

OFFSHORE MIDWATER FISHERY

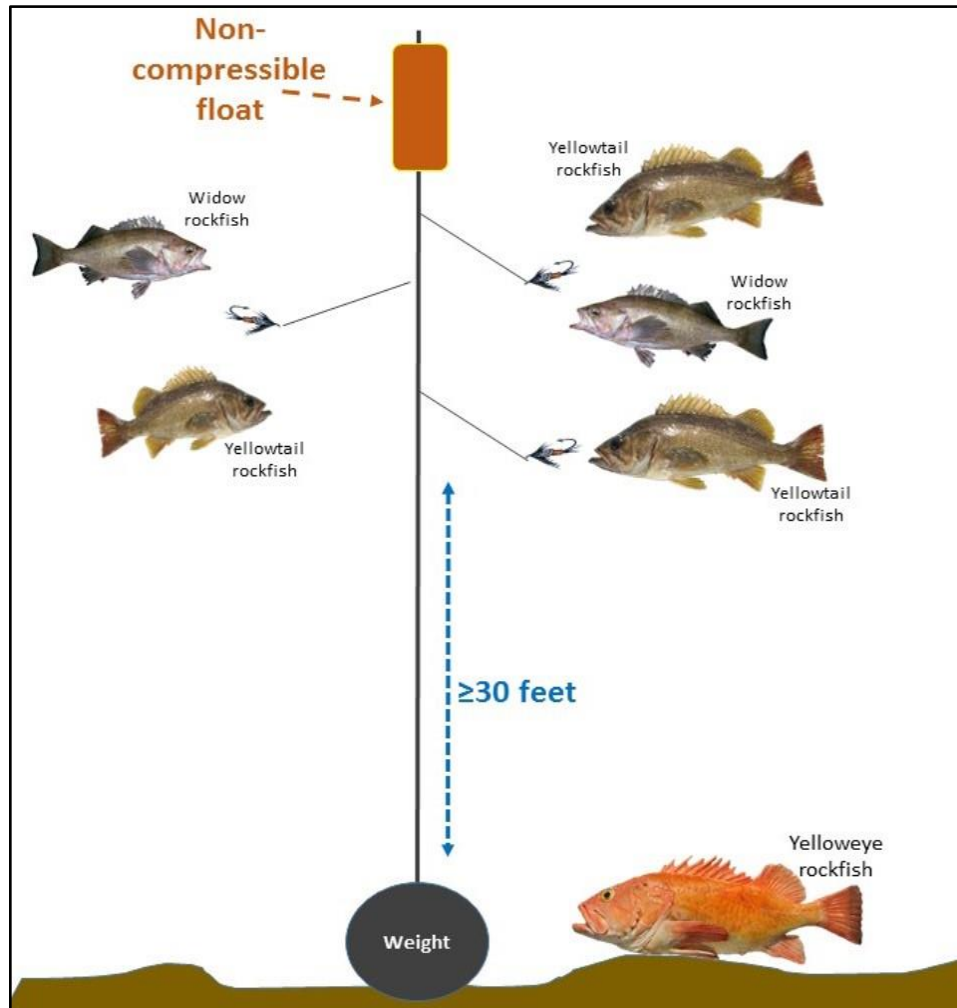
2018



The **Offshore Midwater Fishery** is a new fishing opportunity to target midwater rockfish, outside of the [40 fathom regulatory line](#) and with longleader gear only.

The gear required consists of a fishing line and tackle configuration 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. Lures must be less than 5" in length, and bait is prohibited.

Longleader gear schematic (not to scale)



Supplies to make a longleader gear rig:

- Two swivels (one above the float and one below the bottom hook)
- One non-compressible float (for example, rigid plastic or cork; not Styrofoam) above the top hook that has sufficient buoyancy to support all hooking gear and line above the leader
- Up to three shrimp flies or artificial worms (below the non-compressible float and above the lower swivel). 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

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Offshore Midwater Fishery?

- It is a new opportunity, using longleader gear (described on reverse) to target offshore midwater rockfish species while avoiding bottom-dwelling species such as yelloweye rockfish

When and where is the Offshore Midwater Fishery allowed?

- It is allowed outside the 40 fathom regulatory line only
- Currently open January-March and October-December
- May be allowed April-September, pending federal authorization in 2018 (information will be posted on the ODFW website (<https://myodfw.com/fishing/marine-zone>) when available.



Photo of longleader gear ready to be deployed

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

What is the bag limit when participating in the Offshore Midwater Fishery?

- The 2018 bag limit when participating in the Offshore Midwater Fishery (using longleader gear outside of 40 fathoms) is 10 fish in total per angler.
- The only species allowed are: [yellowtail](#), [widow](#), [canary](#), [greenstriped](#), [redstripe](#), [bocaccio](#), [chilipepper](#), and [silvergray](#) rockfishes. (For more fish ID, see <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/FishID/index.asp>)

Can I fish for lingcod/flatfish/other bottomfish on the same trip as offshore midwater rockfish?

- **No.** Lingcod, flatfish, or other bottomfish are not allowed onboard at the same time.
- Anglers may return to shore, offload all rockfish, and fish for lingcod or flatfish on a separate trip.
- Bottomfish listed under the general marine species daily bag limit (black rockfish, deacon rockfish, 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 midwater trip. In that case, anglers may keep up to the general marine fish bag limit of 5 on a separate bottomfish trip, but may have at the end of both trips no more than 10 fish in total per day.

Can I combine any other non-bottomfish fishing with offshore midwater fishing on one trip?

- **Yes.** Tuna, crab, and salmon may be combined with offshore midwater trips, as long as all gear/species/area rules are followed – for example, once salmon are onboard, barbless hooks must be used; and you may not fish in an area closed for any species you have onboard.

What about halibut on the same trip?

- **No.** An offshore midwater trip cannot be combined with halibut.
- Anglers may return to shore, offload all rockfish, and fish for Pacific halibut on a separate trip, in areas and times that halibut is open.

Regulations can change – check http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/finfish/groundfish_sport/index.asp before fishing.