

Fishery Conservation and Management

§ 660.382

[Note: California state regulations also prohibit fishing for all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*, California sheephead and ocean whitefish in this area.]

(4) *Trawl rockfish conservation areas.* The trawl RCAs are closed areas, defined by specific latitude and longitude coordinates designed to approximate specific depth contours, where fishing with limited entry trawl gear is prohibited.

(i) Coastwide, it is unlawful to take and retain, possess, or land any species of fish taken with trawl gear within the trawl RCA, except as permitted for vessels participating in the primary whiting season. Throughout the year, boundaries for the trawl RCA are provided in Table 3 (North) and Table 3 (South) of this subpart, and may be modified by NMFS inseason pursuant to §660.370(c). Trawl RCA boundaries are defined by specific latitude and longitude coordinates which are provided at §§660.390 through 660.394.

(ii) Trawl vessels may transit through the trawl RCA, with or without groundfish on board, provided all groundfish trawl gear is stowed either: below deck; or if the gear cannot readily be moved, in a secured and covered manner, detached from all towing lines, so that it is rendered unusable for fishing; or remaining on deck uncovered if the trawl doors are hung from their stanchions and the net is disconnected from the doors. These restrictions do not apply to vessels fishing with mid-water trawl gear for Pacific whiting or taking and retaining yellowtail rockfish or widow rockfish in association with Pacific whiting caught with mid-water trawl gear or to taking and retaining yellowtail or widow rockfish with mid-water trawl gear when trip limits are authorized for those species.

(iii) If a vessel fishes in the trawl RCA, it may not participate in any fishing on that trip that is prohibited by the restrictions that apply within the trawl RCA. [For example, if a vessel participates in the pink shrimp fishery within the RCA, the vessel cannot on the same trip participate in the DTS fishery seaward of the RCA.] Nothing in these Federal regulations supercede any state regulations that

may prohibit trawling shoreward of the 3-nm state waters boundary line.

[69 FR 77033, Dec. 23, 2004, as amended at 70 FR 16149, Mar. 30, 2005; 70 FR 23045, May 4, 2005]

§ 660.382 Limited entry fixed gear fishery management measures.

(a) *General.* Most species taken in limited entry fixed gear (longline and pot/trap) fisheries will be managed with cumulative trip limits (see trip limits in Tables 4 (North) and 4 (South) of this subpart), size limits (see §660.370(h)(5)), seasons (see trip limits in Tables 4 (North) and 4 (South) of this subpart and primary sablefish season details in §660.372(b)), gear restrictions (see paragraph (b) of this section), and closed areas (see paragraph (c) of this section and §§660.390 through 660.394). Cowcod retention is prohibited in all fisheries and groundfish vessels operating south of Point Conception must adhere to CCA restrictions (see paragraph (c)(2) of this section and §660.390). Yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish retention is prohibited in the limited entry fixed gear fisheries. Regulations governing and tier limits for the limited entry, fixed gear primary sablefish season north of 36° N. lat. are found in §660.372. Vessels not participating in the primary sablefish season are subject to daily or weekly sablefish limits in addition to cumulative limits for each cumulative limit period. Only one sablefish landing per week may be made in excess of the daily trip limit and, if the vessel chooses to make a landing in excess of that daily trip limit, then that is the only sablefish landing permitted for that week. The trip limit for black rockfish caught with hook-and-line gear also applies, see §660.371. The trip limits in Table 4 (North) and Table 4 (South) of this subpart apply to vessels participating in the limited entry groundfish fixed gear fishery and may not be exceeded. Federal commercial groundfish regulations are not intended to supersede any more restrictive state commercial groundfish regulations relating to federally-managed groundfish.

(b) *Gear Restrictions—(1) General.* The following types of fishing gear are authorized in the limited entry fixed gear fishery, with the restrictions set forth

in this section: longline and pot or trap. Vessels participating in the limited entry fixed gear fishery may also fish with open access gear subject to the gear restrictions at § 660.383(b), but will be subject to the most restrictive trip limits for the gear used as specified at § 660.370(h)(7).

(2) *Limited entry fixed gear.* (i) Fixed gear (longline, trap or pot) must be:

(A) Marked at the surface, at each terminal end, with a pole, flag, light, radar reflector, and a buoy.

(B) Attended at least once every 7 days.

(ii) A buoy used to mark fixed gear under paragraph (b)(2)(i)(A) of this section must be marked with a number clearly identifying the owner or operator of the vessel. The number may be either:

(A) If required by applicable state law, the vessel's number, the commercial fishing license number, or buoy brand number; or

(B) The vessel documentation number issued by the USCG, or, for an undocumented vessel, the vessel registration number issued by the state.

(3) *Traps or pots.* Traps must have biodegradable escape panels constructed with 21 or smaller untreated cotton twine in such a manner that an opening at least 8 inches (20.3 cm) in diameter results when the twine deteriorates.

(c) *Groundfish Conservation Areas.* A Groundfish Conservation Area (GCA), a type of closed area, is a geographic area defined by coordinates expressed in degrees latitude and longitude. The following GCAs apply to vessels participating in the limited entry fixed gear fishery.

(1) *Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area.* The latitude and longitude coordinates of the Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA) boundaries are specified at § 660.390. The YRCA is designated as an area to be avoided (a voluntary closure) by commercial fixed gear fishermen.

(2) *Cowcod Conservation Areas.* The latitude and longitude coordinates of the Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCAs) boundaries are specified at § 660.390. Fishing with limited entry fixed gear is prohibited within the CCAs, except that fishing for "other flatfish" is per-

mitted within the CCAs using no more than 12 hooks, "Number 2" or smaller, which measure no more than 11 mm (0.44 inches) point to shank, and up to two one lb (0.45 kg) weights per line. Fishing with limited entry fixed gear for rockfish and lingcod is permitted shoreward of the 20-fm (37-m) depth contour. It is unlawful to take and retain, possess, or land groundfish within the CCAs, except for species authorized in this paragraph caught according to gear requirements in this paragraph, when those waters are open to fishing. Commercial fishing vessels may transit through the Western CCA with their gear stowed and groundfish on board only in a corridor through the Western CCA bounded on the north by the latitude line at 33°00.50' N. lat., and bounded on the south by the latitude line at 32°59.50' N. lat.

(3) *Non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas.* Fishing for groundfish with non-trawl gear (limited entry or open access longline and pot or trap, open access hook-and-line, gillnet, set net, trammel net and spear) is prohibited within the non-trawl rockfish conservation area (RCA), except that commercial fishing for "other flatfish" is permitted within the non-trawl RCA off California (between 42° N. lat. south to the U.S./Mexico border) using no more than 12 hooks, "Number 2" or smaller, which measure no more than 11 mm (0.44 inches) point to shank, and up to two one lb (0.45 kg) weights per line. It is unlawful to take and retain, possess, or land groundfish taken with non-trawl gear within the non-trawl RCA, unless otherwise authorized in this section. Limited entry fixed gear vessels may transit through the non-trawl RCA, with or without groundfish on board. These restrictions do not apply to vessels fishing for species other than groundfish with non-trawl gear, although non-trawl vessels on a fishing trip for species other than groundfish that occurs within the non-trawl RCA may not retain any groundfish taken on that trip. If a vessel fishes in the non-trawl RCA, it may not participate in any fishing on that trip that is prohibited by the restrictions that apply within the non-trawl RCA. [For example, if a vessel participates in the salmon troll fishery within the

RCA, the vessel cannot on the same trip participate in the sablefish fishery outside of the RCA.] Boundaries for the non-trawl RCA throughout the year are provided in the header to Table 4 (North) and Table 4 (South) of this subpart and may be modified by NMFS inseason pursuant to §660.370(c). Non-trawl RCA boundaries are defined by specific latitude and longitude coordinates and are provided at §§660.390 through 660.394.

(4) *Farallon Islands*. Under California law, commercial fishing for all groundfish is prohibited between the shoreline and the 10-fm (18-m) depth contour around the Farallon Islands, except that commercial fishing for “other flatfish” is permitted around the Farallon Islands using no more than 12 hooks, “Number 2” or smaller, which measure no more than 11 mm (0.44 inches) point to shank, and up to two one lb (0.45 kg) weights per line. (See Table 4 (South) of this subpart.) For a definition of the Farallon Islands, see §660.390.

(5) *Cordell Banks*. Commercial fishing for groundfish is prohibited in waters less than 100 fm (183 m) around Cordell Banks as defined by specific latitude and longitude coordinates at §660.390, except that commercial fishing for “other flatfish” is permitted around Cordell Banks using no more than 12 hooks, “Number 2” or smaller, which measure no more than 11 mm (0.44 inches) point to shank, and up to two one lb (0.45 kg) weights per line. [Note: California state regulations also prohibit fishing for all greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*, California sheephead and ocean whitefish in this area.]

[69 FR 77035, Dec. 23, 2004, as amended at 71 FR 24604, Apr. 26, 2006]

§ 660.383 Open access fishery management measures.

(a) *General*. Groundfish species taken in open access fisheries will be managed with cumulative trip limits (see trip limits in Tables 5 (North) and 5 (South) of this subpart), size limits (see §660.370(h)(5)), seasons, gear restrictions (see paragraph (b) of this section), and closed areas (see paragraph (c) of this section and §§660.390 through 660.394). Unless otherwise specified, a

vessel operating in the open access fishery is subject to, and must not exceed any trip limit, frequency limit, and/or size limit for the open access fishery. Cowcod retention is prohibited in all fisheries and groundfish vessels operating south of Point Conception must adhere to CCA restrictions (see paragraph (c)(2) of this section and §660.390). Retention of yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish is prohibited in all open access fisheries. For information on the open access daily/weekly trip limit fishery for sablefish, see §660.372(c) and the trip limits in Tables 5 (North) and 5 (South) of this subpart. Open access vessels are subject to daily or weekly sablefish limits in addition to cumulative limits for each cumulative limit period. Only one sablefish landing per week may be made in excess of the daily trip limit and, if the vessel chooses to make a landing in excess of that daily trip limit, then that is the only sablefish landing permitted for that week. The trip limit for black rockfish caught with hook-and-line gear also applies, see §660.371. The trip limits in Table 5 (North) and Table 5 (South) of this subpart apply to vessels participating in the open access fisheries and may not be exceeded. Federal commercial groundfish regulations are not intended to supersede any more restrictive state commercial groundfish regulations relating to federally managed groundfish.

(b) *Gear restrictions*. Open access gear is gear used to take and retain groundfish from a vessel that does not have a valid permit for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery with an endorsement for the gear used to harvest the groundfish. This includes longline, trap, pot, hook-and-line (fixed or mobile), setnet (anchored gillnet or trammel net, which are permissible south of 38° N. lat. only), spear and non-groundfish trawl gear (trawls used to target non-groundfish species: pink shrimp or ridgeback prawns, and, south of Pt. Arena, CA (38°57.50' N. lat.), California halibut or sea cucumbers). Restrictions for gears used in the open access fisheries are as follows:

(1) *Non-groundfish trawl gear*. Non-groundfish trawl gear is any trawl gear other than limited entry groundfish trawl gear as described at §660.381(b)