



# 2026 Groundfish Regulations and Commercial Nearshore Update

## Exhibit B

December 12, 2025

Lynn Mattes

Marine Resources Program



Oregon Department  
of Fish and Wildlife



# Nearshore Fishery Report



Attachment 4 is the annual report to the Commission on the commercial nearshore fishery

Required by ORS 508.953



Informational

No Commission action

Staff available for questions





# 2026 Groundfish Regulations



Photo courtesy of Justine Kenyon-Benson

# 2026 Groundfish Regulations

- 🐟 2025-2026 Federal Regulations
- 🐟 State Harvest Guidelines (HGs)
- 🐟 Commercial Management Measures
- 🐟 Recreational Management Measures



# Public Notification and Input Process for 2026



## Recreational Public Meetings

Coastal ports & webcast, online survey

Summer 2024 (3), Summer (1) & Fall (3)  
2025

Marine Sportfishing Advisory Committee



## Commercial Public Meetings

North Coast, South Coast & webcast

Fall 2024 (2) & 2025 (2)

Commercial Nearshore Advisory Panel



## Saltwater Sportsman Show

Salem, February 2024 & 2025

One-on-one conversations



## Phone calls, e-mails, office visits




Throughout the year

One-on-one conversations



# 2025-26 Federal Annual Catch Limits



-  2023 assessments for black and canary rockfish
-  Black rockfish “healthy” but scale of biomass lower than previously estimated
-  Canary rockfish are in “precautionary zone”, scale of biomass lower than previously estimated


Species	2024 (mt)	2025 (mt)	2026 (mt)
Black Rockfish (OR) ACL	512	344	350
Canary Rockfish (coastwide) ACL	1,267	571	573
Canary Rockfish (OR) recreational share	62.9	26.0	26.1

**Adopted by OFWC in December 2024**



# State Harvest Guidelines (HGs)



 State allocates federal limits to commercial and recreational (including Tribal) fisheries

 Proportions unchanged since early 2000s

Species/Mgmt. Group (2026 Federal Catch Limit)	Sector	Allocation %	2025 HG (mt)	Staff Recommended 2026 HG (mt)
Black Rockfish (350.4 mt)	Commercial	24.0%	82.4	84.1
	Recreational	76.0%	261.1	266.3
Blue & Deacon Rockfish (77.6 mt)	Commercial	18.6%	14.8	14.4
	Recreational	81.4%	64.9	63.2
Nearshore Rockfish Complex (29.3 mt)	Commercial	51.3%	15.4	15.0
	Recreational	48.7%	14.7	14.3
Cabezon (47.4 mt)	Commercial	64.3%	31.0	30.5
	Recreational	35.7%	17.2	16.9
Greenling (126.9 mt)	Commercial	75.1%	96.6	95.3
	Recreational	24.9%	32.0	31.6

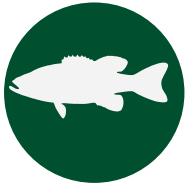


# Commercial Nearshore Fishery Management Measures





# Commercial Management Measures



## Objectives

- Maximize opportunity while not exceeding catch limits
- Predictable, year-round season
- Accommodate seasonal market demand for black rockfish



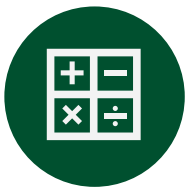
## Management Tools

- Limit entry, caps total effort
- Bi-monthly trip limits by species, stabilizes season
- Depth/area closures
- Species-specific prohibitions
- Gear restrictions



Photo courtesy of Lynn Mattes

# 2025 Season Recap



## Projected to be under state HGs

- \*Except Blue/Deacon Rockfish
- Recreational projected to be under its HG
  - No conservation concern

	2025 Commercial HG (mt) (allowable harvest)	Projected Harvest (mt) (% HG)
Black Rockfish	82.4	78.7 (96%)
Blue/Deacon Rockfish	14.8	17.3 (117%)*
Other Nearshore Rockfish	15.4	8.0 (52%)
Cabazon	31.0	13.2 (43%)
Greenling	96.6	17.8 (18%)

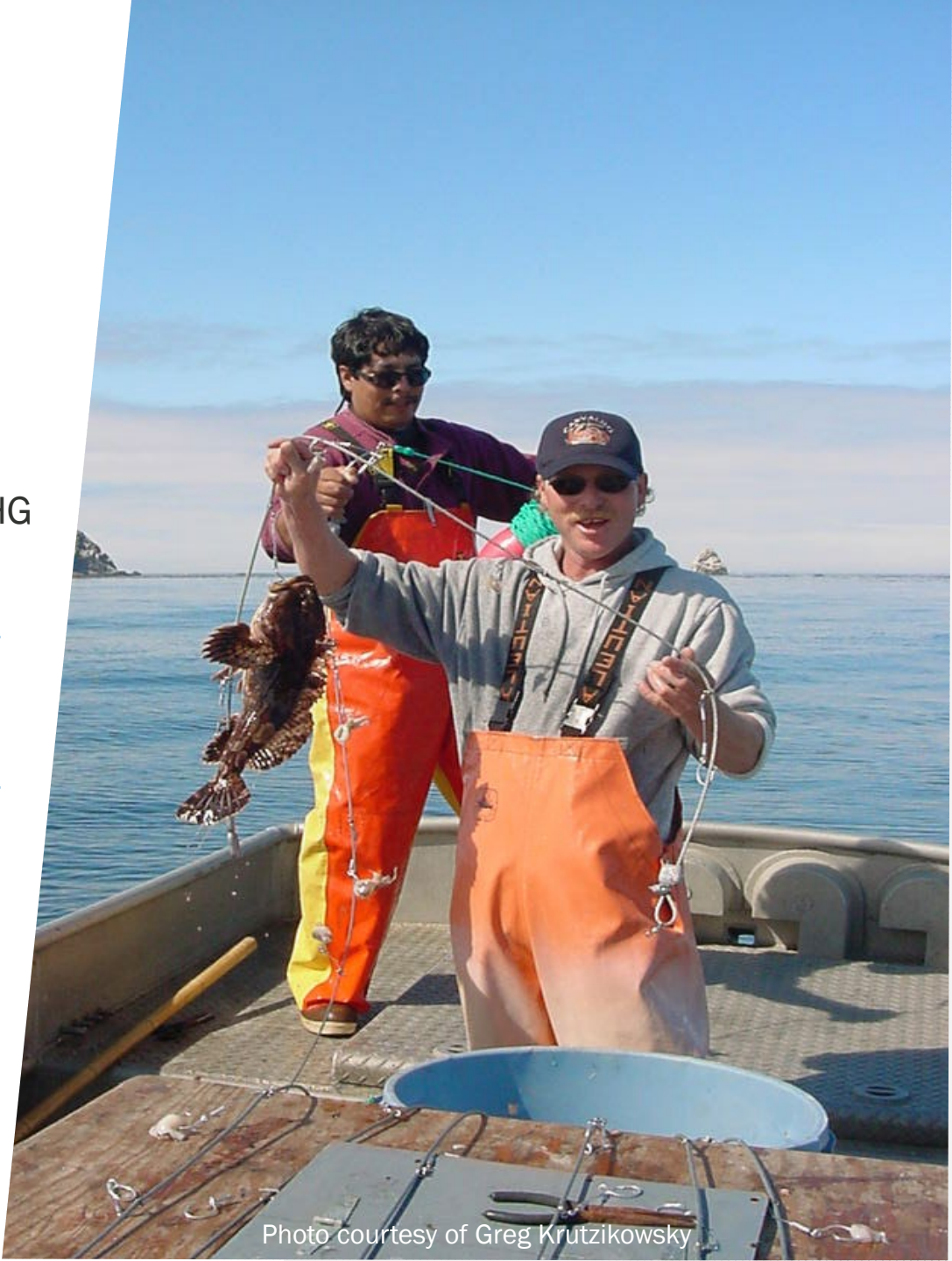


Photo courtesy of Greg Krutzikowsky





# 2026 Commercial Nearshore Trip Limits



Trip limits distribute harvest throughout the year

Limits the amount of fish (by species) a vessel can land in each **2-month period**

**Quillback rockfish prohibited**

**Staff Recommended Trip Limits for 2026**

Species/group	2025 Initial Trip Limit (and after in-season adj.) in Pounds	Recommended 2026 Trip Limit in Pounds
Black Rockfish		
Jan - Feb	1,200	<u>1,200</u>
Mar – Apr	1,200	<u>1,200</u>
May – Jun	1,600	<u>1,600</u>
Jul – Aug	1,600	<u>1,600</u>
Sep – Oct	1,200	<u>1,200</u>
Nov – Dec	1,200	<u>1,200</u>
Blue/Deacon Rockfish	1,500	1,500
Other Nearshore RF	450 (650)	650
Cabazon	1,500 (2,500)	2,000
Greenling	1,200 (2,000)	2,000




## Projected 2026 Impacts, in metric tons

	Commercial HG	Projected impacts (% HG)
Black Rockfish	84.1	81.1 (96%)
Blue and Deacon Rockfish	14.4	15.9 (110%)
Other Nearshore Rockfish	15.0	9.3 (62%)
Cabazon	30.5	18.2 (60%)
Greenling	95.3	15.3 (16%)




# Black Rockfish Management Areas

 Established in 1995 to reduce potential conflict with recreational fishery

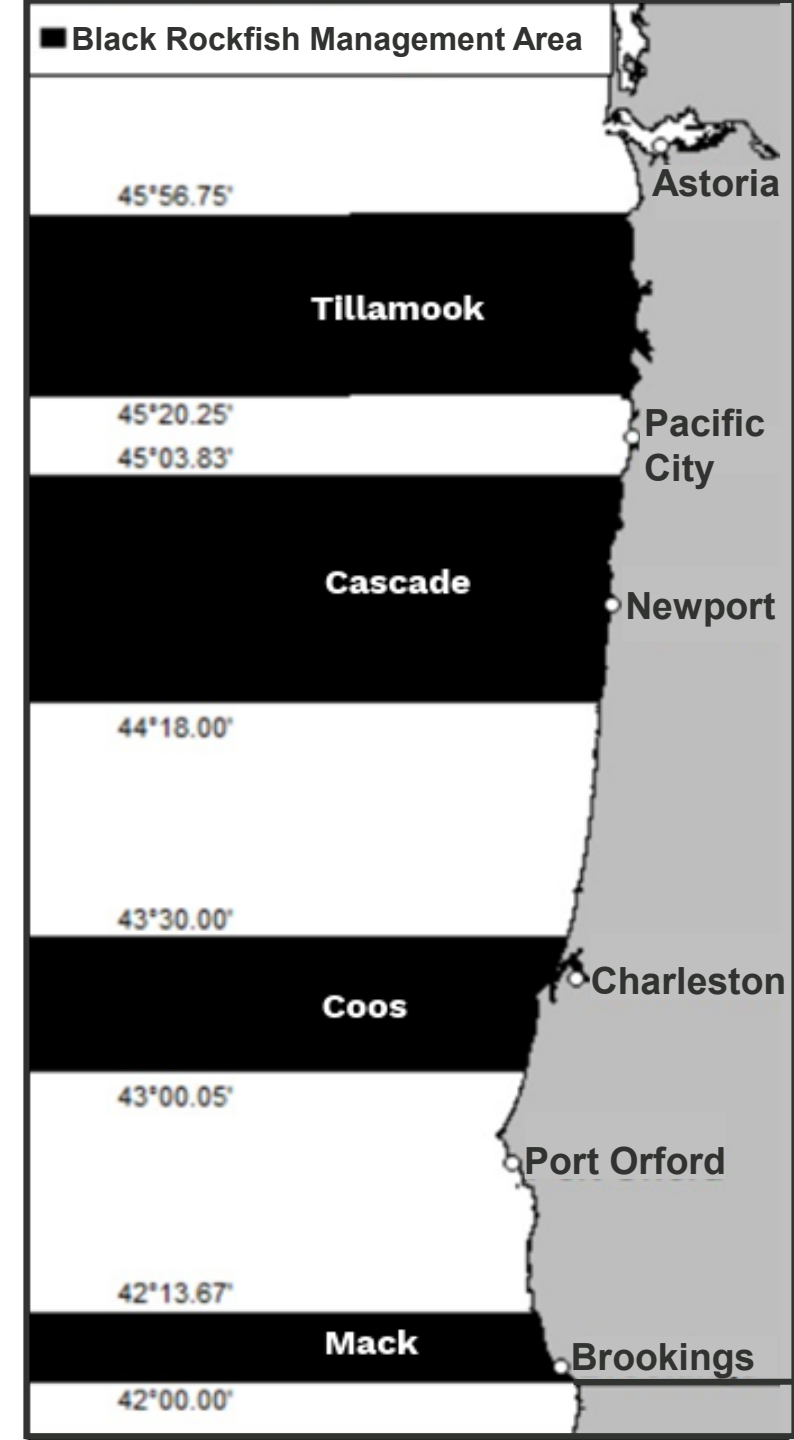
↓ Lower trip limits

 Suspended in 2022 for 3 years

 Catch from those areas has been less in 2022-2024 than before

 Factors other than the trip limits influencing area of catches

**Staff recommend permanently suspending the per-trip limits in the BRMAs beginning in 2026**



# Commercial Nearshore Permit Lottery Update

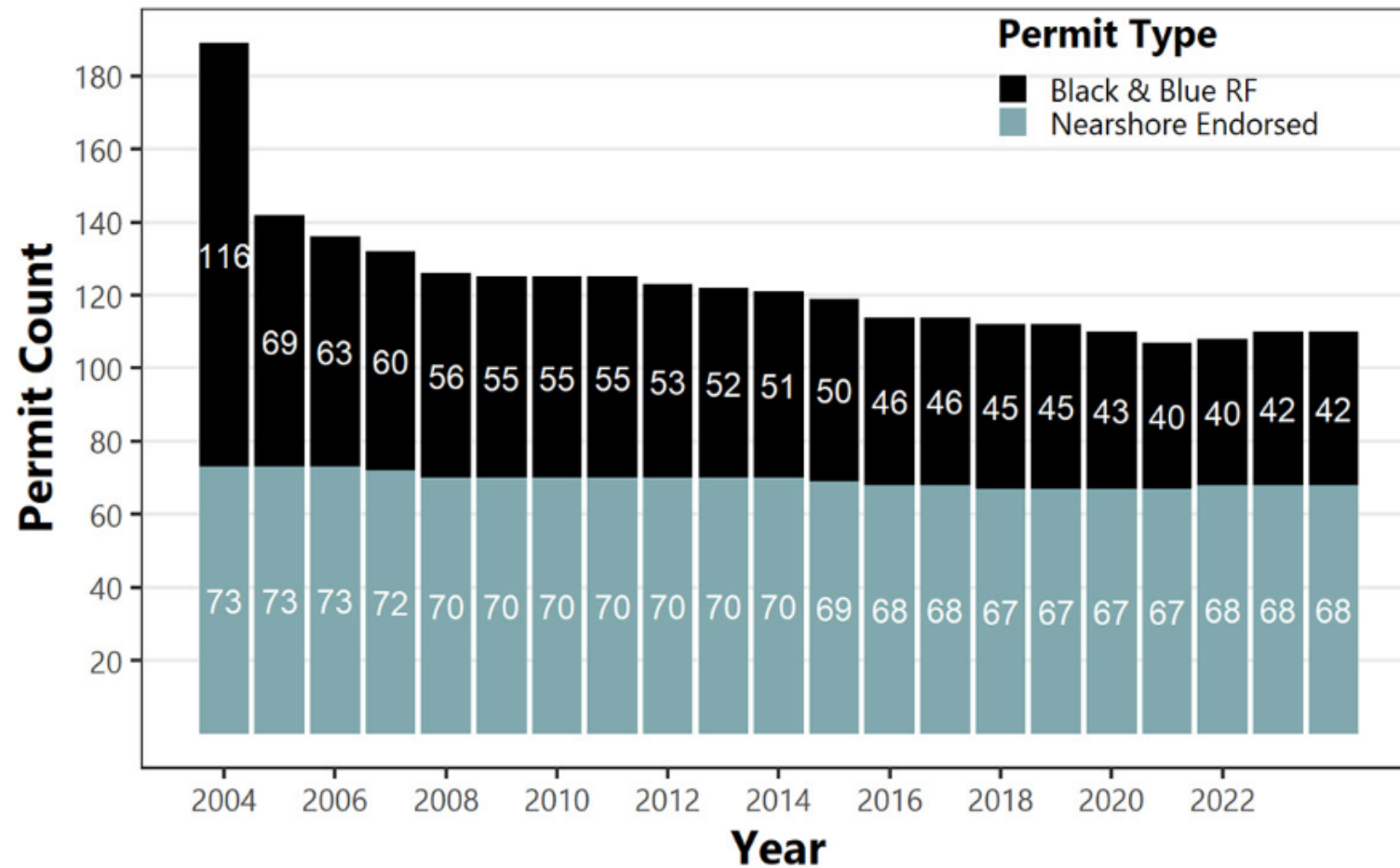


Photo courtesy of Justine Kenyon-Benson



# Commercial Nearshore Permit Lottery Update






-  Met with Commercial Nearshore Advisory Panel
-  Discussed at fall public meetings
-  Online survey to permit holders & non-permit holders
-  Mixed feedback
-  Continuing to investigate
  - Hope to come to OFWC sometime in 2026



Photo courtesy of Justine Kenyon-Benson

# Recreational Fishery Management Measures

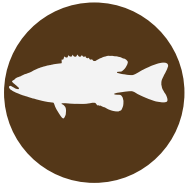


Photo courtesy of Lynn Mattes



# Recreational Management Measures

## Objectives



- Maximize opportunity while not exceeding catch limits
- Year-round fishing opportunity
- Minimize in-season changes & regulatory complexity
- General marine bag limit of  $\geq 4$



## Management Tools

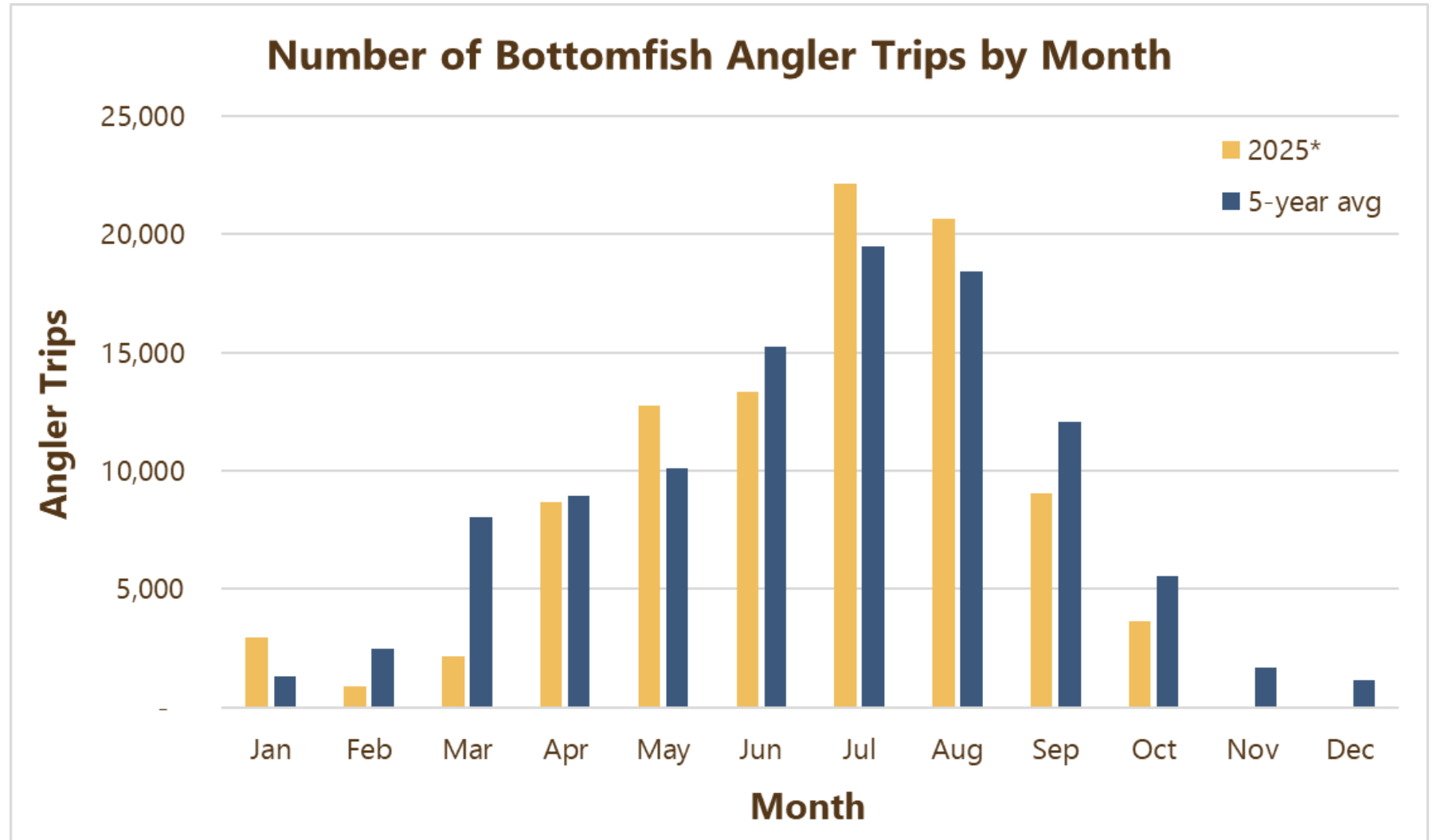
- Bag limit & fish length limit
- Depth/area closures
- Species-specific prohibitions
- Gear restrictions
- Mandatory descending devices





# 2025 Season Recap

Continued high effort, approximately 100,000 angler trips



\*Data for 2025 is preliminary through October



# 2025 Season Recap



 **Two in-season actions taken to reduce black rockfish catch**



**Black rockfish will still exceed HG**

- **Will use some of Federal buffer from blue/deacon rockfish**



**Other nearshore rockfish slightly over HG**

	Recreational HG (mt)	Projected Impacts in mt (% of HG)
Black Rockfish	261.1	286.3 (110%)
Blue/Deacon Rockfish	64.9	33.0 (51%)
Other Nearshore Rockfish	14.7	15.0 (102%)
Cabazon	17.2	10.7 (62%)
Greenling	32.0	21.1 (66%)



# Other Management Measures Considered



## Reduced season, fewer open months

- Could allow for higher bag limit when open
- Lower effort and catches in winter
- Higher effort and catches in summer



## Sub-bag limit for black rockfish

- Discards of black rockfish to catch something else to fill bag
- Identification concerns with blue/deacon rockfish
- Near catch limits of other species as well



## Increase lingcod bag limit to 3 fish

- Allowed under federal rules
- Higher yelloweye rockfish bycatch allowance





# Staff Recommended Season Structure & Bag Limits

- Open year round at all-depths
- 4-fish bag limit, with 2-fish sub-bag for canary rockfish and 1 fish sub-bag for cabezon (when open)
- Lingcod: 3-fish bag limit
- Long-leader gear: 10-fish bag limit, with 2 canary sub-bag
- 25 flatfish, other than Pacific halibut
- 10 fish bag limit for sablefish
- Quillback and yelloweye rockfishes remain prohibited



# Projected 2026 Impacts

	Recommended 2026 Recreational HG	Projected 2026 impacts (% of HG), assuming no in-season action
Black Rockfish	266.3	254.1 (95%)
Blue and Deacon Rockfish	63.2	19.0 (30%)
Other Nearshore Rockfish	14.3	13.6 (95%)
Cabazon	16.9	15.2 (90%)
Greenling	31.6	21.0 (66%)
Canary Rockfish	28.6 (federal)*	33.3 (116%)
Yelloweye Rockfish	7.0 (federal)	6.5 (93%)

\*Once published in the Federal Register



ODFW Marine Reserves Photo



# Nearshore Rockfish Survey – Update



Completed 40 sea-days this summer

- 14 scientists participated
- ~300 video drops



Analyze the data over next few months



Provide additional fishery-independent data for future stock assessments





# Options for 2026 Groundfish Regulations



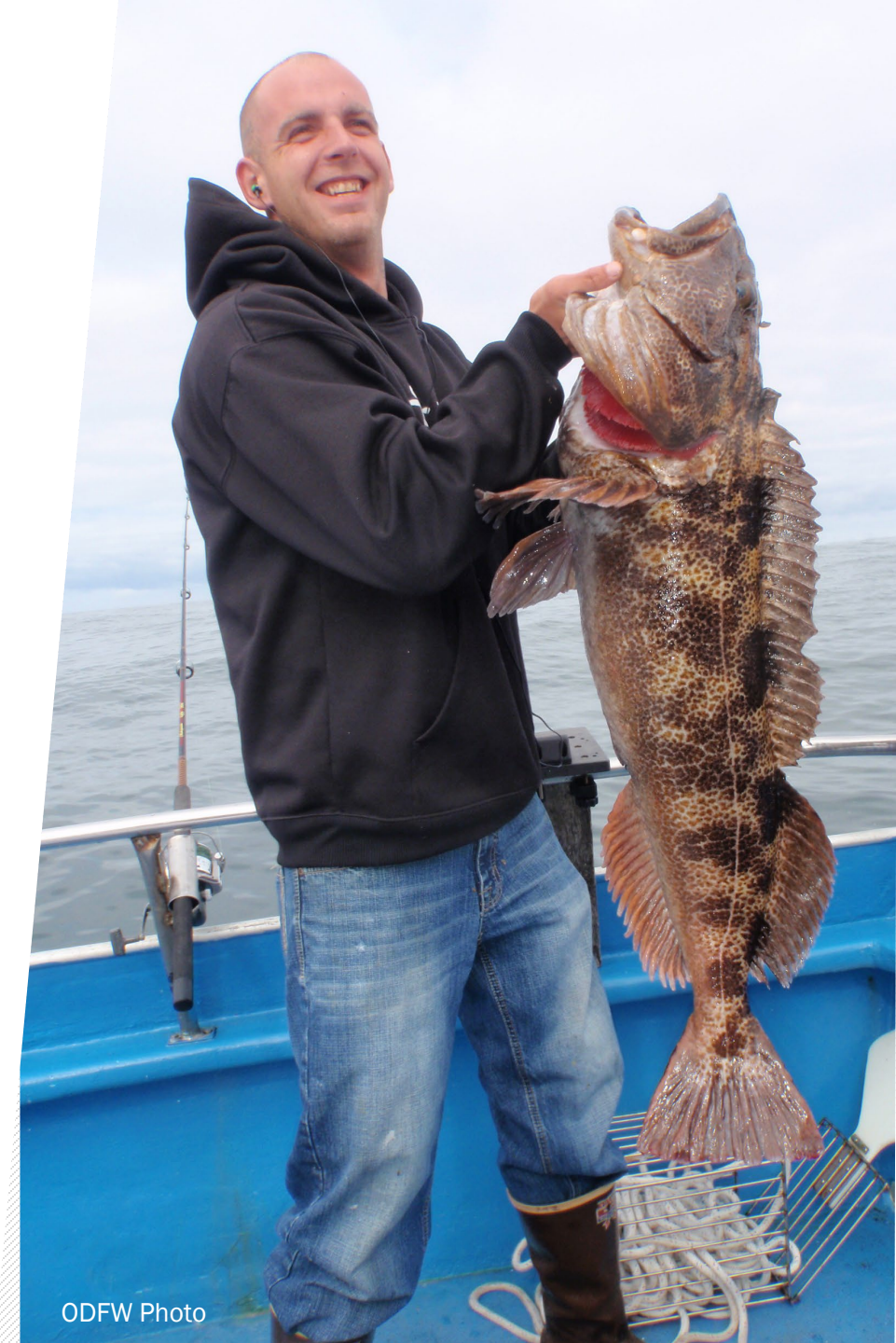
Adopt staff recommendations, as reflected in the draft OARs



Modify staff proposal for one or more items



Status quo



# Questions



**Oregon Department  
of Fish and Wildlife**



Thank you to Melanie Bukovec, Troy Buell, Christian Heath, & Dr. Cathleen Vestfals for assisting with this exhibit.

# Draft Motion

## **2026 Groundfish Fisheries Regulations**

I move to amend groundfish regulations in OAR Chapter 635 Divisions 004 and 039 as proposed by staff in Attachment 3.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026

