California Saltwater Sport Fishing Survey

[Insert photo]

We want to learn about your saltwater fishing experience in California waters!

California waters includes all waters off of California's coast (state and federal waters), excluding Mexican waters.

For questions or comments about this survey, please contact:

Rosemary Kosaka 831-420-3988 Rosemary.Kosaka@noaa.gov Cindy Thomson 831-420-3911 Cindy.Thomson@noaa.gov



OMB Control Number: 0648-XXXX
Expiration date: xx/xx/xx

SECTION A

Your Saltwater Sport Fishing Experiences in or from California Waters

A1	By saltwater sport fishing, we mean fish	About how many years of saltwater sport fishing experience do you have in California waters ? By saltwater sport fishing, we mean fishing with a rod and reel, spear, or other gear from peaches, manmade structures, boats or other watercraft to catch saltwater fish or shellfish.						
	Number of years of experience							
A2	In the last 12 months, did you own a bo w watercraft) that you used for saltwater :	at (motorized boat, kayak, surfboard, or other pers sport fishing in or from California?	onal					
	☐ Yes, motorized boat ☐ Yes, k	ayak or other non-motorized boat No						
А3	Approximately how many days in the last 12 months did you spend saltwater sport fishing in California waters in each of the following modes? Count partial days as full days. If you fished more than one mode in a day, please indicate the mode in which you did most of your fishing o that day.							
	Fishing mode	Approximate number of days of saltwater fishing in California in the past 12 months Fill in the blanks.						
	Beach, bank or rocky shoreline							
	Pier, jetty or other manmade structure							
	Party or charter boat							
	Party or charter boat Private or rental boat (motorized boat, kayak, surfboard, or other personal watercraft)							

A4 Thinking of all your **saltwater** sport fishing trips in **California waters** in the last 12 months, how often did you **target** each of the following species? *Please consider all species that you targeted, regardless of whether or not you caught them. "No particular species" pertains to trips where you did not target any particular species.*

Towart energies	How often you targeted each species in California in the past 12 months Check one box in each row.				
Target species	Always or often	Sometimes	Rarely or never	Don't know	
No particular species					
Salmon					
Striped bass					
Sturgeon					
Groundfishes (except flatfishes):					

rockfishes (rockcod), greenlings, lingcod, cabezon, scorpionfish (sculpin), etc.		
California halibut		
Pacific halibut		
Other flatfishes: sanddabs, etc.		
Albacore, other tunas		
Sharks, skates, rays		
Bonito, barracuda, kelp/sand bass		
White seabass		
Surf and shoreline perches: barred, calico, redtail, etc.		
Croaker, corbina, queenfish, corvina		
Offshore perches: blacksmith, halfmoon (blue perch), opaleye, etc		
Mackerels, sardines, anchovies		
Crab		
Lobster		
Abalone		
Squid, including Humboldt squid		
Other fish or shellfish (please specify)		

SECTION B Your Groundfish Fishing Experiences in California

In this section, we are interested in learning about your California **groundfish** sport fishing experiences. <u>For purposes of this survey</u>, groundfish includes all species of **rockfish (rockcod)**, **greenlings, California scorpionfish (sculpin)**, **lingcod**, **and cabezon**. It <u>does not</u> include flatfishes, sharks, etc.

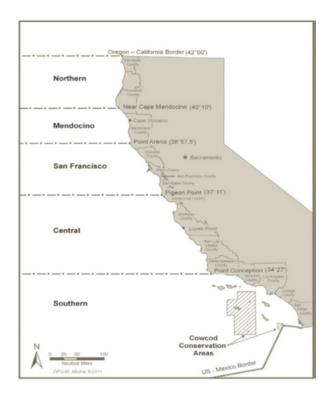
Approximately how many days in the last 12 months did you spend **groundfish** fishing in **California waters** in each of the following modes? Please include days where you targeted groundfish at some point on the trip, even if groundfish was not your primary or initial target. Count partial days as full days. If you fish more than one mode in a day, indicate the mode in which you did most of your fishing on that day.

Fishing mode	Approximate number of days targeting groundfish in California in the past 12 months Fill in the blanks.
Beach, bank or rocky shoreline	
Pier, jetty or other manmade structure	
Party or charter boat	
Private or rental boat (motorized boat, kayak, surfboard, or other personal watercraft)	
TOTAL	

B2 Considering the map to the right, how often did you go groundfish fishing in each area in the last 12 months?

Area	Frequency of groundfish fishing in each area in past 12 months Check one box in each row.				
	Always or often	Sometimes	Rarely or never	Don't know	
Northern					
Mendocino					
S.F.					

Map: California Department of Fish and Wildlife



SECTION C

How California Groundfish Regulations Affect You

BAG AND SIZE LIMITS

California groundfish regulations include bag limits, sublimits, size limits, and bans on keeping prohibited species. **Considering each of these regulations separately**, how often do you reach each of the following bag limits, sublimits, or size limits, or accidentally catch a prohibited species?

	С	heck one box i	n each row.	
How often do you:	Always or often	Sometimes	Rarely or never	Don't know
Reach the 10-fish bag limit for rockfish (rockcod), cabezon and greenlings				
Reach 3-fish sublimit for bocaccio				
Reach 3-fish sublimit for cabezon				
Reach 2-fish limit for lingcod				
Reach 5-fish limit for CA scorpionfish (sculpin)				
Catch CA scorpionfish (sculpin) smaller than 10-inch size limit				
Catch kelp or rock greenlings smaller than 12-inch size limit				
Catch cabezon smaller than 15-inch size limit				
Catch lingcod smaller than 22-inch size limit				
Catch a cowcod (prohibited species)				
Catch a bronzespotted rockfish (prohibited species)	۵			
Catch a canary rockfish (prohibited species)				
Catch a yelloweye rockfish (prohibited species)				

C2	Sometimes anglers do not keep all the groundfish that they are legally allowed to keep. How often do you keep all the groundfish you are legally allowed to keep in California? By groundfish, we mean all species of rockfish (rockcod), greenlings, CA scorpionfish (sculpin), lingcod, and cabezon. <i>Check one box</i> .								
	 □ Always or often □ Sometimes □ Rarely or never □ Don't know or don't remember 								
C3	Anglers respond to groundfish regulations in different ways. How do groundfish regulations affect <i>your</i> enjoyment of the fishing experience? For purposes of this question, prohibited groundfish are those that exceed bag limits or sublimits, are undersized, or cannot be kept.								
	Possible ways that groundfish regulations	Your o	pinion - ched	ck one box in each	row.				
	affect enjoyment of the fishing experience	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Doesn't matter or not relevant to me	Don't know				
	It reduces my enjoyment to move to another location or stop fishing when I encounter a lot of prohibited groundfish.								
	It reduces my enjoyment when I release a groundfish because I'm not sure it's a prohibited species.								
	It reduces my enjoyment to throw back prohibited groundfish that I think are already dead or unlikely to survive.								
	It reduces my enjoyment to release large numbers of prohibited groundfish.								
	It reduces my enjoyment to release even small numbers of prohibited groundfish.								
	I feel a sense of accomplishment when I reach the 10- fish groundfish bag limit for rockfish, cabezon and greenlings.								
	The 10-fish groundfish bag limit is too low.								
	The 10-fish groundfish bag limit is too high.								
	I feel a sense of accomplishment when I reach the bocaccio sublimit.								
	I feel a sense of accomplishment when I reach the cabezon sublimit.	٥							
	I feel a sense of accomplishment when I reach the 2-fish lingcod bag limit.								
	The 2-fish lingcod bag limit is too low.								
	The 2-fish lingcod bag limit is too high.								
	I know how to use a descending device and it increases my enjoyment to return groundfish safely to depth with the device.								
	I don't know how to use a descending device but it								

would increase my enjoyment to learn how.

Rockfish are a large portion of the groundfish catch. When fishing for groundfish, what appeals to you about the **rockfish** portion of your catch?

	Your c	pinion - che	eck one box in each	row.
Possible rockfish preferences	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Doesn't matter or not relevant to me	Don't know
I like catching and keeping lots of rockfish.				
I like catching lots of rockfish, even if I can't				
keep them all.				
I like catching only certain species of rockfish.				
I like catching big rockfish.				
I like catching rockfish that are easy to catch.				
I like catching rockfish that are a challenge to				
catch.				
I like catching rockfish that are easy to clean.				
I like catching rockfish that taste good.				
I like catching rockfish that aren't wormy.				
Rockfish are all the same to me.				
I'm not very interested in catching rockfish.				
I'm not very interested in fishing in general.				

GROUNDFISH DEPTH RESTRICTIONS AND SEASON LENGTH

Questions C5a-C5e and C6 are only for anglers who fish for groundfish from a boat. If you do not fish for groundfish from a boat, please skip to Section D.

Please answer <u>only one</u> of the following five questions (C5a-C5e), depending on where you do <u>most</u> of your groundfish fishing.

C5a Northern California: Answer this question only if you do most of your groundfish fishing in Northern California (Del Norte and Humboldt Counties).

Currently in Northern California, groundfish fishing from boats is allowed for 5½ months (May 15 – October 31) and restricted to depths of 120 feet (20 fathoms) or less.

Suppose that you could fish for groundfish as deep as <u>180 feet</u> (instead of the current 120 feet) but the <u>season was shortened by one month</u> at the same time. How satisfied would you be with this increase in depth if the season was shortened in <u>one</u> of the following ways?

Fish deeper (180 feet instead of 120 feet) but season shortened			u do most of y ifornia - check	~	_	
in <u>one</u> of the following ways:						Don't know
Season opened 1 month later (Jun 15 instead of May 15)						
Season closed 1 month earlier (Sep 30 instead of Oct 31)						

C5b <u>Mendocino Area</u>: Answer this question **only if** you do most of your groundfish fishing in the **Mendocino area** (Mendocino County).

Currently in the Mendocino Area, groundfish fishing from boats is allowed for <u>3½ months</u> (May 15 – September 2) and restricted to depths of <u>120 feet</u> (20 fathoms) or less.

Suppose that you could fish for groundfish as deep as <u>180 feet</u> (instead of the current 120 feet) but the <u>season was shortened by one month</u> at the same time. How satisfied would you be with this increase in depth if the season was shortened in <u>one</u> of the following ways?

Fish deeper (180 feet instead of 120 feet) but season shortened	In the Mendocino area - check one how in each row					
in <u>one</u> of the following ways:						
Season opened 1 month later (Jun 15 instead of May 15)						
Season closed 1 month earlier (Aug 2 instead of Sep 2)						

C5c	San Francisco Area: Answer this question only if you do most of your groundfish fishing in the
	San Francisco area (Sonoma to San Mateo Counties).

Currently in the San Francisco Area, groundfish fishing from boats is allowed for <u>7 months</u> (June 1 – December 31) and restricted to depths of <u>180 feet</u> (30 fathoms) or less.

Suppose that you could fish for groundfish as deep as <u>240 feet</u> (instead of the current 180 feet) but the <u>season was shortened by one month</u> at the same time. How satisfied would you be with this increase in depth if the season was shortened in <u>one</u> of the following ways?

Fish deeper (240 feet instead of 180 feet) but season shortened Answer only if you do most of your groundfish fishing In the San Francisco area - check one box in each row.						
in <u>one</u> of the following ways:	Very Somewhat Somewhat Very Don't Don't satisfied satisfied dissatisfied care know					
Season opened 1 month later (Jul 1 instead of Jun 1)						
Season closed 1 month earlier (Nov 30 instead of Dec 31)						

C5d	Central California: Answer this question only if you do most of your groundfish fishing in Central
	California (Santa Cruz to San Luis Obispo Counties).

Currently in Central California, groundfish fishing from boats is allowed for <u>8 months</u> (May 1 – December 31) and restricted to depths of <u>240 feet</u> (40 fathoms) or less.

Suppose that you could fish for groundfish as deep as <u>300 feet</u> (instead of the current 240 feet) but the <u>season was shortened by one month</u> at the same time. How satisfied would you be with this increase in depth if the season was shortened in <u>one</u> of the following ways?

Fish deeper (300 feet instead of 240 feet) but season shortened	Answer <u>only if</u> you do most of your groundfish fishing In <u>Central California</u> - check one box in each row.						
in <u>one</u> of the following ways:	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't care	Don't know	
Season opened 1 month later (Jun 1 instead of May 1)							
Season closed 1 month earlier (Nov 30 instead of Dec 31)							

C5e <u>Southern California</u>: Answer this question **only if** you do most of your groundfish fishing in **Southern California** (Santa Barbara to San Diego Counties).

Currently in Southern California, groundfish fishing from boats is allowed for <u>10 months</u> (March 1 – December 31) and restricted to depths of <u>300 feet</u> (50 fathoms) or less.

Suppose that you could fish for groundfish as deep as <u>360 feet</u> (instead of the current 300 feet) but the <u>season was shortened by one month</u> at the same time. How satisfied would you be with this increase in depth if the season was shortened in <u>one</u> of the following ways?

Fish deeper (360 feet instead of 300 feet) but season shortened	Answer <u>only if</u> you do most of your groundfish fishing in <u>Southern California</u> - check one box in each row.						
in <u>one</u> of the following ways:	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't care	Don't know	
Season opened 1 month later (Apr 1 instead of Mar 1)							
Season closed 1 month earlier (Nov 30 instead of Dec 31)							

C6	Which of the following factors, if any, affected your response in Question C5? Check all that apply.
	☐ I don't think that currently closed depths should be reopened.
	☐ I think there may be better groundfish fishing in depths that are currently closed.
	I don't know what the fishing is like in depths that are currently closed.
	lacktriangle I like fishing in shallower depths that are more accessible from a boat launch.
	☐ Someone else chooses the depth at which I fish for groundfish.
	I don't like to fish too deep because it's too much work to bring up the fish.
	\Box I don't like to fish in deeper depths because it takes more <u>time</u> to get there.
	\Box I don't like to fish in deeper depths because it <u>costs</u> more to get there.
	I don't like to fish in deeper depths because I get seasick.
	\square I don't like to fish in deeper depths when the weather's bad because it's less safe.
	☐ I might accept a shorter season but only if I could fish at deeper depths than the ones
	proposed in Question C5.
	lacktriangle A longer season is more important to me than reopening depths that are currently closed.
	lacktriangle If the season was shortened, I would probably take the same number of groundfish trips.
	☐ If the season was shortened, I would probably take fewer groundfish trips.
	lacksquare If the season was shortened, I would probably spend more time fishing for non-groundfish
	species.
	\square I don't care about depths or seasons, as I don't do much groundfish fishing anyway.
	Other (please specify)

SECTION D Your Most Recent Groundfish Trip

D1	Think about your most recent groundfish trip in California waters. In what mode did you primarily fish on that trip? <i>Check one box</i> .
	 Beach, bank or rocky shoreline Pier, jetty or other manmade structure Party or charter boat Private or rental boat (motorized boat, kayak, surfboard, and other personal watercraft)
D2	How long was that recent groundfish trip? If you fished from shore, include time spent fishing. If you fished from a boat, include all your time aboard the boat (not just fishing time).
	 □ Half day - 6 hours or less, whether fishing during the day or evening □ More than a half day but not overnight □ Overnight - one night □ Overnight - more than one night □ I don't know or I don't remember
D3	Where did you do most of your fishing on that recent groundfish trip? Name the California city or town where you fished from shore or launched a boat.
D4	Approximately how much money did you personally spend on yourself and others on the recent groundfish trip? Please include expenses related to this trip only .

	Fill in the blanks. Write "0" if a particular category does not pertain to you.			
Cost category	Your estimated expenditure (\$)	Number of people covered by this expense (including yourself)		
Travel cost: gasoline, bridge tolls, parking fees, etc.				
New tackle and gear, if purchased specifically for this trip				
Bait, ice				
New fishing license (e.g., one-day license), if purchased specifically for this trip				
Party/charter fees, gear rental, tips, galley fees, etc.				
Private boat fuel, launch fees, etc.				
Food and beverage from grocery stores				
Food and beverage from delis/restaurants				
Lodging				
Other (please specify)				
Total Estimated Trip Cost (sum of all costs)				

D5	•	ou identify the pandfish trip?	rticula	ar species that you targeted and/or caught on your most recent
		Yes		No \rightarrow Skip to Question D7.

D6 Sometimes anglers target and/or catch non-groundfish species together with groundfish. Which of the groundfish and non-groundfish species in the following table did you **target and/or catch** on your most recent groundfish trip?

Check the bo	x for each species t	hat you targeted ar	nd/or caught on y	our most recent g	roundfish trip.	
Groundfish species (pictures not drawn to scale)						
Black rockfish Targeted ☐ Caught ☐	black spots on dor mouth extends Black rounded an past eye	Gopher rockfish Targeted Caught	oinkish biotches Gopher rockfi	Treefish Targeted ☐ Caught ☐	Treefish	
Black-and- yellow rockfish Targeted ☐ Caught ☐	Black-and-yellow rockfish	Grass rockfish Targeted □ Caught □	shater gill rakers black or gray moliting Grass rockfish	Vermillion rockfish Targeted □ Caught □	rough chia when the ware to front to mask to front from orange to deep red	
Blue rockfish Targeted □ Caught □	mouth extends Blue straight-ed anal fin	Greenspotted rockfish Targeted ☐ Caught ☐	Greenspotted	Yellowtail rockfish Targeted □ Caught □	light brown to gray mottle on side	
Bocaccio (salmon grouper) Targeted ☐ Caught ☐	mouth extends to rear of eye Bocaccio also known as Salmon grouper	Kelp rockfish Targeted □ Caught □	longer greenish motting gerenish motting Kelp rockfish	Cabezon Targeted □ Caught □	does not possess scales Cabezon	
Brown rockfish (bolinas) Targeted □ Caught □	dark brown spot	Olive rockfish Targeted ☐ Caught ☐	whitish blitches on back	Kelp greenling Targeted □ Caught □	Kelp greenling also known as Sea trout male	
China rockfish Targeted □ Caught □	blush-white pright yellow stripe speckles China rockfish	Rosy rockfish Targeted ☐ Caught ☐	Rosy	Lingcod Targeted □ Caught □	Lingcod	
Copper rockfish (chucklehead) Targeted Caught	white baily Copper	Starry rockfish Targeted Caught	Starry	CA scorpionfish (sculpin) Targeted ☐ Caught ☐	California scorpionfish	
Non-groundfish species sometimes caught with groundfish (pictures not drawn to scale)						
Barred sandbass Targeted □ Caught □	Barred sand bass	Ocean whitefish Targeted Caught	Ocean whitefish	CA sheephead Targeted □ Caught □	Anua California sheephead	
Kelp bass Targeted □ Caught □	Kelp bass	Dungeness crab Targeted □ Caught □		Monkeyface eel Targeted □ Caught □	Monkeyface prickleback stoo fotoon as Monkeyface eei	
Photos courtesy of	California Departmer	nt of Fish and Wildlife				

D/	combined number of groundfish and non-groundfish species fish
D8	Considering the <u>total cost</u> of your most recent groundfish trip, the <u>number of fish</u> you caught, the <u>species</u> you may have targeted and/or caught, and your <u>overall trip experience</u> : was this trip worth it to you?
	□ Yes □ No
D9	Which of the following factors affected how positively or negatively you viewed this trip? Check all that apply.
	 □ The number of fish I caught □ The types of fish I caught □ Trip conditions other than the fish (weather, ocean, company, crowding, etc.) □ Nothing specific about the trip – just like fishing □ Nothing specific about the trip – just like getting away from it all □ Other, please specify
	SECTION E
	About You and Your Household
	ollowing questions will help us learn more about groundfish anglers. The information you provide emain strictly confidential and you will not be identified with your answers.
E1	What is your age?
	 Under 18 years 18 - 24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65 years and older
E2	You are:
E3	Are you Hispanic or Latino? Please check one.
	□ Yes □ No
E4	Which of the following best describes you? Check all that apply.
	American Indian or Alaska NativeAsian

	ш	Black or African American
		Caucasian or White
		Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
		Other (please specify)
E5	Wha	it is the highest level of education you have completed? Check one box only.
		Some high school
		High school graduate
		Technical or professional school
		Some college
		4-year college graduate
		Postgraduate degree
E6	<u>Inclu</u>	uding yourself, how many adults and children (under 18) live in your household?
		adults, including yourself children
E7		ch of the following categories best describes your <u>household's</u> total annual income before s in 2013?
		Less than \$25,000
		\$25,000 - \$34,999
		\$35,000 - \$49,999
		\$50,000 - \$74,999
		\$75,000 - \$99,999
		\$100,000 - \$149,999
		\$150,000 - \$199,999
		\$200,000 or more
		Thank you for participating in this survey!
		mank you for participating in this survey.
Your re	espon	ses will be combined with the responses of other anglers to help us better understand what
ground	lfish a	nglers are like, what is important to them, and how groundfish regulations affect their
enjoyn	nent.	
Please	feel f	ree to provide comments below regarding the survey, fishing regulations, or anything you
		s to know about your fishing experiences.