



Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations for 2021

SAN FRANCISCO Management Area



Ocean waters between 38°57.5' N. latitude (Point Arena) and 37°11' N. latitude (Pigeon Point)
Includes a portion of Mendocino County, all of Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, Alameda, and Contra
Costa Counties, and most of San Mateo County

Note: Shaded text denotes regulations that have changed for 2021. Before engaging in ocean sportfishing for groundfish and associated species, please review one of the resources listed in Footnote 1 to receive the most up-to-date regulations.

Species ¹	Time Period ^{1, 2, 3, 4}	Depth Limit ^{1, 2, 3, 4}	Daily Bag Limit ¹	Min. Size Limit ^{1, 5, 6}
RCG Complex (includes all species of Rockfishes, Cabezon and Greenlings , Sections 1.91 and 28.55, 28.28, and 28.29)	Boat-based Anglers²: Open: Apr 1–Dec 31 Closed: Jan 1- Mar 31 Divers, Shore-based Anglers^{2,4}: Open year-round	Take is prohibited seaward of the 50 fathom (300 feet) Rockfish Conservation Area boundary line, which is a series of connected waypoints defined in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart C) SEE EXCEPTION AT END OF TABLE	10 fish in combination per person EXCEPT: Vermilion rockfish: 5 fish per person	See individual species and groups below Cabezon: 15" total length Kelp and/or rock greenlings: 12" total length
THESE ROCKFISHES MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED IN CALIFORNIA: Bronzespotted Rockfish, Cowcod and Yelloweye Rockfish (Section 28.55) FISHING IS CLOSED year-round, at all depths NO RETENTION at any time (zero fish per person)				
Lingcod (Section 28.27)	Same as RCG Complex, above		2 fish per person	22" total length
California Scorpionfish (Section 28.54)	Same as RCG Complex, above		5 fish per person	10" total length
Leopard Shark⁷ (Section 28.56)	All Anglers within San Francisco Bay, Bodega Harbor, Tomales Bay, Bolinas Bay, and Drakes Bay¹: Open year-round All Anglers outside of the above-mentioned bays: Same as RCG Complex, above Divers, Shore-based Anglers²: Open year-round	All Anglers within San Francisco Bay, Bodega Harbor, Tomales Bay, Bolinas Bay, and Drakes Bay¹: No depth limit All Anglers outside of the above-mentioned bays: Same as RCG Complex, above Divers, Shore-based Anglers²: Same as RCG Complex, above	3 fish per person	36" total length
Pacific Sanddabs and "Other Flatfish"³ (Section 28.48)	Open year-round	No depth limit ⁴	Pacific sanddab: No limit All "Other Flatfish" ³ : 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish total in combination, per Section 27.60(a)	No size limit

Species ¹	Time Period ^{1, 2, 3, 4}	Depth Limit ^{1, 2, 3, 4}	Daily Bag Limit ¹	Min. Size Limit ^{1, 5, 6}
Petrale Sole and Starry Flounder (Section 28.47)	Open year-round	No depth limit ⁴	No limit	No size limit
Other Federal Groundfish (Section 28.49)	Same as RCG Complex, above		Soupin shark: 1 fish per person All Other Federal Groundfish: 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish total in combination, per Section 27.60(a)	No size limit

1. Subject to in-season change. Call the Recreational Groundfish Fishing Hotline at **(831) 649-2801**, visit the Marine Region Web site at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/Marine, send an e-mail to AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov, or call your nearest CDFW office for the latest information.

Some marine protected areas (MPAs) restrict or prohibit sport fishing within MPAs. Check the current ocean sport fishing regulations booklet or the CDFW website at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network/North-Central-California for the open ocean coast, or www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network/San-Francisco-Bay for San Francisco Bay. You may also send an e-mail to AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov, or call your nearest CDFW office.

2. Divers and shore-based anglers are exempt from season restrictions affecting the RCG complex and other federally managed groundfish. However, when spear fishing during a boat-based closure, only spear fishing gear is allowed aboard any vessel or watercraft. Also, when angling from shore during a boat-based closure, no vessel or watercraft may be used to assist in taking or possessing species included in this table. The following definitions describe boat-based and shore-based anglers, and divers:

- Boat-based anglers are fishermen that fish from boats or vessels of any size or any other type of floating object, including kayaks and float tubes.
- Shore-based anglers are fishermen that fish from beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks and other manmade structures connected to the shore.
- Divers are spear fishermen entering the water either from the shore or from a boat or other floating object.

3. "Other Flatfish" are described in Section 1.91(a)(10) including only butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4. Per federal regulations, the waters of Cordell Bank less than 100 fathoms (600 ft.) in depth are closed at all times for all groundfish species except Pacific sanddab and "Other Flatfish". Divers and shore-based anglers are **not** exempt from these area closures. See 50 CFR Part 660 Subpart G in federal regulations for more information.

5. See regulations for information on gear restrictions (Sections 28.65, 28.70, 28.75, 28.90, 28.91, and 28.95) and fillet lengths (Section 27.65).

6. Total length is the longest straight-line measurement from the tip of the head with the mouth closed to the end of the longest lobe of the tail (Section 1.62). A measurement method illustration is available in the current Ocean Sport Fishing Regulations booklet.

7. The sport fishery for leopard shark inside San Francisco Bay, Bodega Harbor, Tomales Bay, Bolinas Bay, and Drake's Bay is exempt from season restrictions that affect other federally managed groundfish (Section 28.56(a)(3)).

EXCEPTION: During the open season, groundfish may be possessed in closed areas and in water depths closed to fishing only aboard vessels in transit with no fishing gear in the water (Section 27.20(b)).