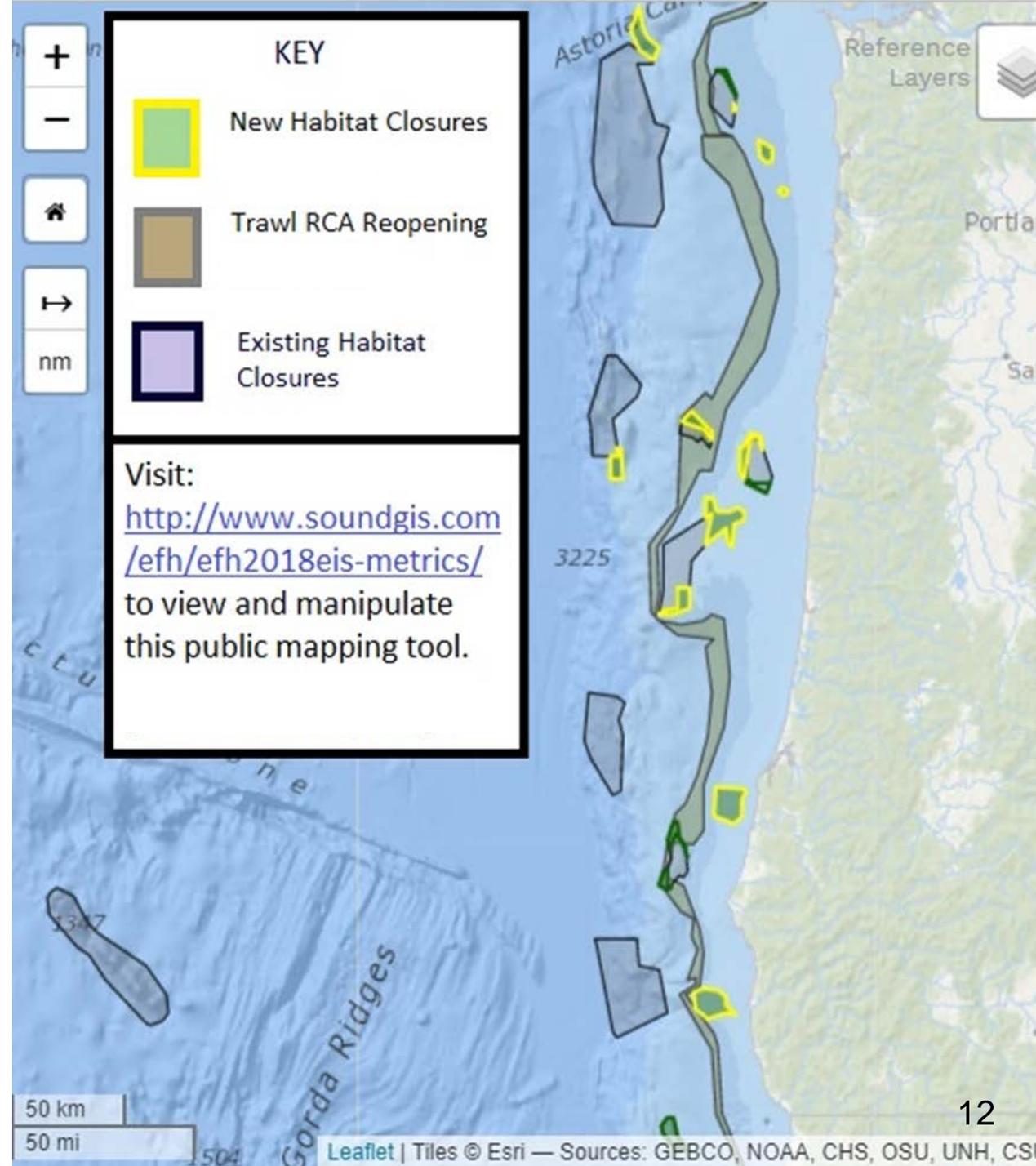
- 1. Updated federal rules**
- 2. State harvest guidelines**
- 3. Commercial management measures**
 - Cumulative period limits (trip limits)
 - Black Rockfish Management Areas
 - Dressed-to-round conversion factors
- 4. Recreational management measures**
 - Bag limits
 - Depth restriction

1. Federal Rules

Adopt updates by reference

- Notable: Amendment 28 to the West Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan
- Changes to groundfish trawl closed areas:
 - Adjustments to habitat closures based on new high-resolution habitat mapping
 - Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area removed due to rebuilding of overfished stocks & individual quota management with 100% observer coverage

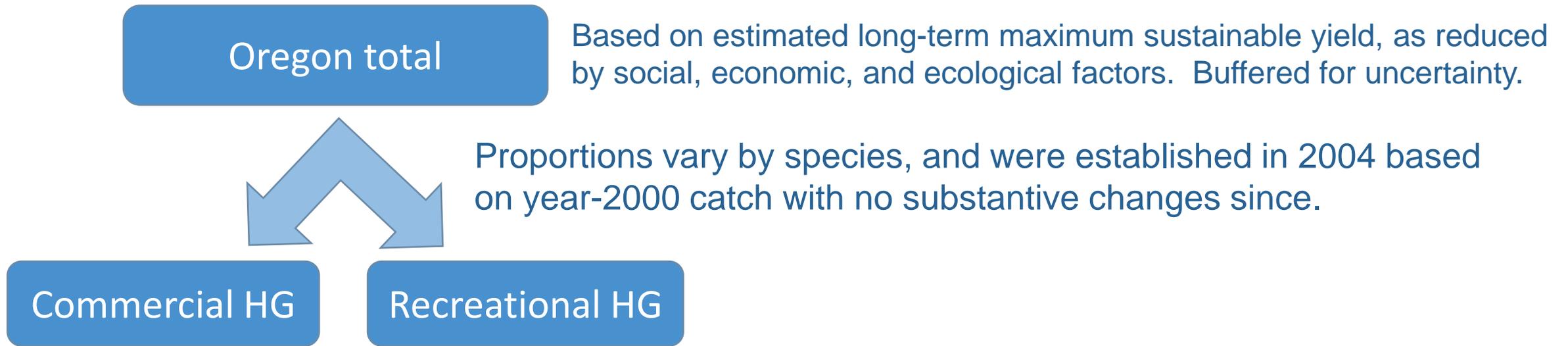
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/rebound-groundfish-leads-new-flexibility-fishermen-protection-deep-sea-corals>





2. State Harvest Guidelines

Total catch limits for each species or management group are allocated to the commercial & sport sectors as “HGs”



Fishing in a sector may be restricted or closed when an HG is reached to prevent overfishing or negatively affecting the other sector

2020 Recommended Harvest Guidelines

Management group	Sector	Allocation	2019 HG (metric tons)	2020 HG (recommended, mt)
Black rockfish	Commercial	24%	123.8	122.9
	Recreational	76%	392.2	389.1
Blue and deacon rockf.	Commercial	18.6%	18.9	18.3
	Recreational	81.4%	82.6	80.1
Nearshore rockfish	Commercial	51.3%	12.3	12.2
	Recreational	48.7%	11.7	11.6
Cabezon	Commercial	64.3%	30.2	30.2
	Recreational	35.7%	16.8	16.8
Greenling	Commercial	75.1%	128.5	118.3
	Recreational	24.9%	42.6	39.2

3. Commercial Management Measures

Commercial Nearshore Fishery Management Goals:

- Sustainable fishing opportunity without exceeding federal and state limits
- A predictable, stable, year-round season

Bimonthly cumulative vessel landing limits (“trip limits”) are used to achieve these goals.

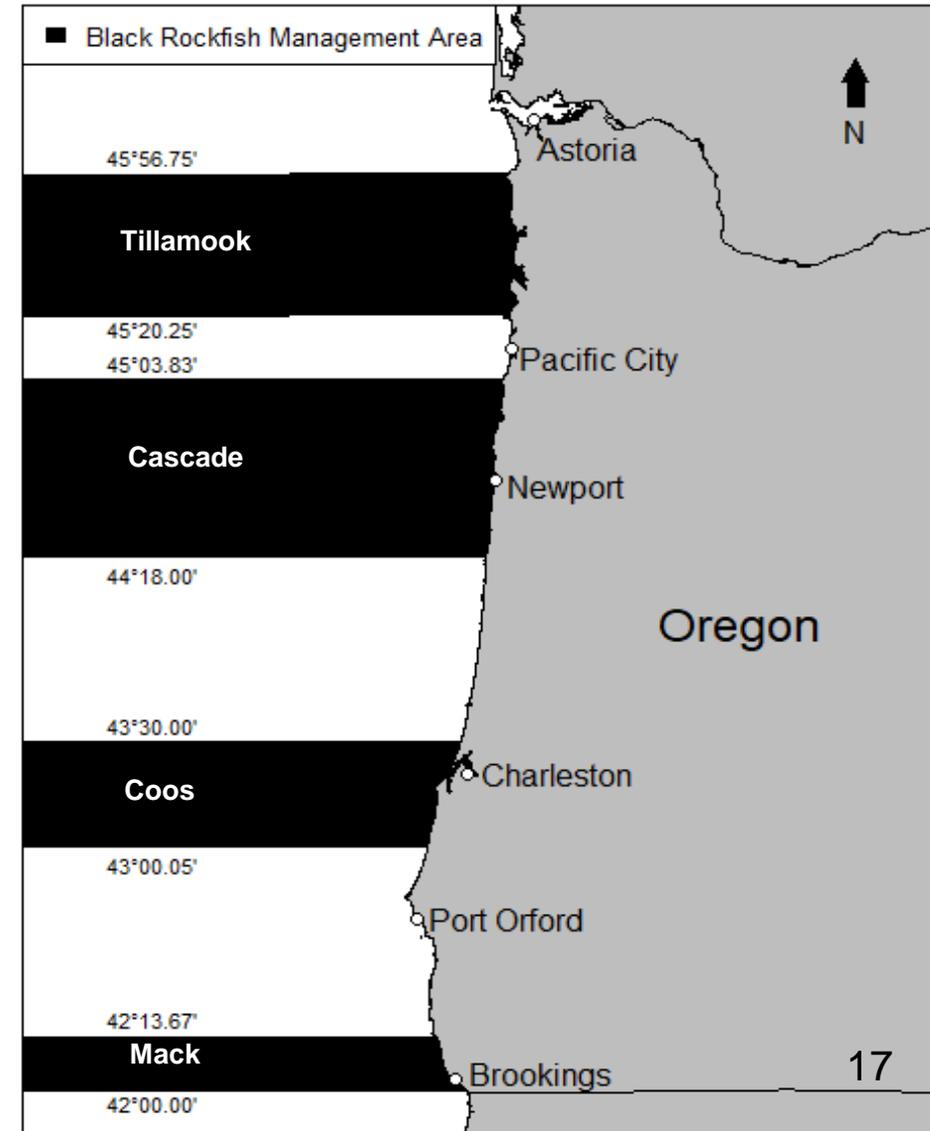


Commercial Nearshore Trip Limits (lbs/period)

Management group	2019 trip limit (outset)	2019 trip limit after in-season changes	2020 trip limit (recommended)
Black RF			
P1	1,500	1,500	1,500
P2	1,500	1,500	1,500
P3	1,800	1,800	1,800
P4	1,800	2,400	1,800
P5	1,500	2,100	1,500
P6	1,500	2,100	1,500
Blue/Deacon RF	1,500	1,500	1,500
Other NS RF	450	600	450
Cabazon	1,000	1,000	1,000
Greenling	1,000	1,000	1,000

Commercial Black Rockfish Management Areas

- In 4 areas (shaded), vessels are limited to 300 lbs per day of black rockfish
- Established in 1995 to prevent conflict with the sport fishery. Black rockfish is ~65-70% of the catch in both.
- Original limit was 200 lbs/day or 65 black rockfish, modified to current in 2010
- Dec. 2018 public request to eliminate BRMAs; OFWC directed staff to evaluate



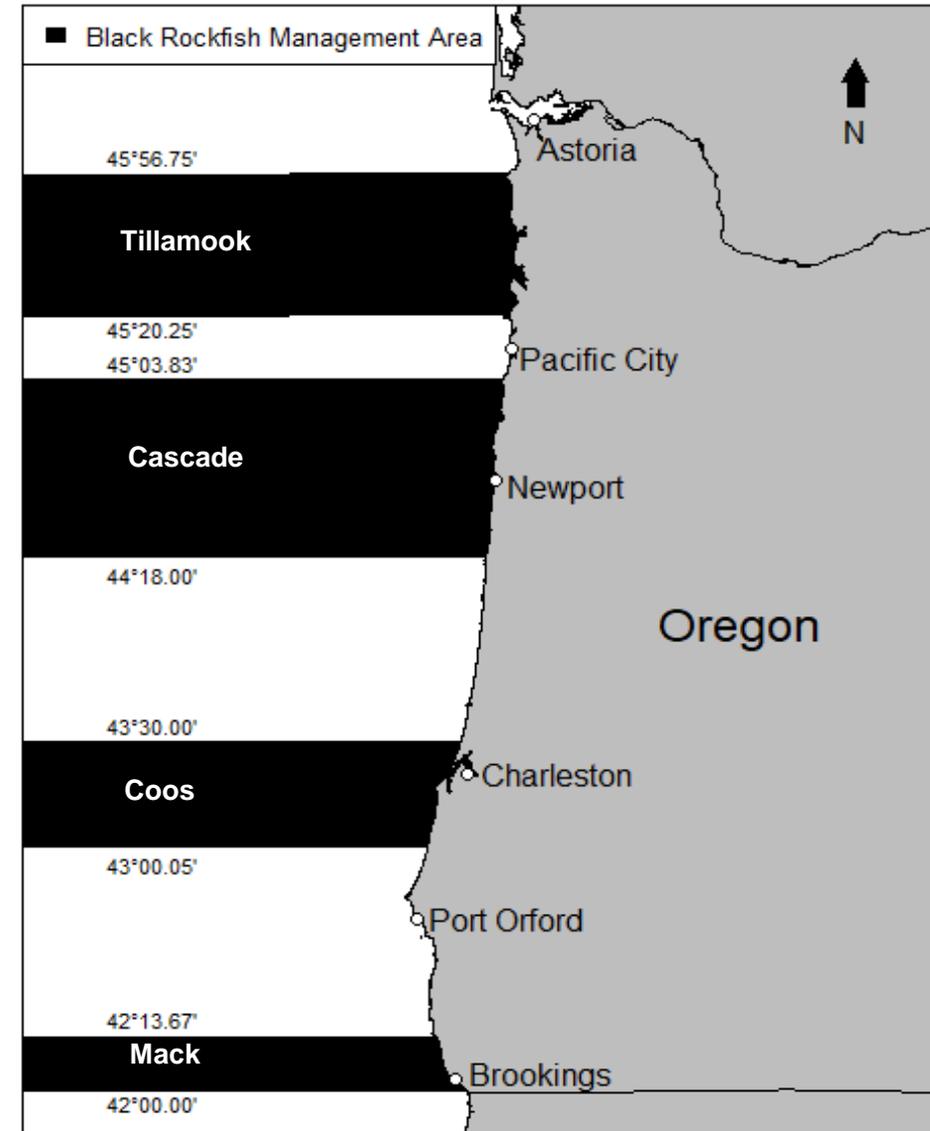
Rationale for Public Request to Eliminate BRMAs

- BRMA daily limits reduce efficiency and increase costs since vessels must make more trips to catch the same number of fish
- Other measures adopted since BRMAs began are sufficient to prevent commercial – sport conflict:
 - Limited entry permits cap total commercial participation
 - HGs ensure fish for each sector and cap total catch
 - Bimonthly commercial trip limits cap individual vessel catch

BRMA Options

- Eliminate BRMAs
- Increase the BRMA daily landing limits
- Either option could be implemented year-round or seasonally, in some or all of the BRMAs

Oregon Black Rockfish Management Areas



BRMA Staff Evaluation

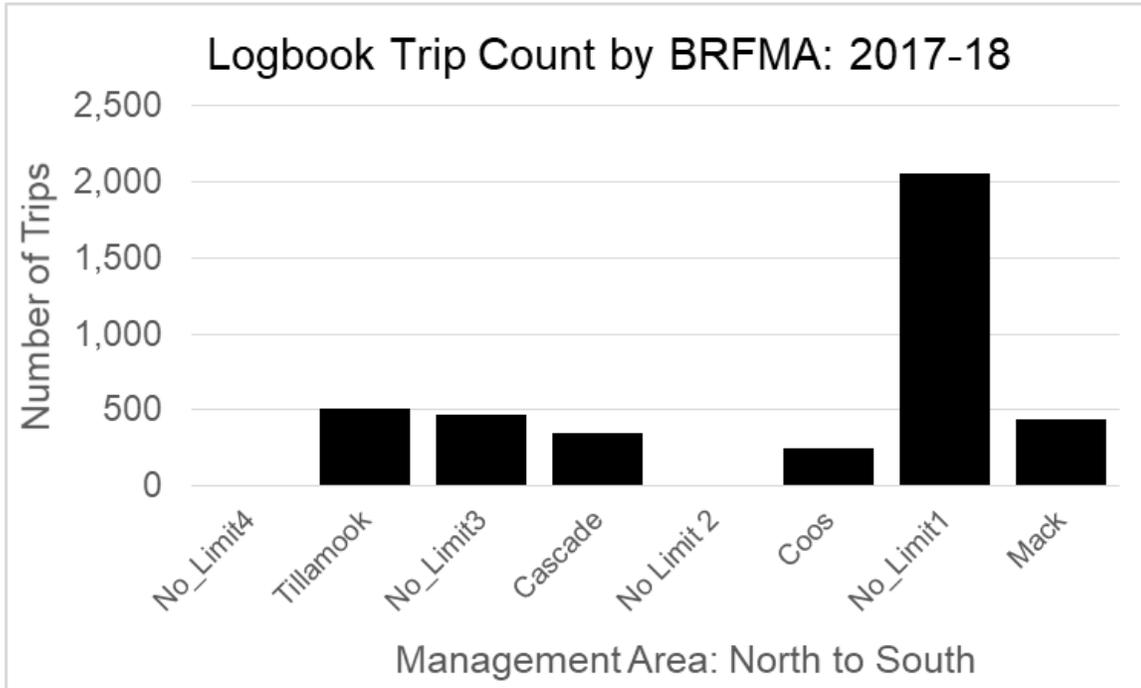
How significant is the problem? Would the proposed change shift where commercial fishing occurs? Would it lead to conflict between the sectors?

Staff analyzed:

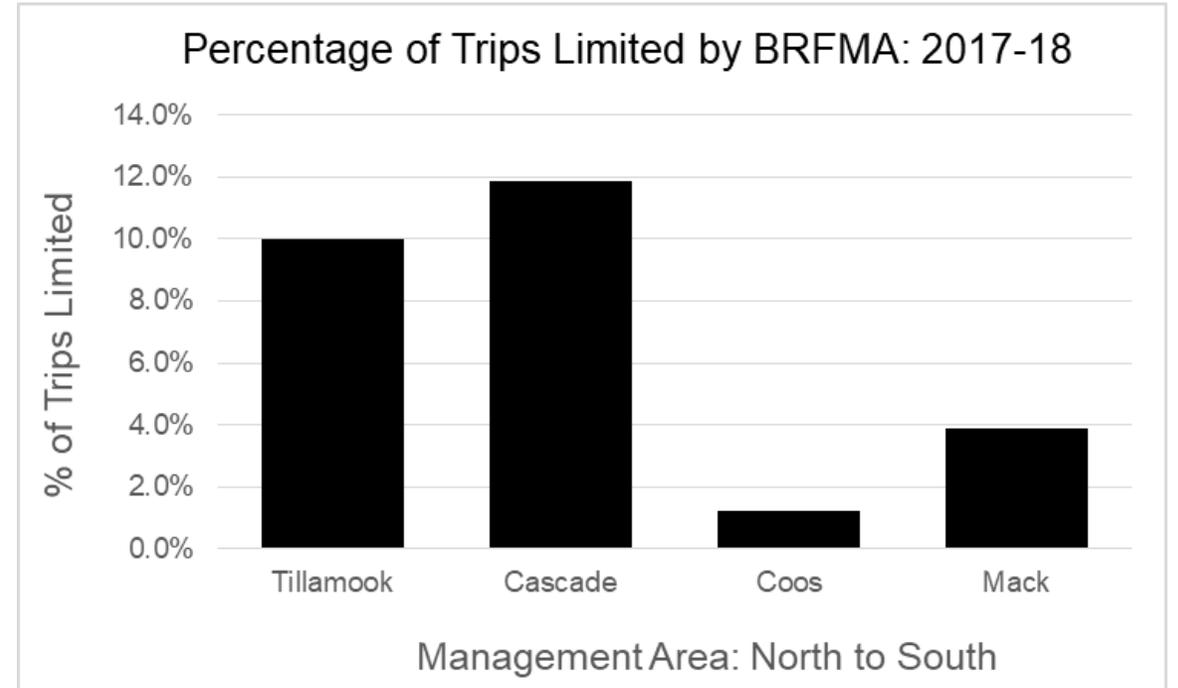
1. To what extent are BRMAs affecting the commercial nearshore fishery? Are the effects different on the north coast vs south coast?
2. Where is there spatial overlap between sport and commercial fishing for black rockfish?
3. Would eliminating BRMAs risk shortening the commercial season?

Known: Eliminating BRMAs or raising daily limits will not increase commercial catch of black rockfish overall, since the fishery currently uses almost all of its HG.

How much are BRMAs limiting comm. fishing?

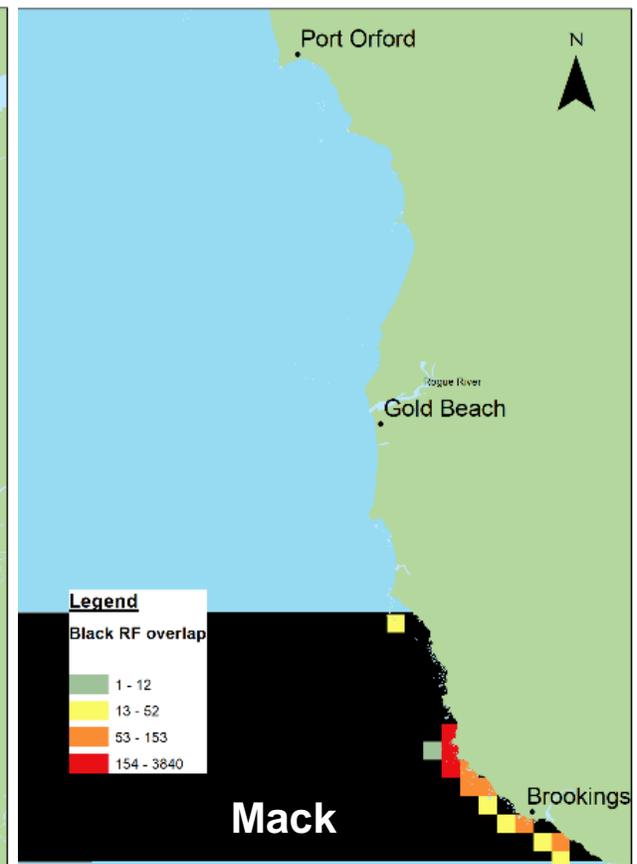
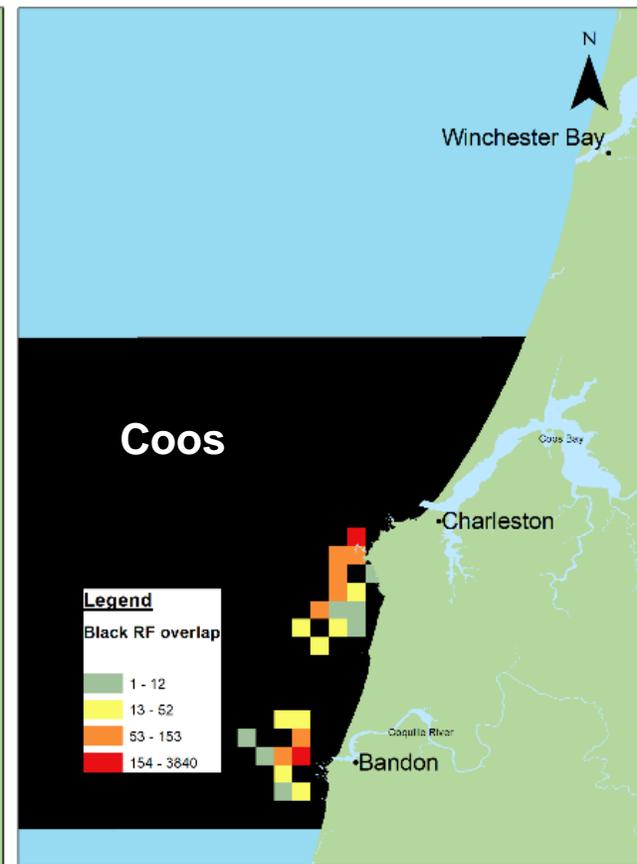
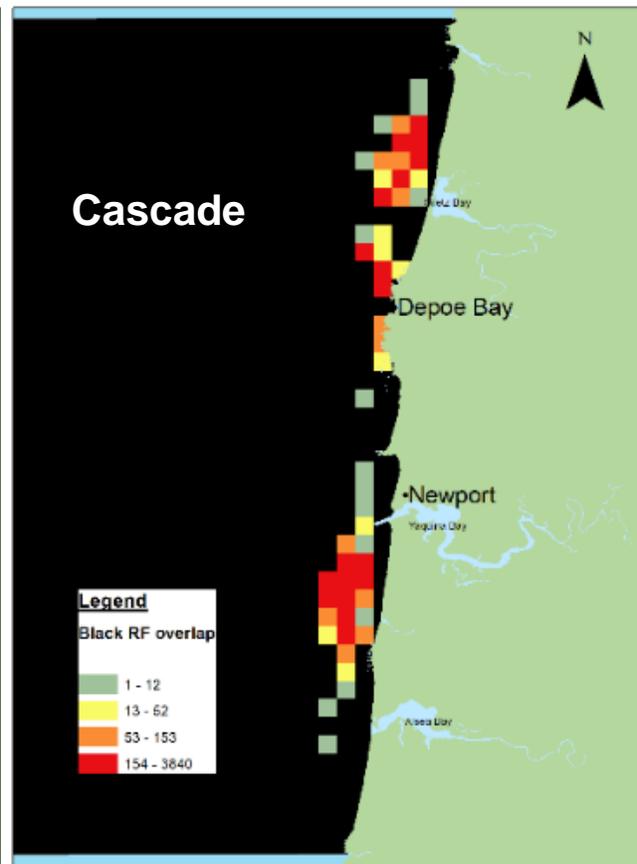
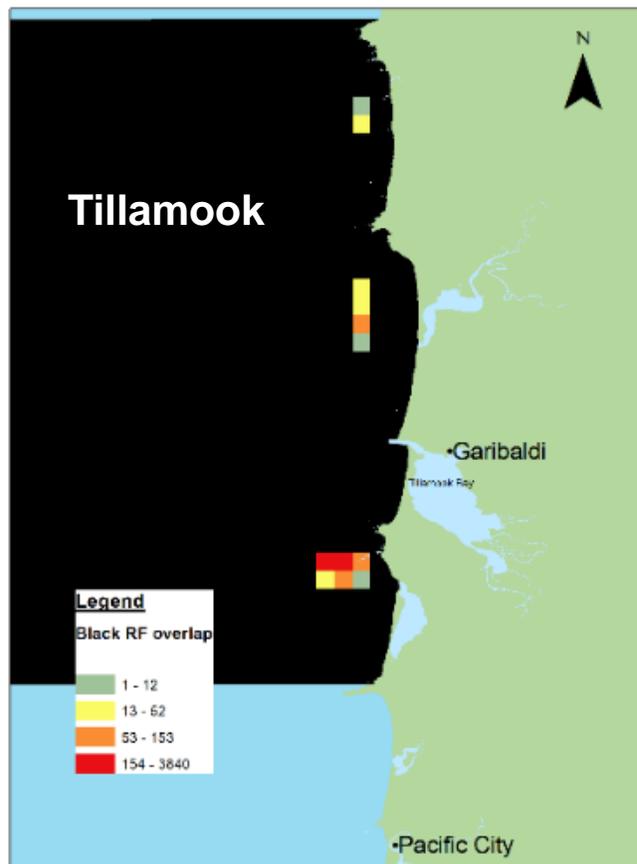


- ~2,500 trips outside, ~1,600 inside
- Higher proportion of trips inside BRMAs on the north coast, vs. south



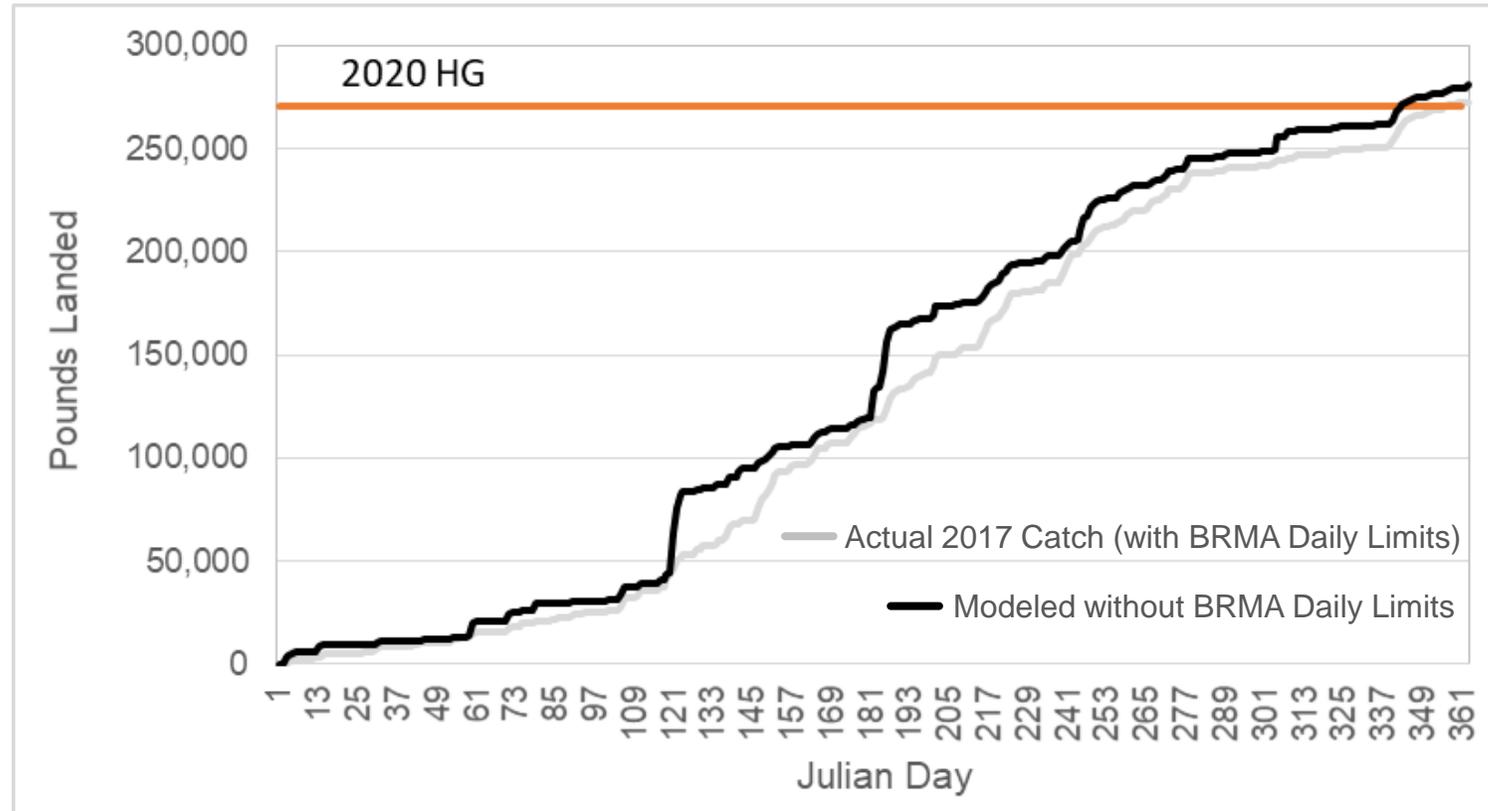
Daily limits affect 10-12% of trips in northern BRMAs, and <4% in southern BRMAs

Where do comm. & sport fishing for black RF overlap?



Relative overlap between commercial and sport fishing for black rockfish. Modeled using 2017-18 comm. logbook and rec. charter observer data; not fully representative of private vessel rec. fishing (i.e., there is probably more potential overlap than shown here).

Would eliminating BRMAs shorten the comm. season?



Unlikely. Even if vessels that currently attain bimonthly limits could land the entire limit in one trip, the HG would likely be met only a few days earlier.

BRMA Analysis Conclusions

- Relatively few commercial trips overall appear limited by BRMAs.
- BRMAs are more limiting on the north coast vs. south coast.
- Most overlap between comm. and recreational fishing for black rockfish occurs within existing BRMAs.

BRMA Assumptions

- Eliminating BRMAs/raising limits:
 - Would lead to some reduction in the number of commercial fishing trips taken to catch the same overall amount of black rockfish
 - Fewer trips would mean less time and fuel, more flexibility
 - Fewer trips could mean less on-the-water overlap with sport fishing
 - Could cause a shift in where some comm. black rockfish fishing occurs; but existing data do not tell us how much or where
 - Fishing location is usually based primarily on where the fish are (habitat) and proximity to port
 - A shift could increase potential conflict and/or concentrate commercial removals on specific reefs

BRMAs – Public Input

South coast commercial fishermen were largely neutral

- Little commercial fishing occurs inside BRMAs in that region
- Buyers often impose low daily limits anyway (due to capacity, demand, etc.)

Central/north coast comm. fishermen supported a variety of options to eliminate BRMAs or increase limits during some periods

- Some concerns that commercial effort shift into BRMAs could reignite conflicts with recreational fishery
- Others felt this risk is low, and preferred eliminating areas with daily limits to increase efficiency and flexibility



BRMAs – Public Input (continued)

Recreational fishermen generally favored retaining BRMAs and associated trip limits

- Concerns included potential localized depletion due to commercial effort shift into BRMAs, and conflict with sport fishing in areas of high recreational use

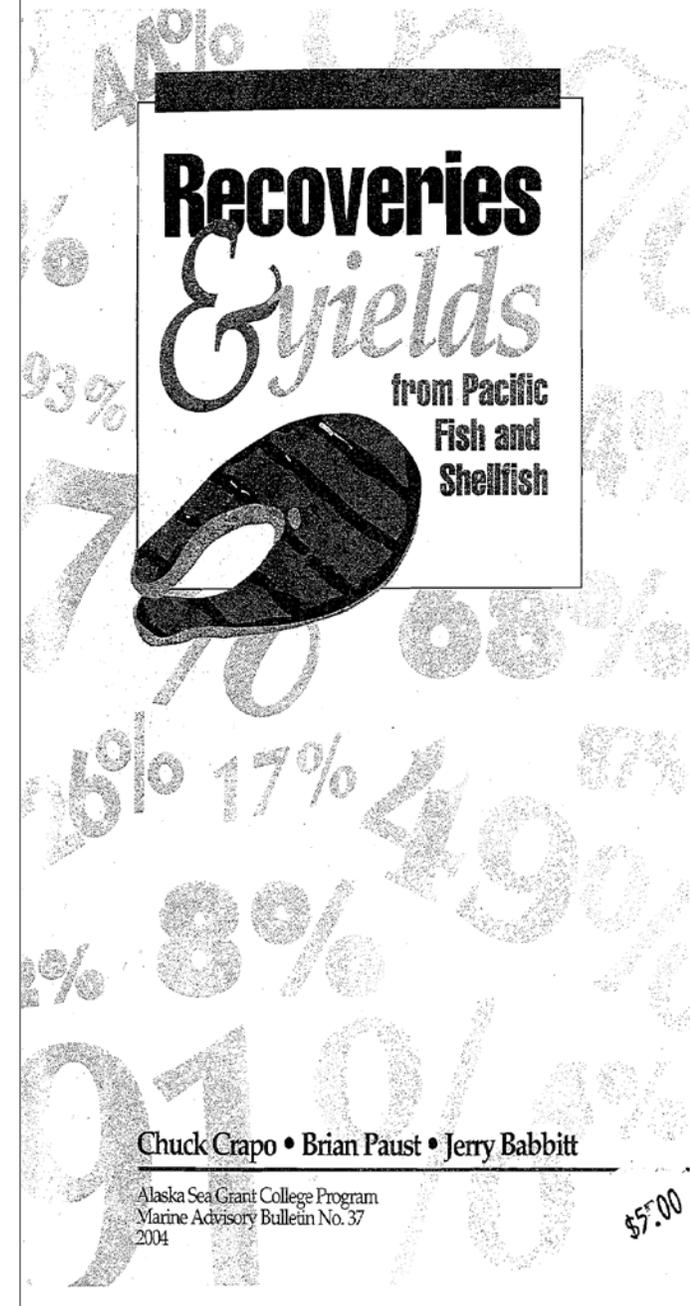
BRMAs – Staff Recommendation

Retain the Black Rockfish Management Areas and raise the daily limit from 300 lbs to 500 lbs in Periods 1 (Jan-Feb) and 6 (Nov-Dec) for all areas.

Rationale: provides a modest increase in flexibility during the winter, while continuing to minimize the potential for conflict between commercial and sport fishing

Commercial Conversion Factors

- Dressed weight x conversion factor = round weight
- Conversion factors are established through research and specified in OAR, then applied on fish tickets for dressed landings
- Staff recommend adopting several not yet in OAR, and reinstating others that were inadvertently removed
- For trawl landings, a federal rule change is also needed before the new factors can be used



4. Recreational Management Measures

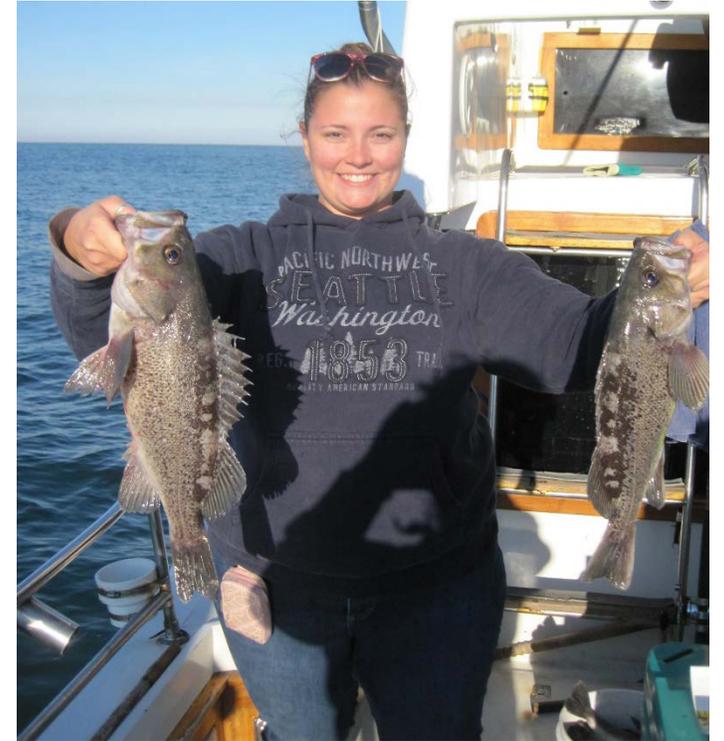
Goal: Provide sustainable fishing opportunity year-round without exceeding federal and state harvest limits

- Key tools: bag limits, area/depth closures, and gear requirements



Recreational Groundfish Fishery Overview

- ~ 100,000 angler-trips per year
- 50% charter, 50% private/guided
- Primarily ocean-boat fishing
- Year-round in Newport, Depoe Bay, Brookings; more seasonal in other ports
- Bottomfish is the “bread-and-butter” fishery: predictable year-round opportunity, relatively more accessible than other ocean fisheries.



2019 Recreational Season Recap – Regulations

- General marine species: 5 fish
 - Rockfish, greenling, Pacific cod, cabezon, skates...and other marine species not listed in Sport Fishing Regulations with a separate bag limit
 - Cabezon sub-bag limit: within the 5-fish bag, no more than one may be a cabezon (opens July 1)
- Lingcod: 2 fish
- Longleader: 10 fish, specified midwater rockfish, longleader gear, >40 fm
- Flatfish: 25 fish (not halibut)



Photo: Tamara Mautner

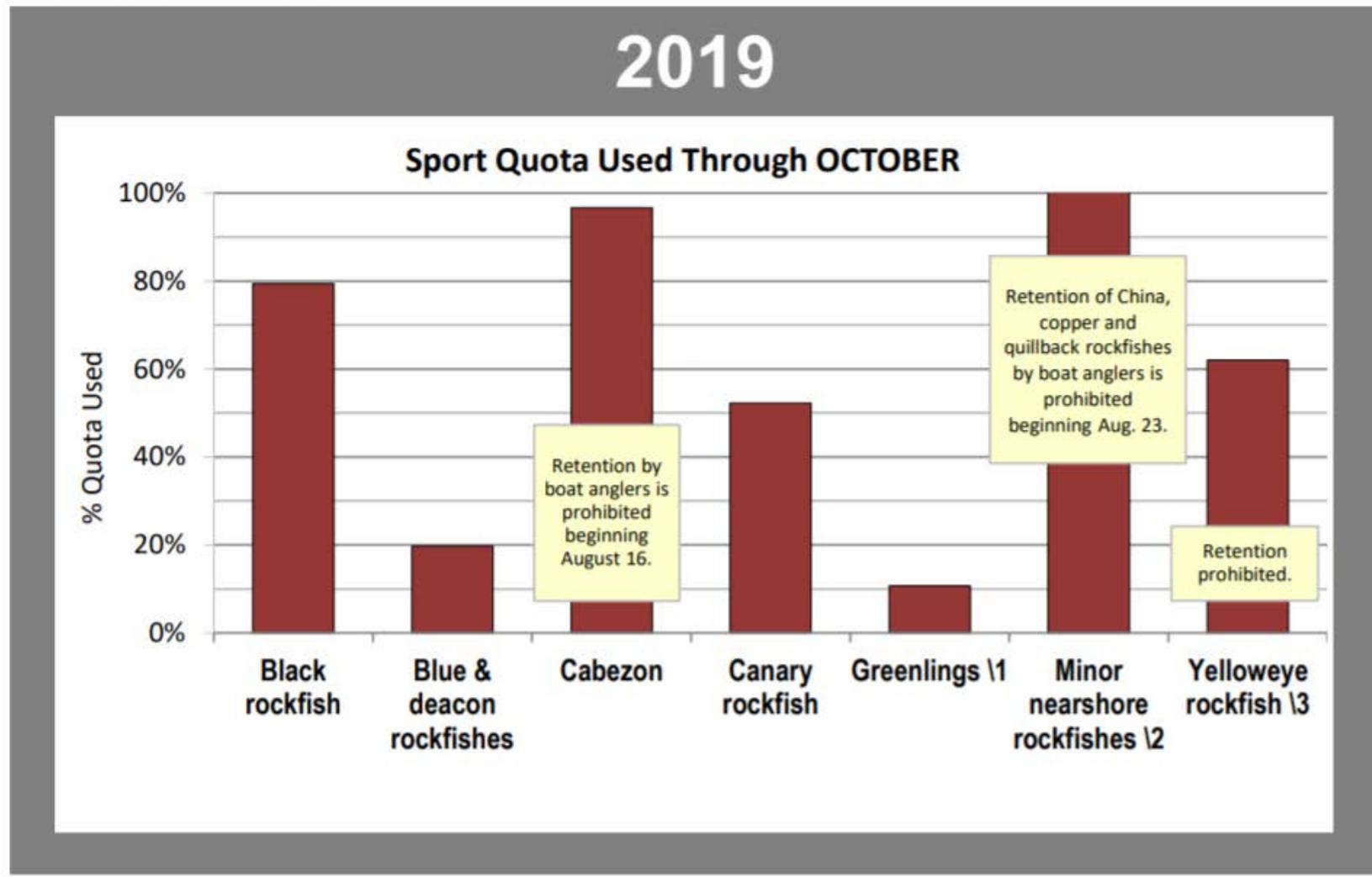
2019 Rec. Season Recap – What Happened

- Relatively high effort: ~ 99,000 angler-trips projected through the end of 2019
- No inseason change to the general marine bag limit
- Less longleader fishing than 2018
- Retention of cabezon, copper, quillback, and china rockfish prohibited in August when recreational HGs were met



2019 Rec. Season Recap – Quota Status

Preliminary





Recreational Groundfish Regulations

- Seasonal depth restriction
- 2020 Bag limits
 - General marine bag limit
 - Proposed new sub-bag limit
- Other regulations

Rec. Fishery Seasonal Depth Restriction

- Since 2004, fishing has been seasonally limited to inshore waters to reduce impacts to yelloweye rockfish while the stock rebuilds from an overfished condition
- 2017 stock assessment showed improvement (projected rebuilding: 2028), and federal bycatch limits were raised
- States committed to a cautious approach to regulation changes expected to increase impacts



Photo: ODFW Marine Reserves Program

Depth Restriction (continued)

- In 2019 OARs, the line was moved deeper (from 30 to 40 fathoms), and the duration was reduced (from 6 to 4 months)
- With this change, yelloweye bycatch increased, but still well under the limit (~4.3 out of 7 mt)
- 2019 results suggest slightly more yelloweye impacts could be allowed



Depth Restriction – Staff Recommendation

Restrict groundfish fishing to shoreward of 40 fathoms from June 1 through August 31

Rationale: Expands all-depth season to include May and September, providing more offshore opportunity

- May help slow impacts on some of the other nearshore rockfish
- Continues ODFW's cautious approach of relaxing regulations that provide more opportunity but increase yelloweye rockfish bycatch

2020 Recreational Bag Limits

Considerations

- Provide opportunity to attain HGs without exceeding them
- Ensure a 12-month season
- “Don’t go below 5 fish” for the general marine bag – public testimony at December 2018 OFWC meeting
- Simplicity vs. opportunity

2020 General Marine Bag Limit

- Black rockfish is the driving factor:
 - ~70% of all fish encountered in this fishery are black rockfish
 - No flexibility in the black rockfish HG
- A sub-bag for black rockfish was considered but not recommended:
 - Likely to result in increased discard and wastage (even with descending device use), without much reduction in total mortality
 - Black RF can be difficult to distinguish from some other species

2020 Copper, Quillback, and China RF Sub-bag

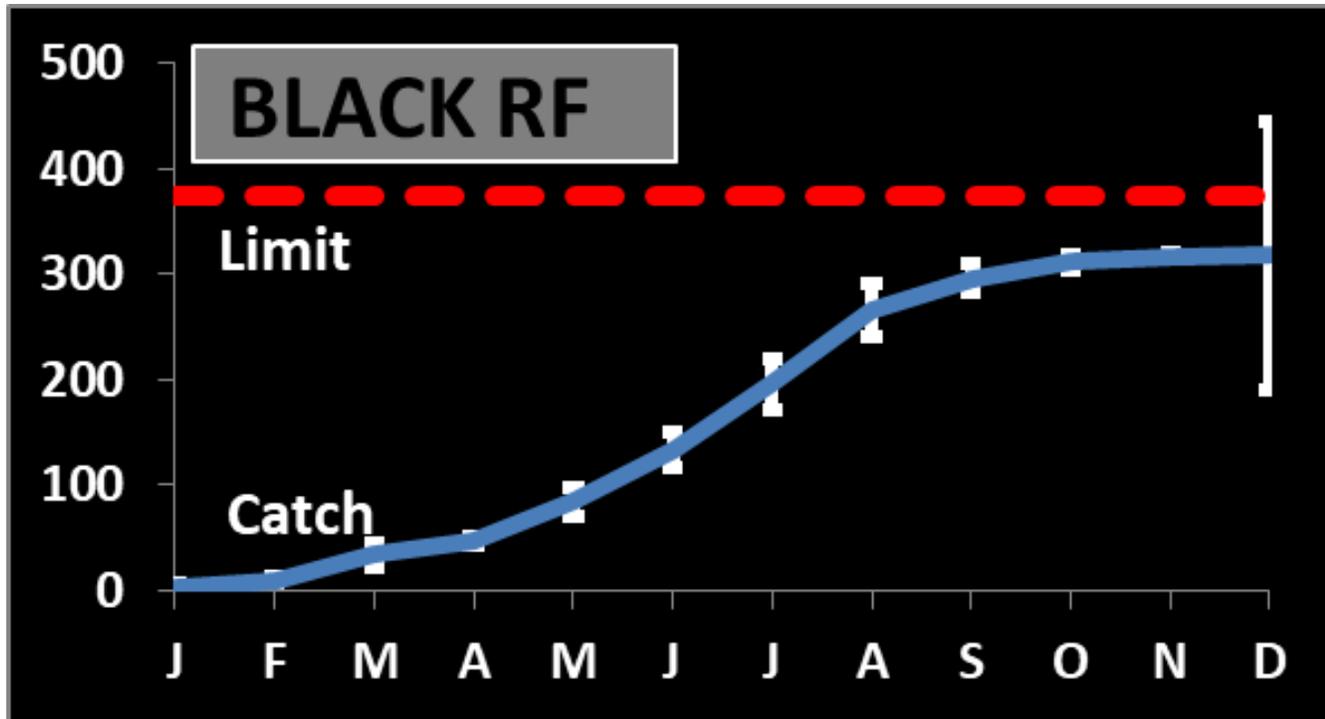
- The Nearshore Rockfish HG was reached mid-summer in 2019 and will be again in 2020.
- Copper, quillback, and China rockfish >98% of this group. Retention was prohibited August 23, 2019 and is expected earlier in 2020.
- A sub-bag limit could slow accumulating catch and postpone—but not prevent—the need to prohibit retention.
- Most anglers catch <1 per trip. Some target them and would be more affected.
- A sub-bag would increase reg. complexity, but these species are relatively easier to ID



Bag Limit Modeling and Uncertainty

Alternatives are evaluated using past data and assumptions about effort, catch rate, and average fish size.

Effort is a key source of uncertainty. It is variable and has been trending higher.

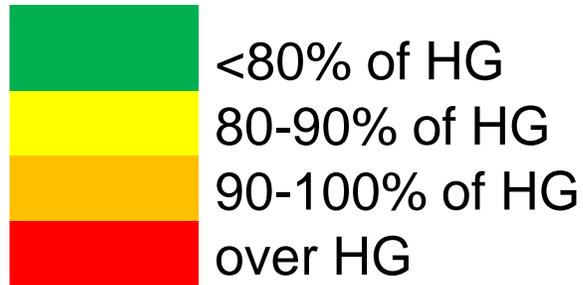


Left: projected 2020 black rockfish impacts with a 5-fish bag limit. Actual catch expected to fall within the white bar 95% of the time.

2019 projections overestimated black RF impacts by ~11%, and underestimated nearshore rockfish impacts by ~32% (not pictured).

Catch Projections for 2020 Rec. Bag Limit Alternatives

Option	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	BRF	CAN	YE	NSRF	Kelp Gr	Cab						
2020 Ocean Boat Limit													374.8	66.7	7.2	11.6	18.6	16.1						
2019 regulations	all-depth				< 40 fm			all-depth				319.2	52.0	4.80	19.6	5.65	24.8							
5 fish bag limit	all-depth				< 40 fm			all-depth				317.1	53.1	4.90	19.4	5.4	24.8							
5 fish bag; 2 NSRF	all-depth				< 40 fm			all-depth				317.3	53.2	4.90	19.1	5.4	24.8							
5 fish bag; 1 NSRF	all-depth				< 40 fm			all-depth				317.8	53.2	4.90	18.3	5.4	24.8	85%						
6 fish bag; 1 NSRF	all-depth				< 40 fm			all-depth				347.6	54.8	5.10	19.1	5.8	26.2	93%						




 BRF projection
 as % of limit

General Marine Bag – Staff Recommendation

5 fish general marine bag limit in 2020

Rationale:

- Minimizes risk of exceeding the HG which would result in early season closure
- Minimizes risk of an inseason bag reduction below 5 fish if actual catch is higher than projected

New Sub-bag – Staff Recommendation

1-fish sub-bag for copper, quillback, and China rockfish

(within the general marine bag, no more than 1 fish may be a copper, quillback, or China rockfish)

Rationale:

- Slows catch of nearshore rockfish and prolongs the period during which retention is allowed
- Increases angler awareness and avoidance

Expect retention to be prohibited inseason even with a sub-bag

Other Recreational Groundfish Rules

Staff recommendation: status quo

- Cabezon sub-bag limit (1 fish) and season (Jul. 1 to Dec. 31, or until HG is met)
- Lingcod bag limit (2 fish)
- Flatfish bag limit (25 fish)
- Longleader bag limit (10 fish, select species only), >40 fm, longleader gear only
- Descending devices required onboard and ready to use when fishing for bottomfish or halibut, and must be used when releasing rockfish >30 fm



Photo: Tamara Mautner

Summary Of Staff Recommendations

As reflected in Exhibit G., Attachment 3, Draft OARs, adopt:

- Updated federal rules (by reference)
- 2020 Recreational and commercial harvest guidelines
- 2020 Commercial nearshore bimonthly trip limits
- Commercial BRMA daily trip limit increase Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec
- Commercial conversion factors
- 2020 Recreational bag limits (general marine bag and new sub-bag for copper, quillback, and China rockfish)
- 2020 Recreational depth restriction



Marine
Resources

Questions?



photo: Ian Chun