

Offshore Long-leader Fishery

The **Offshore Long-leader Fishery** is a fishing opportunity to target midwater rockfish species (while avoiding benthic species such as yelloweye rockfish), outside (seaward) of the [40-fathom regulatory line](#), using long-leader gear only.

The gear required consists of one fishing line and tackle configuration of no more than three hooks with a minimum of 30 feet of line between the terminal weight (sinker) and the lowest hook, and a non-compressible float affixed above the top hook. The hooks can only be equipped with artificial lures or molded soft plastic or rubber imitations of worms, eggs, insects, bait fish, crayfish, etc. that are 5 inches or less in length and/or artificial flies. Natural bait may not be used.

Supplies to make a long-leader gear rig:

- Two swivels (one above the float and one below the bottom hook)
- One non-compressible float (example: rigid plastic or cork; not Styrofoam) above the top hook that has sufficient buoyancy to support all of the hanging gear and line above the leader
- Up to three shrimp flies or artificial worms (below the non-compressible float and above the lower swivel)
- Natural bait is not allowed
- A weight (sinker), size dependent on the drift, current, and ocean conditions
- A minimum of 30 feet of line between the lower swivel and weight

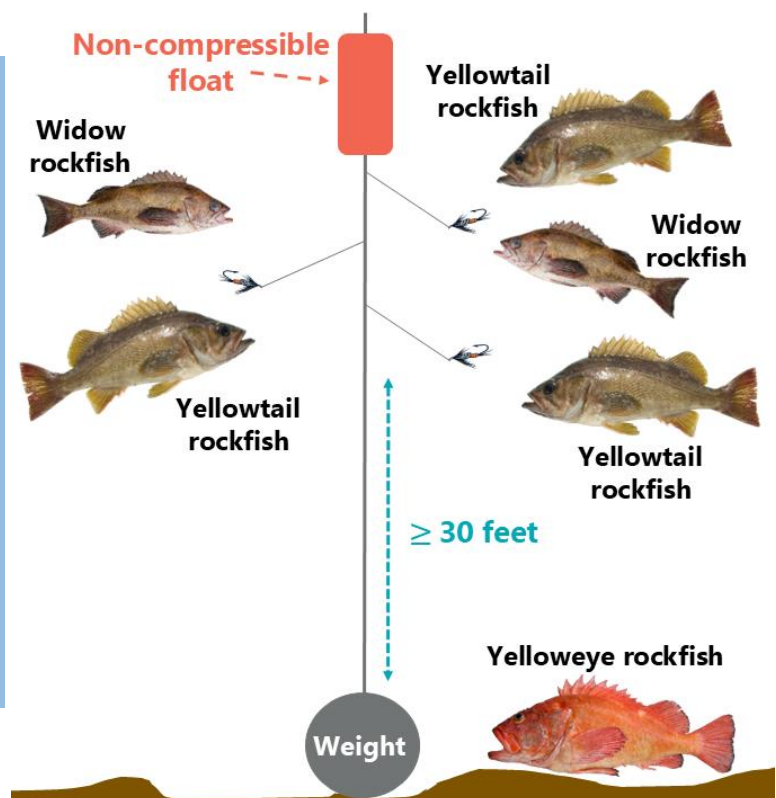


Photo of long-leader gear

- Yellow circle shows the non-compressible float above the lures
- Red circles show the three shrimp flies
- The white bucket in this photo was used to contain the weight and 30 feet of leader below the lures; this is not required. Anglers may use different methods for containing the gear



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Frequently Asked Questions

When and where is the Offshore Long-leader Fishery allowed?

- This gear type is allowed at any depth year-round, but for the **10-fish bag limit** to apply, anglers must remain fishing outside (seaward) of the [40-fathom regulatory line](#), and all anglers on the vessel must be using long-leader gear.

What is the bag limit when participating in the Offshore Long-leader Fishery?

- The 2026 bag limit when participating in the Offshore Long-leader Fishery is **10 fish in total per angler with a sub-bag limit of two canary rockfish per angler**.
- The only species allowed include the following rockfish: [yellowtail](#), [widow](#), [canary](#), [greenstriped](#), [redstripe](#), [bocaccio](#), [chilipepper](#), [blue](#), [deacon](#), and [silvergray](#) rockfishes.
- For more Long-leader fish ID: [Offshore Long-leader Fish](#).

Can I fish for lingcod or other rockfish on the same trip as Offshore Long-leader rockfish?

- **No.** Lingcod, cabezon, kelp greenling, and other rockfish species (not listed above) are not allowed on the same trip.
- Bottomfish listed under the general marine species daily bag limit (black rockfish, nearshore rockfish, cabezon, kelp greenling, etc.) may be kept on a separate trip on the same day only if fewer than 10 fish were kept on the offshore long-leader trip. In that case, anglers may keep up to the general marine bag limit (or subbag limit) on a separate trip but may total no more than 10 general marine species per day, of which no more than two may be canary rockfish.
- A separate trip is when an angler returns to shore and offloads all fish prior to another trip.
- Anglers may also return to shore, offload all long-leader rockfish, and fish for lingcod on a separate trip.

What about Pacific halibut, other flatfish, sablefish and Pacific cod on the same trip?

- **Yes.** Offshore long-leader gear fishing may be combined with an all-depth Pacific halibut trip.
- Once the general marine species bag limit is exceeded with only long-leader rockfish (the rockfish species listed above), all anglers on the vessel must stop fishing for halibut and switch all halibut fishing gear to long-leader gear.
- Anglers may have onboard other flatfish, sablefish, and Pacific cod prior to switching gear to target long-leader rockfish.
- When the regular bottomfish fishery is open at all depths, anglers will have the option to combine all-depth halibut with regular bottomfish or all-depth halibut with long-leader fishing. Not both.
 - *Long-leader fishing and regular bottomfish fishing cannot be combined on the same trip.*

Can I combine any other non-bottomfish fishing with Offshore Long-leader Fishing on the same trip?

Yes. Tuna, crab, & salmon may be combined with offshore long-leader trips. Anglers are reminded that once salmon are onboard, anglers are restricted to no more than 2 single point barbless hooks at all times when angling for salmon in the ocean or when angling for other species if a salmon has already been retained. And you may not fish in an area closed for any species you have onboard.

Regulations can change, check: <https://myodfw.com/sport-bottomfish-seasons> **before fishing**