



Marine
Resources

Public Meetings on the 2025 Recreational Bottomfish Fishery

July 29, July 30, Aug 5,
and Aug 6, 2024



ODFW Marine Reserves Photo

Meeting Outline

- State Management Goals
- Review 2024 season
- Looking ahead to 2025
 - Stock Assessments & Allocations
 - Public input on Season Structure and Regulations



State Management Goals

- Strive for year-round bottomfish fishing opportunities
- Provide harvest opportunity
- Limit regulation complexity
- Minimize discarded fish

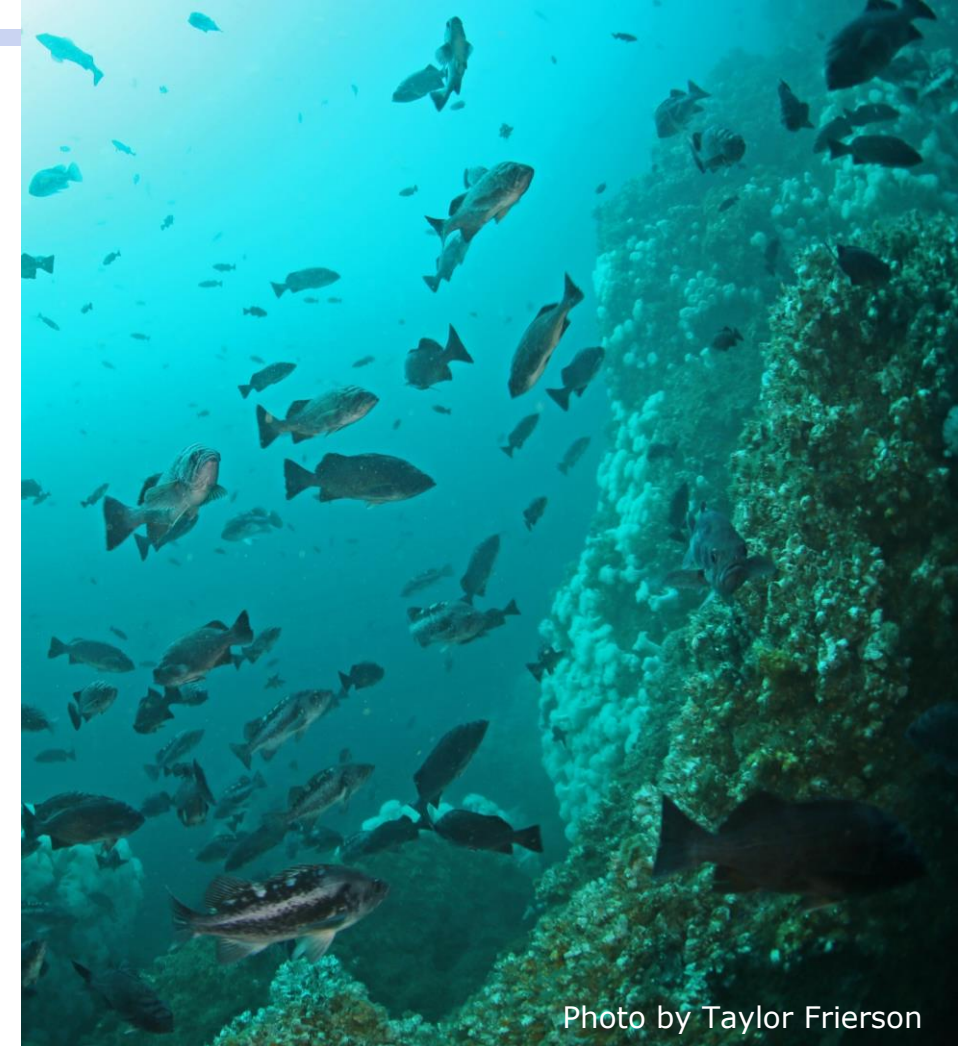


Photo by Taylor Frierson



2024 Bag Limits

- 5 fish general marine bag limit
 - Sub-bag of 1 cabezon (July 1 until quota caught)
- 2 lingcod
- 25 flatfish (other than P. halibut)
- 12 longleader gear fish (10 species)
- Quillback and yelloweye rockfishes prohibited



ODFW Marine Reserves Photo



2024 Regulations

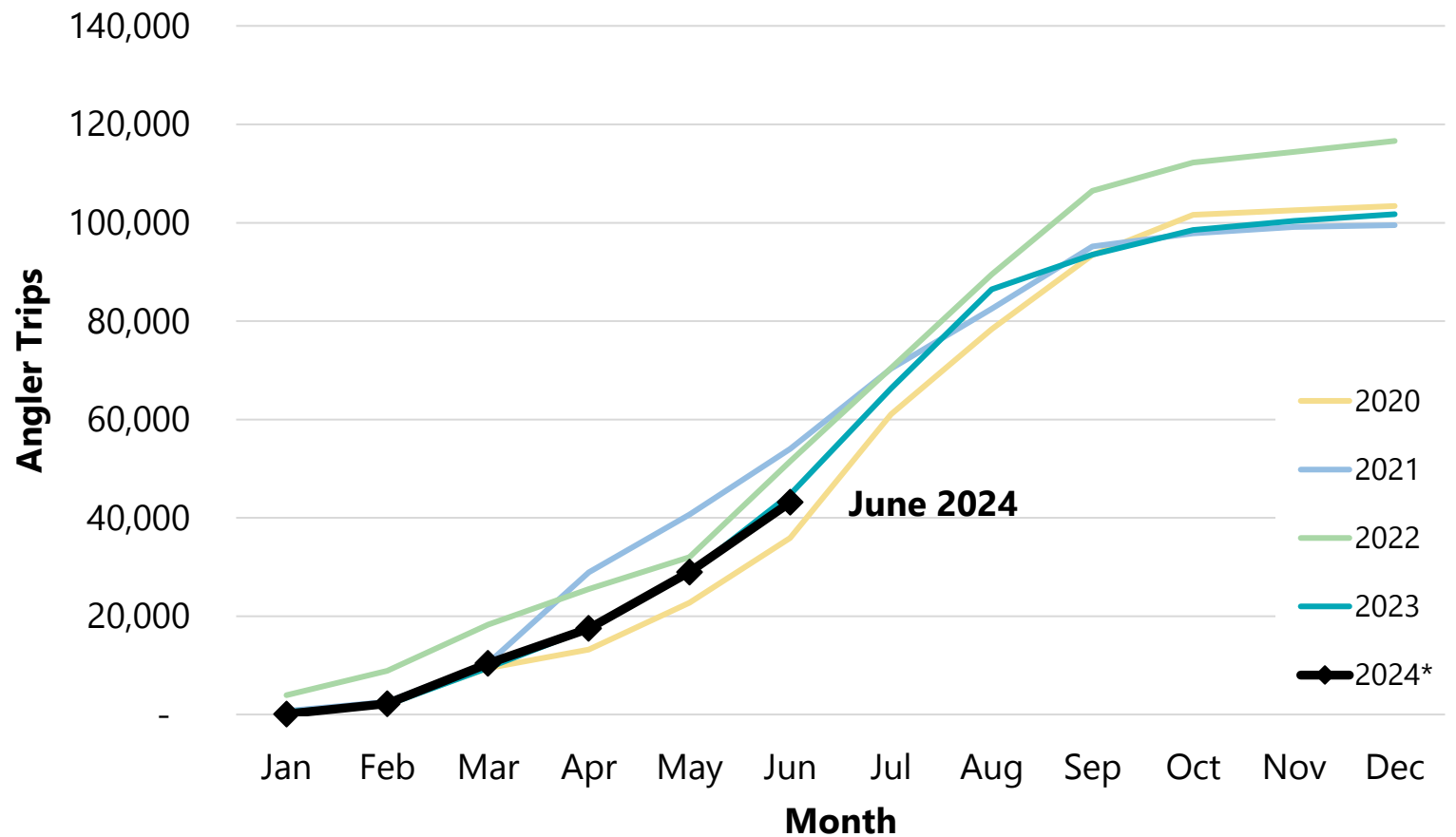
- No seasonal depth restriction
- Bottomfish allowed with halibut
 - Longleader fishing in combination with halibut during all-depth halibut fishing days **OR** lingcod and the general marine species bag limit (5-fish bag)
- Mandatory descending devices
- Length limits
 - Lingcod - 22 inches
 - Cabezon - 16 inches



2024 Season Progress: Angler Trips

- Tracking very similar to 2023 and our preseason projections
 - ~43,000 bottomfish angler trips through June
- *Data for 2024 is preliminary

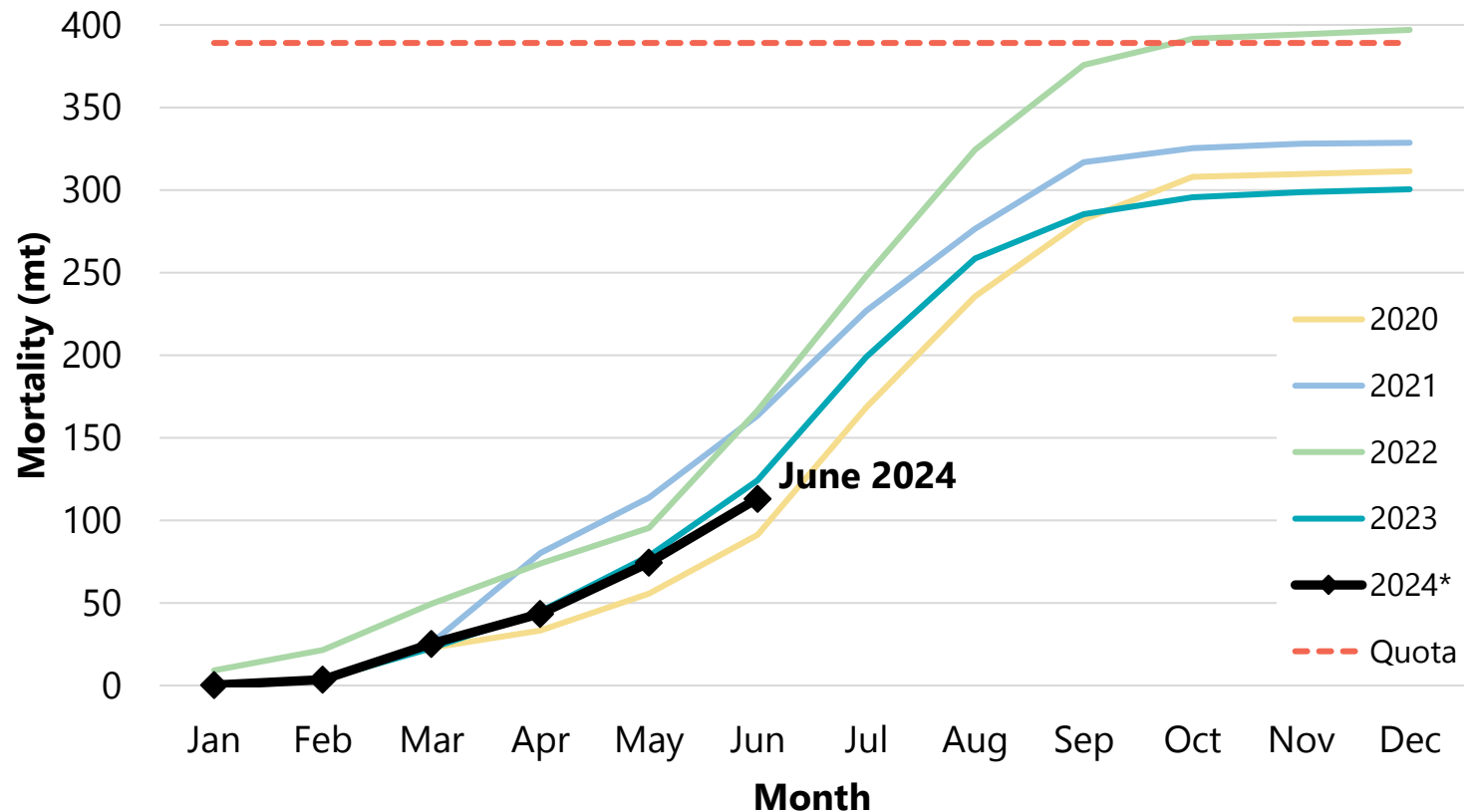
Bottomfish Effort by Month and Year



2024 Season Progress: Black Rockfish

- Tracking very similar to 2023 and our preseason projections
 - ~113 metric tons
- Black rockfish dominate the bag limit
- More anglers fish during the months of July and August
- *Data for 2024 is preliminary

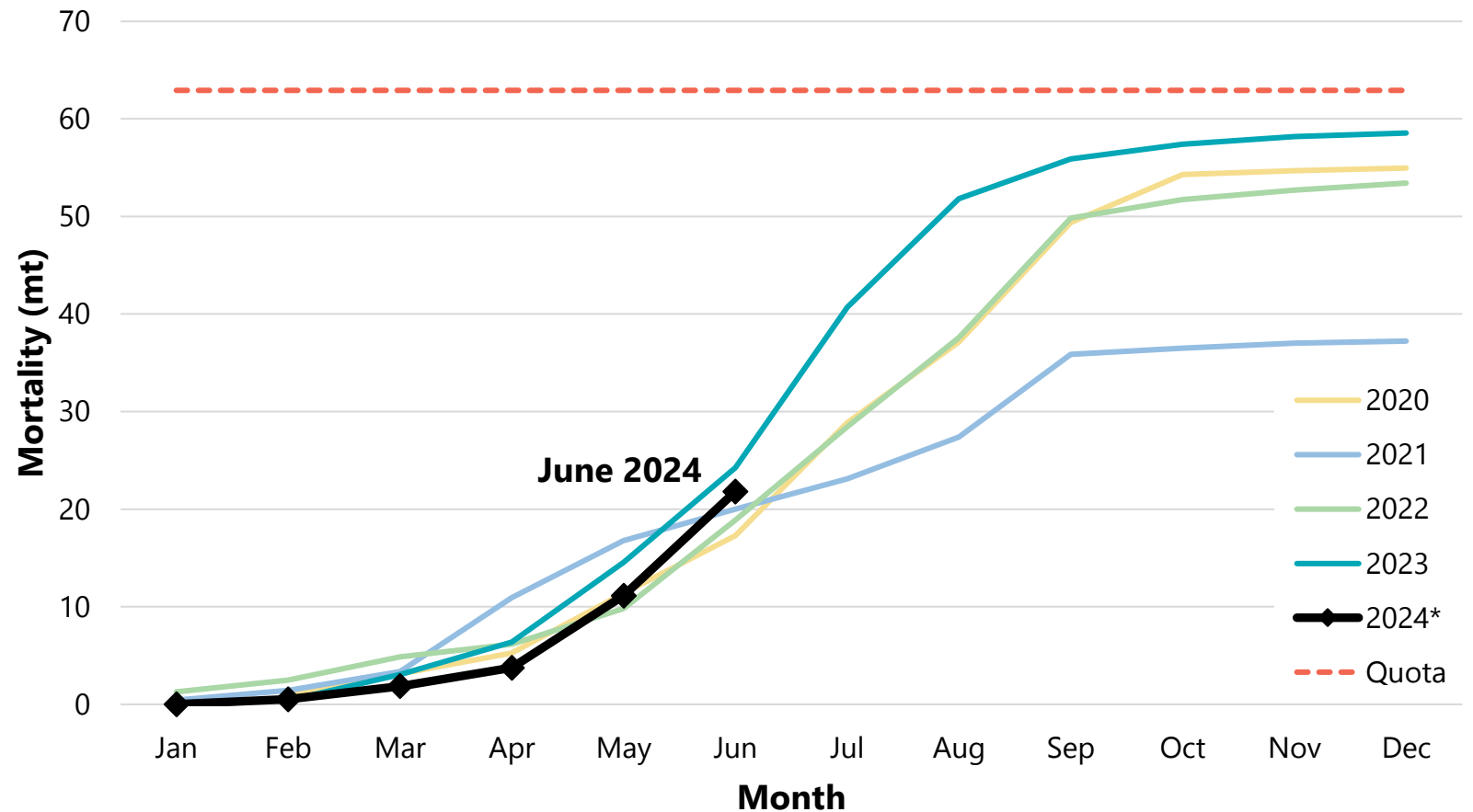
Cumulative Black Rockfish Mortality by Month and Year



2024 Season Progress: Canary Rockfish

- Tracking similar to 2023 and our preseason projections
 - ~22 metric tons
- *Data for 2024 is preliminary

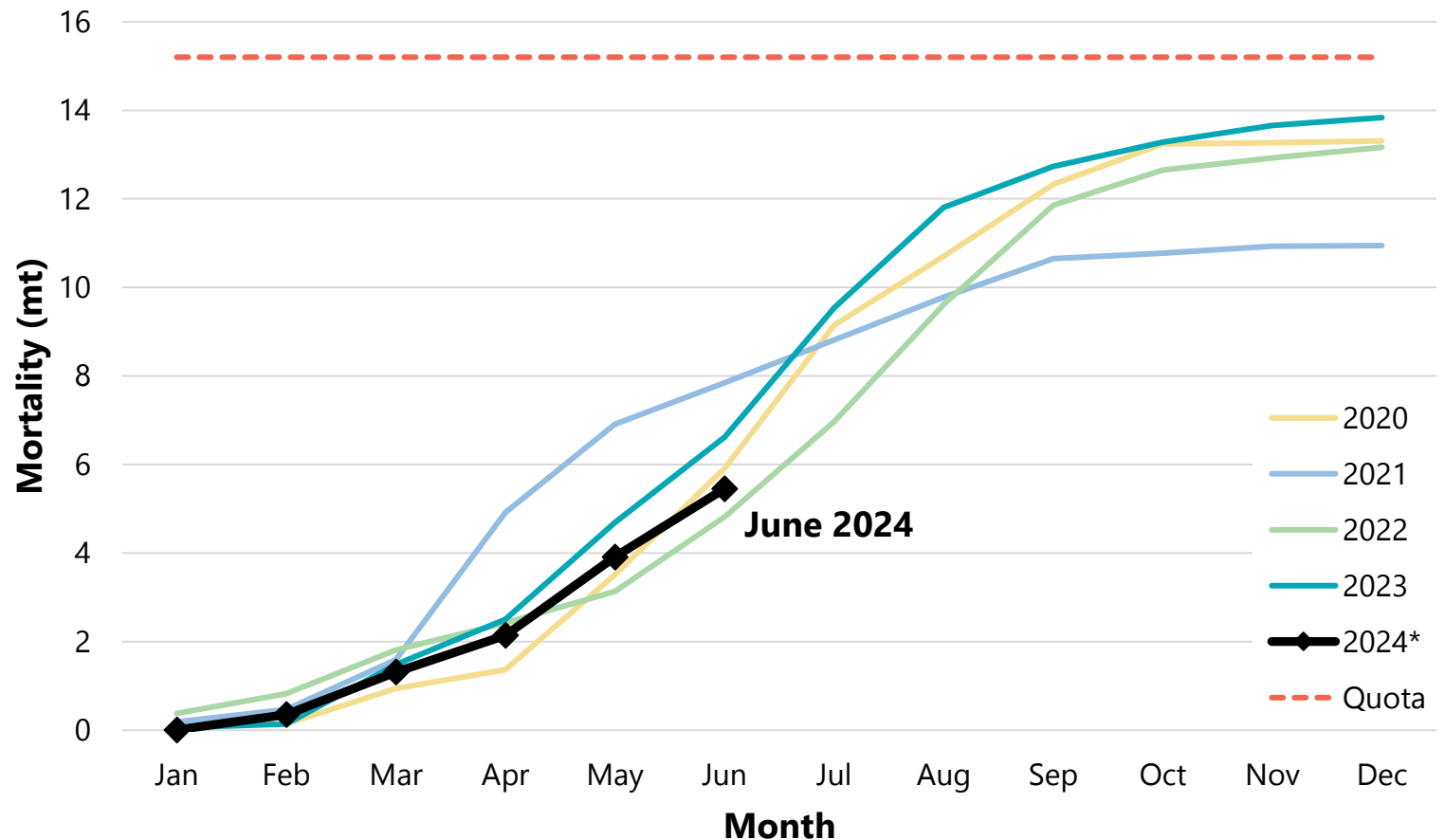
Cumulative Canary Rockfish Mortality by Month and Year



2024 Season Progress: Nearshore

- Nearshore rockfish include China, copper and quillback rockfishes
 - Quillback rockfish prohibited since 2022
- Cabezon opened on July 1 – limited data at this point
- *Data for 2024 is preliminary

Cumulative Nearshore Rockfish Mortality by Month and Year



2024 - 2025 Harvest Limits

Species or Species Group	2024 limit (mt)	2025 limit (mt)	
Black Rockfish	389.1	261.1	↓
Blue/Deacon Rockfish	66.1	64.9	↓
Nearshore Rockfish (China, Copper & Quillback RF)	15.2	14.6	↓
Yelloweye Rockfish	7.2	6.9	↓
Canary Rockfish	61.4	26.0	↓
Cabazon	17.6	17.2	↓
Greenlings	32.6	32.0	↓



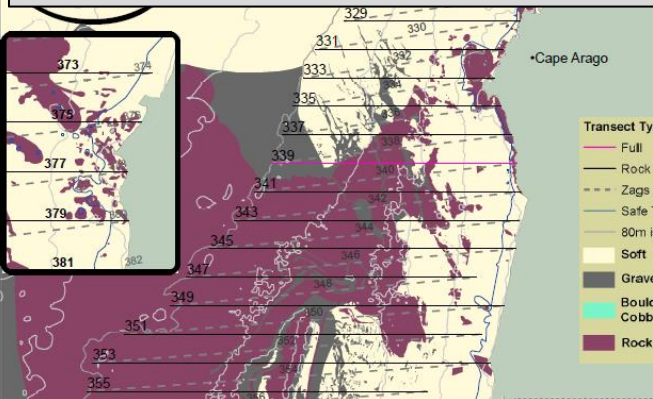
2023 Stock Assessments

- Factors contributing to black rockfish
 - 2021 hydroacoustic survey (nearshore rockfish survey)
- Factors contributing to canary rockfish
 - Parameters to account how different fisheries catch canary rockfish
- Factors contributing to both
 - Estimated young fish entering the fishery in future years
 - Simplified natural mortality estimates
 - Updated estimates and data sources

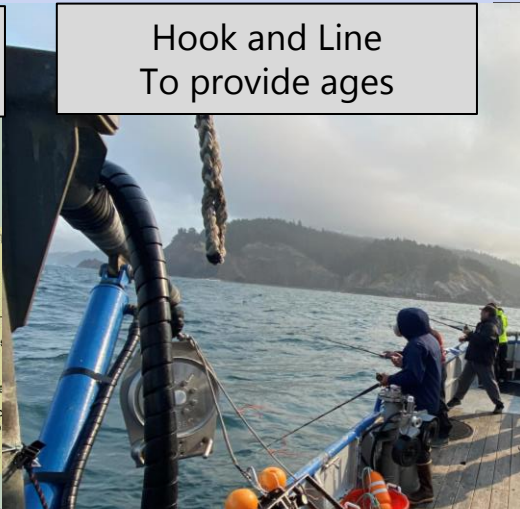


ODFW's First Black Rockfish Survey

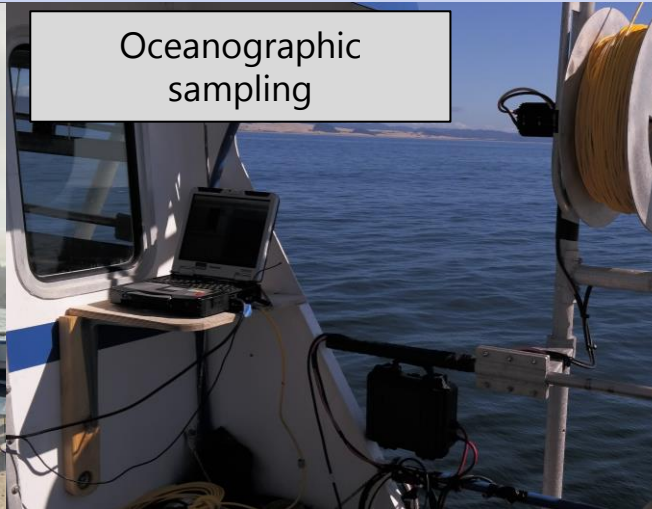
Transects:
WA to CA mostly on rock



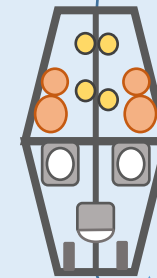
Hook and Line
To provide ages



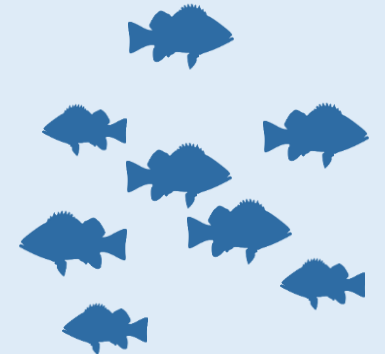
Oceanographic
sampling



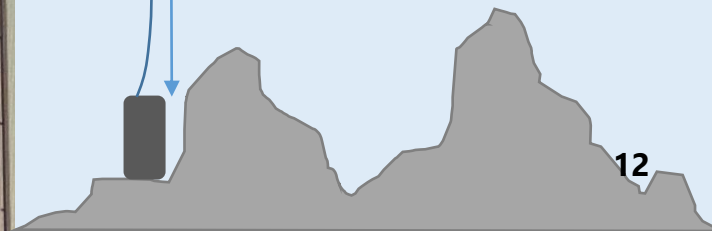
To surface
buoy



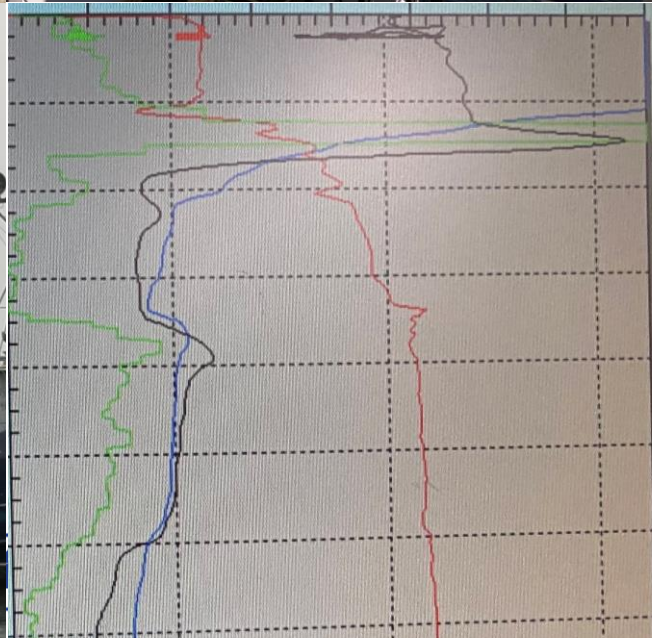
Camera to validate and
provide data for acoustics



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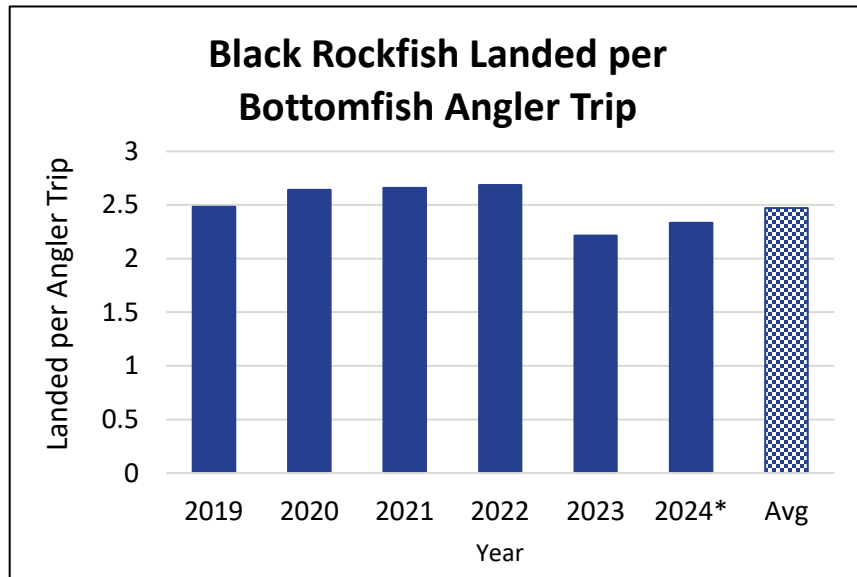


Survey Vessels

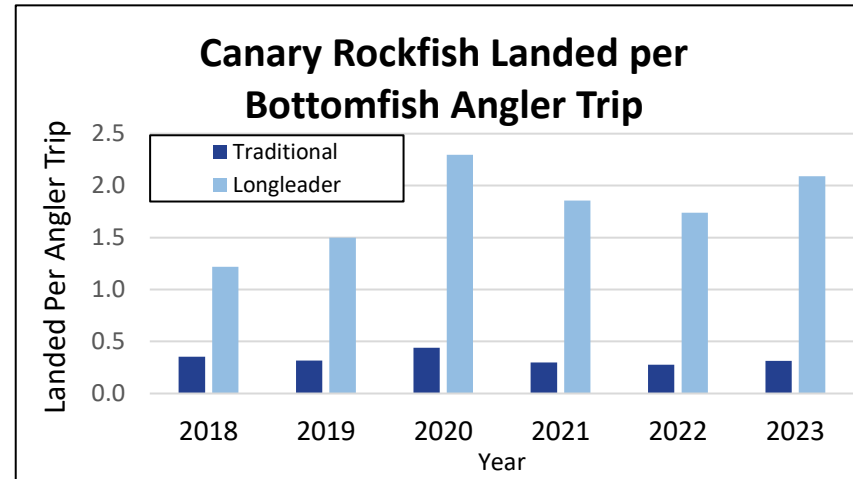


Catch Rates: Black and Canary Rockfishes

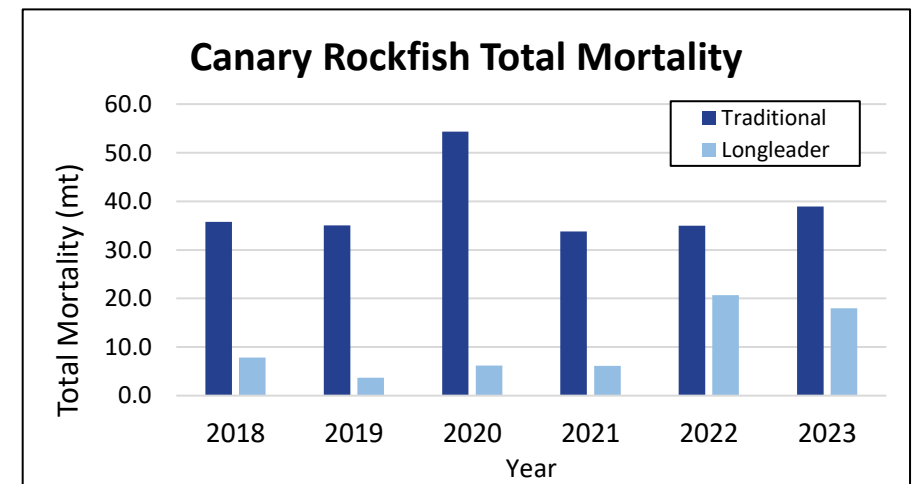
Black rockfish



*Data available through June of 2024



Canary rockfish



2025 Bag Limit Projections: 5-Fish

2025 GROUND FISH MORTALITY

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	OCEAN BOAT		
COMPLETED?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			
ACTUAL OR PROJECTED?	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	TOTAL	LIMIT	±
BLACK RF	4.30	7.98	20.26	20.78	32.01	42.37	72.15	45.64	32.88	14.23	4.75	3.54	300.9	247.8	121%
BLUE & DEACON RF	0.26	0.48	1.23	1.20	1.89	2.57	4.14	2.71	2.31	0.89	0.29	0.22	18.2	63.8	29%
CABEZON	0.05	0.10	0.24	0.25	0.37	0.46	7.81	4.58	3.14	1.28	0.44	0.32	19.0	16.7	114%
GREENLINGS	0.04	0.07	0.18	0.19	0.30	0.42	0.79	0.47	0.35	0.14	0.04	0.03	3.0	13.5	22%
Minor NSRF (S Cap)	0.17	0.32	0.82	0.79	1.34	1.71	2.78	1.72	1.51	0.59	0.19	0.14	12.1	13.3	91%
CANARY RF (S Cap)	0.52	0.94	2.43	2.88	5.71	8.28	12.84	8.60	7.48	2.03	0.62	0.44	52.8	26.0	203%
YELLOW EYE RF (S Cap)	0.05	0.09	0.24	0.27	0.75	1.35	1.23	0.88	0.92	0.29	0.06	0.04	6.2	6.9	90%

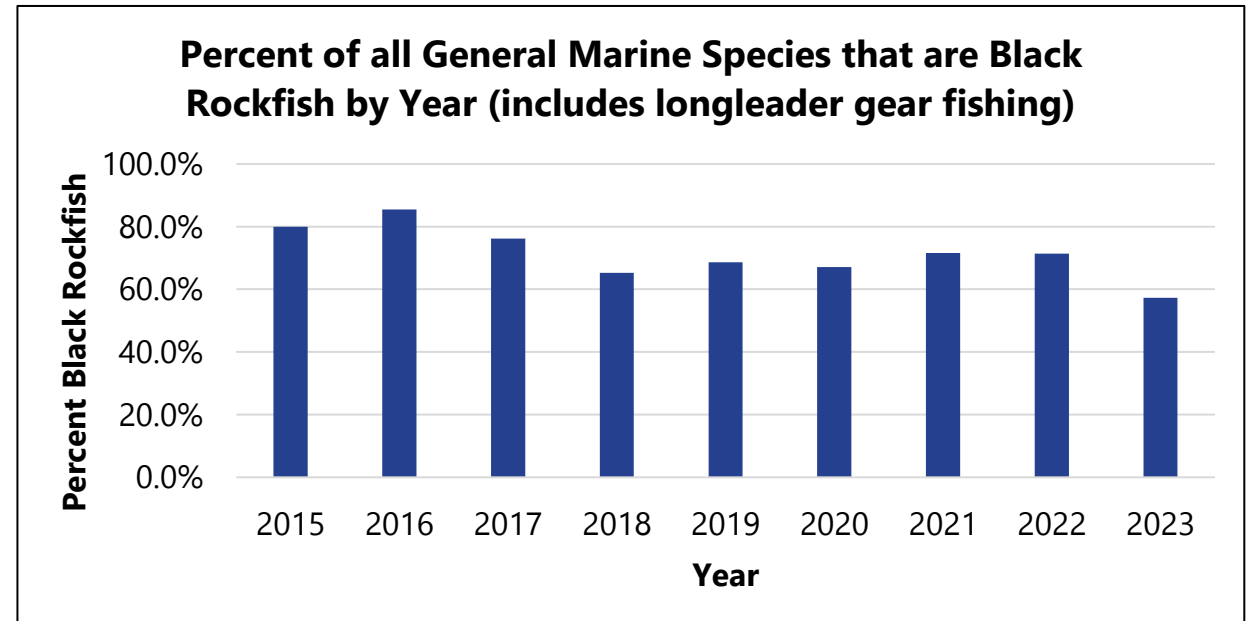


5-Fish Bag Limit Projections: 3-Fish Sub-bag Limit for Black Rockfish

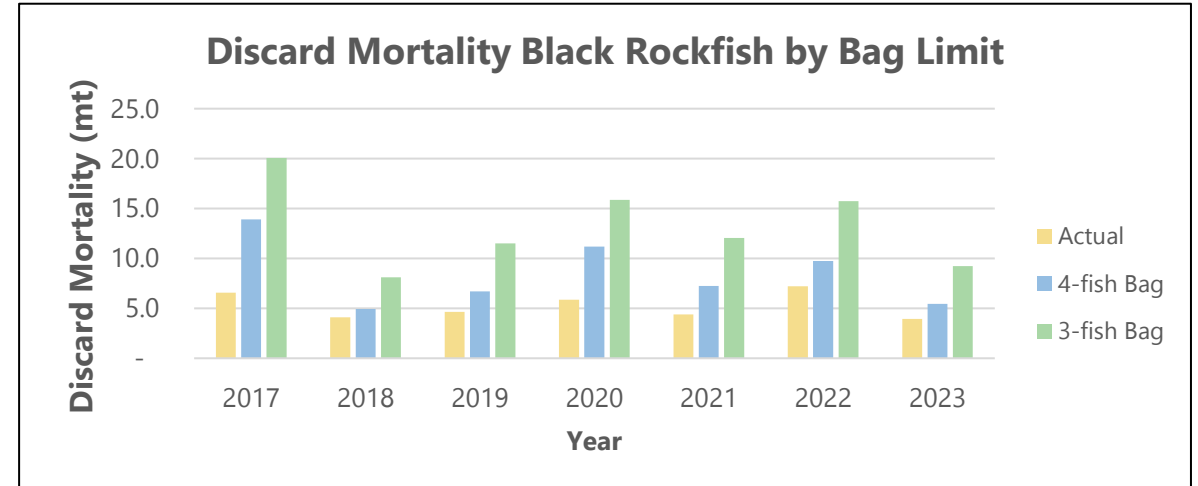
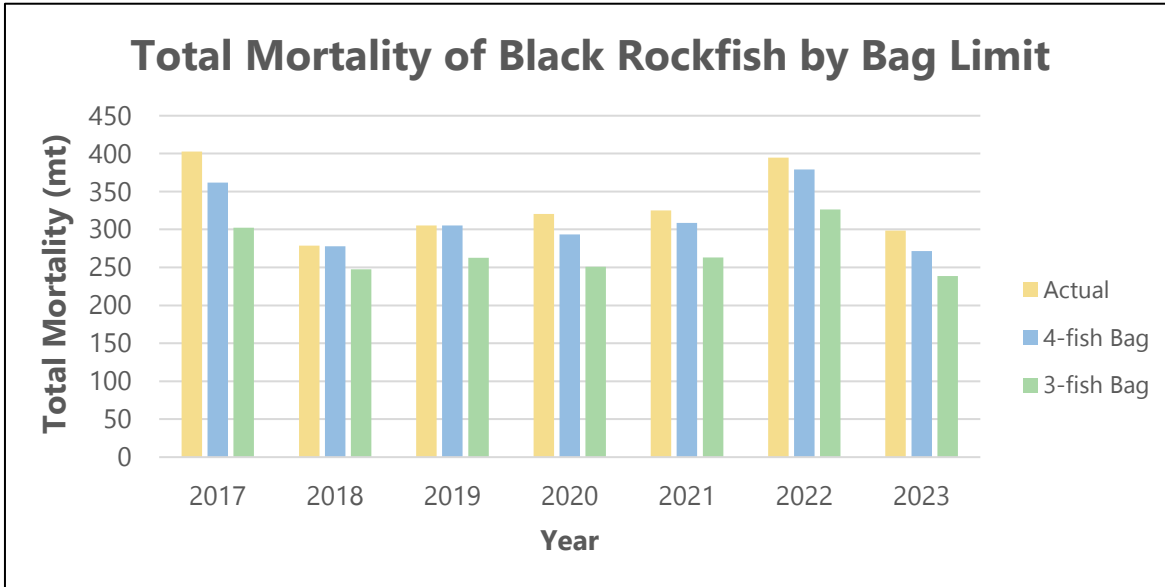
2025 GROUND FISH MORTALITY

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	OCEAN BOAT		
COMPLETED?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			
ACTUAL OR PROJECTED?	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	TOTAL	LIMIT	±
BLACK RF	3.02	5.60	14.23	14.72	22.92	31.12	54.16	34.65	24.30	10.07	3.34	2.48	220.6	247.8	89%

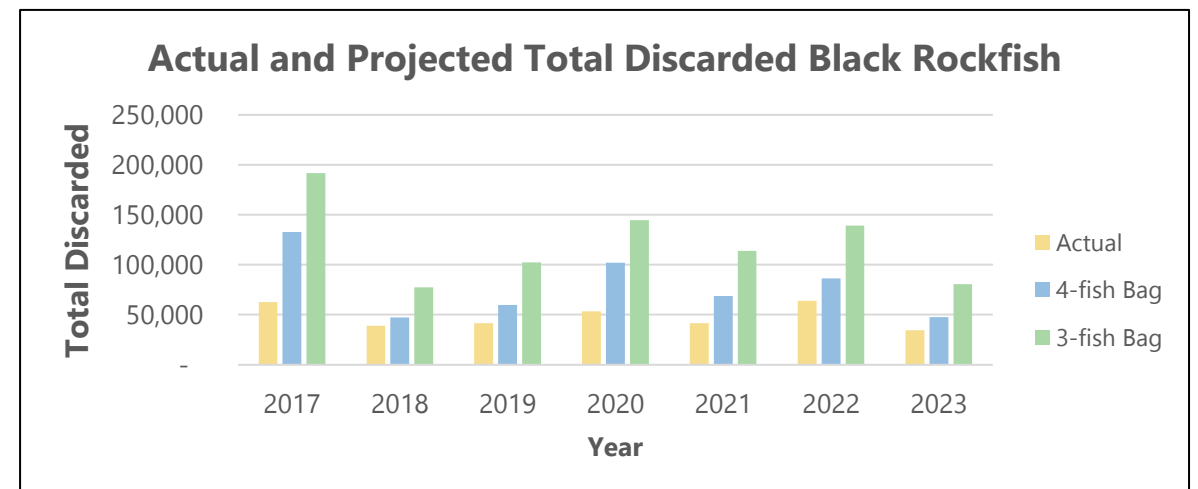
- Black rockfish is the dominant catch in bottomfish fishery thus the model cannot put black rockfish as a sub-bag option.
- 3-Fish bag limit is a nice starting place, however.



5-Fish Bag Limit Projections: Black Rockfish as a Sub-bag



- With a sub-bag limit in place for black rockfish, there will be an increase of at sea discards of black rockfish



Sub-bag of Black Rockfish Concerns

- Increasing effort on other quota managed species
 - Black rockfish quota is **247.8 metric tons**
 - Nearshore rockfish quota is **13.3 metric tons**
 - Shortened seasons in recent years as quota has been attained
 - Cabezon quota is **16.7 metric tons**
 - Already limited annually with 1-fish sub-bag and shortened season
 - Canary rockfish quota is **26.0 metric tons**
 - More on canary as a sub-bag or shortened season will be considered
 - Blue/deacon rockfish quota is **63.8 metric tons**
- Once these quotas are reached, retention will be prohibited causing inseason changes and bag limit complexities



2025 Bag Limit Projections: 4-Fish

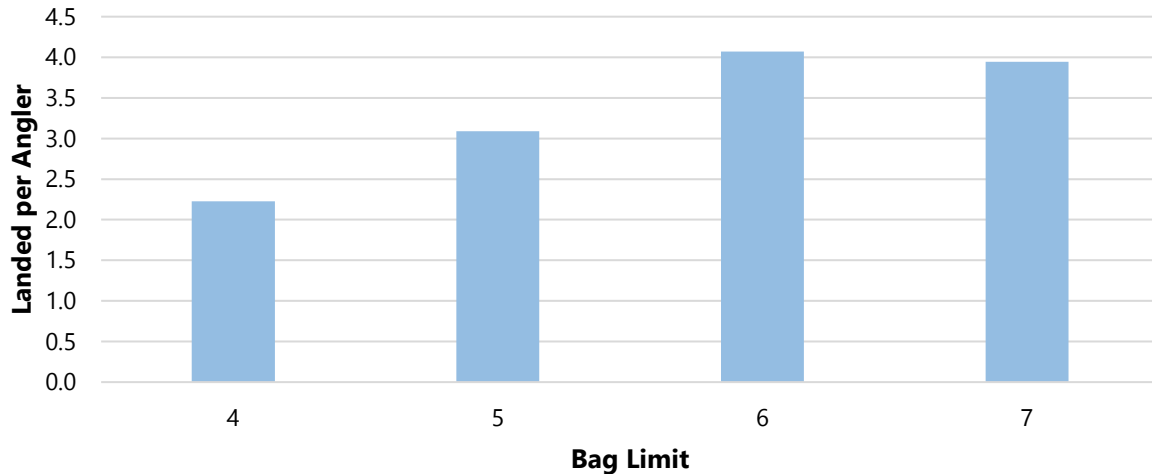
2025 GROUND FISH MORTALITY

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	OCEAN BOAT		
COMPLETED?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	TOTAL	LIMIT	±
ACTUAL OR PROJECTED?	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	TOTAL	LIMIT	±
BLACK RF	3.78	7.02	17.82	18.33	28.33	37.82	64.87	41.20	29.41	12.55	4.18	3.11	268.4	247.8	108%
BLUE & DEACON RF	0.23	0.42	1.07	1.05	1.67	2.29	3.70	2.44	2.10	0.78	0.25	0.19	16.2	63.8	25%
CABEZON	0.04	0.08	0.21	0.21	0.31	0.39	6.94	4.05	2.73	1.08	0.37	0.27	16.7	16.7	100%
GREENLINGS	0.03	0.06	0.15	0.16	0.26	0.37	0.70	0.41	0.31	0.12	0.04	0.03	2.6	13.5	20%
Minor NSRF (S Cap)	0.15	0.28	0.72	0.69	1.20	1.53	2.50	1.54	1.38	0.52	0.17	0.12	10.8	13.3	81%
CANARY RF (S Cap)	0.45	0.82	2.12	2.51	5.13	7.42	11.47	7.57	6.77	1.80	0.54	0.39	47.0	26.0	181%
YELLOW EYE RF (S Cap)	0.04	0.08	0.20	0.23	0.69	1.28	1.11	0.81	0.87	0.26	0.05	0.04	5.7	6.9	82%



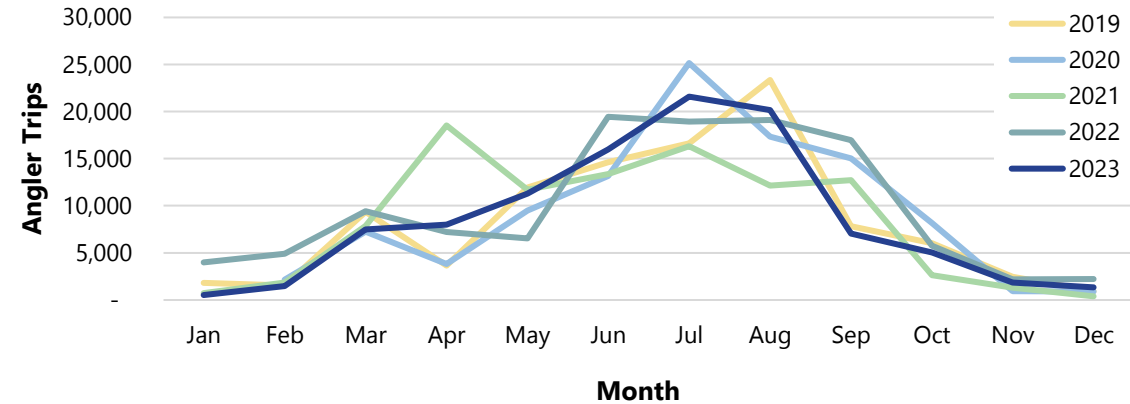
2025 Bag Limit Projections: 4-Fish

Black Rockfish Landed per Angler by Bag Limit in July and August 2017-2023

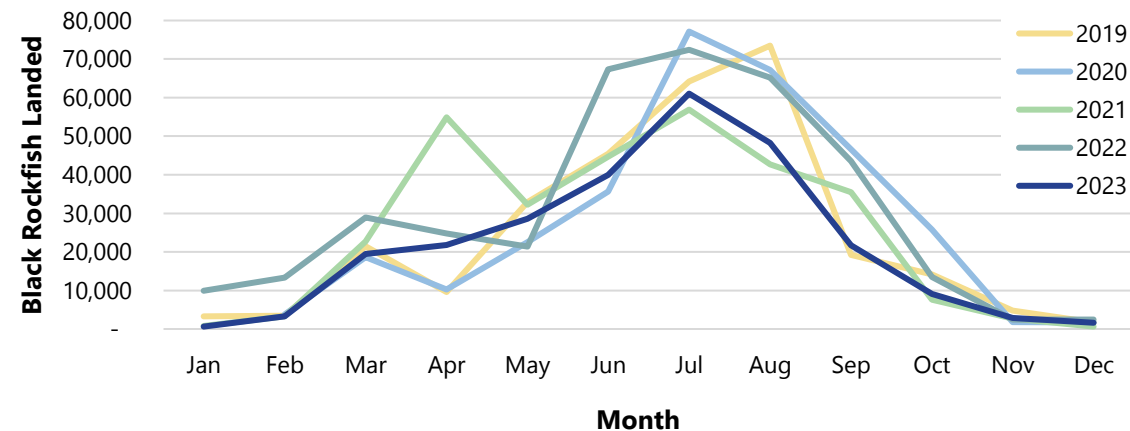


- July and August are the busiest months, and we see that a 4-fish bag pulls the catch rate down on black rockfish
- Black rockfish total catch landed track closely to bottomfish angler trips

Bottomfish Angler Trips by Month and Year



Total Black Rockfish Landed by Month and Year



2025 Bag Limit Projections: 4-Fish

2025 GROUND FISH MORTALITY

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	OCEAN BOAT		
COMPLETED?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	TOTAL	LIMIT	±
ACTUAL OR PROJECTED?	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
BLACK RF	3.78	7.02	17.82	18.33	28.33	37.82	64.87	41.20	29.41	12.55	4.18	3.11	268.4	247.8	108%
BLUE & DEACON RF	0.23	0.42	1.07	1.05	1.67	2.29	3.70	2.44	2.10	0.78	0.25	0.19	16.2	63.8	25%
CABEZON	0.04	0.08	0.21	0.21	0.31	0.39	6.94	4.05	2.73	1.08	0.37	0.27	16.7	16.7	100%
GREENLINGS	0.03	0.06	0.15	0.16	0.26	0.37	0.70	0.41	0.31	0.12	0.04	0.03	2.6	13.5	20%
Minor NSRF (S Cap)	0.15	0.28	0.72	0.69	1.20	1.53	2.50	1.54	1.38	0.52	0.17	0.12	10.8	13.3	81%
CANARY RF (S Cap)	0.45	0.82	2.12	2.51	5.13	7.42	11.47	7.57	6.77	1.80	0.54	0.39	47.0	26.0	181%
YELLOW EYE RF (S Cap)	0.04	0.08	0.20	0.23	0.69	1.28	1.11	0.81	0.87	0.26	0.05	0.04	5.7	6.9	82%

Canary rockfish set at a 1-fish sub-bag for both longleader and traditional bottomfish

CANARY RF (S Cap)	0.32	0.59	1.51	1.80	3.96	5.55	8.62	5.24	5.22	1.36	0.38	0.28	34.8	26.0	134%
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2025 Black Rockfish Bag Limit

- General marine bag limit of 5-fish
 - Only an option with a shortened fishing season
- General marine bag limit of 5-fish with a 3-fish sub-bag limit for black rockfish
 - Increased risk of exceeding other quota managed species
 - Increased discard waste
- General marine bag limit of 4-fish
 - Reduced risk of any inseason changes
 - Reduced complexity



2025 Season Structure Options

- Time/Area Closures for Bottomfish Only
 - Bringing this up again, as it remains an option
 - Longleader fishing could still be allowed
 - Fishing from shore could still be allowed (equity reasons)
 - Closing winter months provides little relief (no benefit)
 - Closing a four-week window during the summer months

2025 GROUND FISH MORTALITY

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	OCEAN BOAT		
COMPLETED?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			
ACTUAL OR PROJECTED?	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	TOTAL	LIMIT	±
BLACK RF	4.30	7.98	20.26	20.78	32.01	42.37	72.15	45.64	32.88	14.23	4.75	3.54	300.9	247.8	121%



2025 Canary Rockfish Bag Limit

- Really only two options to consider for canary rockfish:
 - Option 1 - Sub-bag in the longleader set to the same limit as the general marine species bag limit (5-fish per angler in 2024)
 - Option 2 - Sub-bag of 1 canary rockfish in both the longleader fishery and in the traditional bottomfish fishery
- Either outcome may result in an inseason change that prohibits canary rockfish
 - The key difference between canary rockfish and black rockfish is that canary rockfish are not the primarily caught species in either the longleader fishery or traditional bottomfish fishery



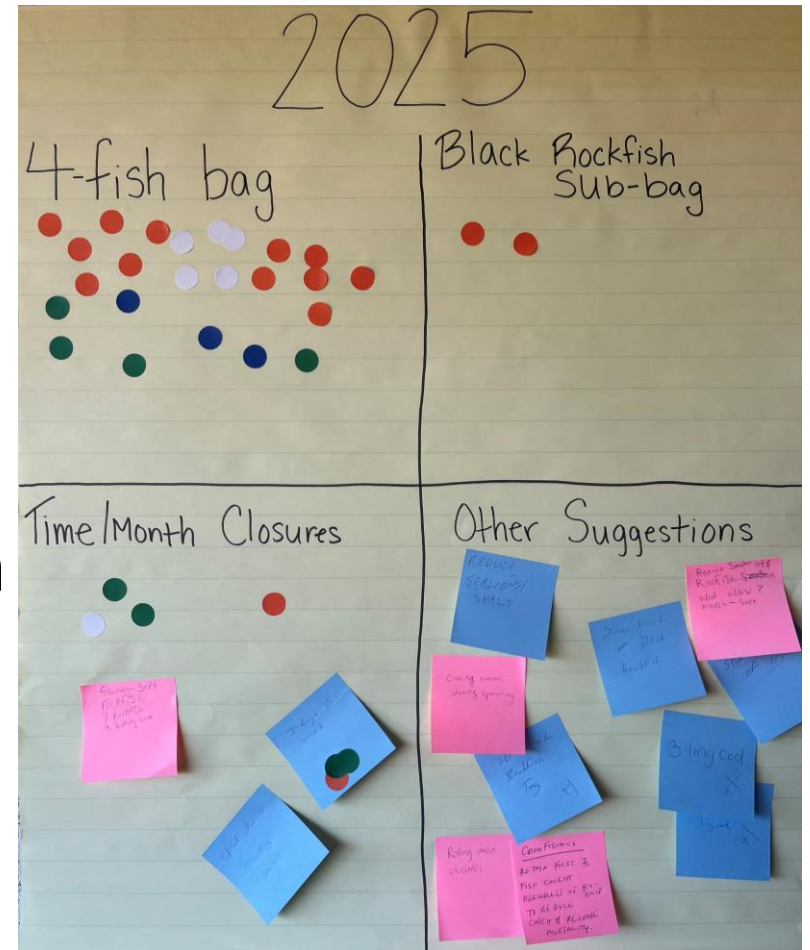
Other 2025 Bag Limits

- Longleader Gear Fishery bag limit: 12-fish per angler
 - Alternative option is 10-fish per angler
 - Specific to 10 species of rockfish
 - Allowed in combination with other non-bottomfish fisheries
- Lingcod bag limit: 2-fish per angler
 - Alternative option is 3-fish per angler
- **Sablefish bag limit: 10-fish per angler**
 - **New in 2025**
 - **Not part of the General Marine Bag limit**
- Flatfish bag limit: 25-fish per angler



Saltwater Sportsmen's Show Response

- Majority in favor of the simpler regulations preferring a 4-fish bag limit
- Others preferred keeping the 5-fish bag and implement time/area closures
 - 3-days per week fishing
 - Fishing season open Feb-Sep
- Two votes for a sub-bag limit on black rockfish
- Other suggestions include:
 - Black rockfish size limits
 - 30-fish rockfish tag
 - Increase lingcod from 2 to 3 fish per angler





Thank you!

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