

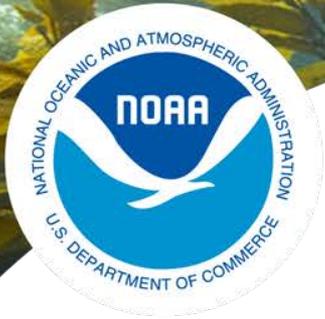
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West Coast Region Recreational Fisheries Update

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MAFAC
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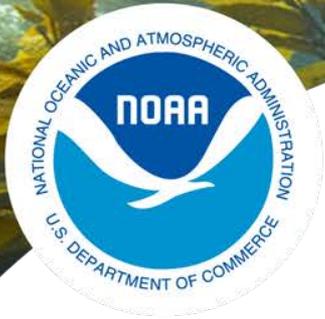
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Overview of West Coast Recreational Fisheries (1)



- Saltwater recreational fishermen on the West Coast target a diversity of marine resources including highly migratory species, salmon, rockfish, and coastal pelagic species.
- In 2012, 1.6 million anglers completed 7.4 million fishing trips on the West Coast. These anglers spent \$1.8 billion in fishing trip and equipment expenditures, which supported over 18,800 jobs and \$2.5 billion in sales.
- In December 2014, NOAA Fisheries hired a marine recreational fisheries coordinator and assembled a Rec Fish Team representing our regional offices and science centers.



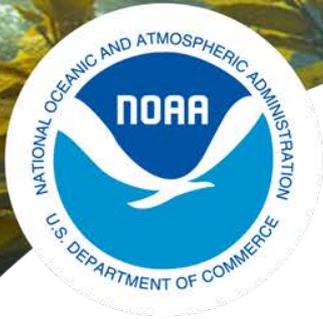
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Overview of West Coast Recreational Fisheries (2)



- Key goals and objectives of the rec fish engagement include:
 - Enhancing recreational fishing opportunity
 - Improving recreational data (catch, effort, socio-economic)
 - Advancing communication between anglers and the Agency.
- 2014-2015 West Coast Action Agenda developed in close consultation with stakeholders to help guide NMFS actions and activities.
- An updated Action Agenda is under development to cover the 2016-2018 time frame.



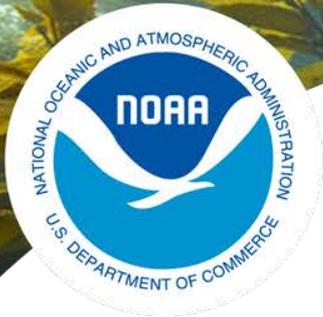
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Stock status & management of Pacific bluefin tuna



- Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) are experiencing overfishing and are considered overfished.
 - Conservation measures being developed, or in place, at both the domestic and international levels.
- Proposal to reduce the daily bag limit from 10 per day to 2 per day and require at-sea fillet requirement
 - Mexico currently allows 5 PBF per day; anglers to abide by the U.S. limit when returning to U.S. waters/ports.
- 80% of the U.S. sport catch of PBF taken in Mexican waters.
 - Mexico closed its PBF fishery to U.S. sportfishing vessels in 2014 when it reached its 5,000 mt quota of PBF. The fishery has remained close since that time. 2015 quota = 3,000 mt. Closed again?



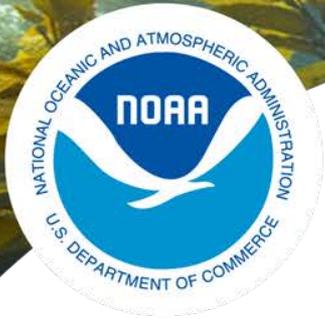
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Stock status & management of sardines



- The Pacific sardine population size routinely fluctuates. After several years of low recruitment, it is now below a precautionary biomass threshold, and directed commercial fishing is not allowed.
- The sportfishing industry utilizes 2-3,000 tons/yr of sardines and other CPS for live bait. This fishery is not part of the closure. Continued live bait availability is vital to the industry's economic well being.
- Despite low abundance, the stock is neither overfished nor is overfishing occurring and harvest levels are set below the OFL to account for other ecosystem factors (forage fish and live bait).
- If the population continues to decline and the biomass drops below the OFL, restrictions could be placed on the live bait fishery.



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Sea lions & resource impacts

- The U.S. stock of California sea lions has recovered and is approaching 360,000 animals coast-wide.
- NOAA scientists are looking into whether the population may be at carrying capacity.
- CA sea lion predation is having an impact on at-risk salmon and steelhead stocks.
- Stellar sea lion predation on white sturgeon being flagged as a concern as well.





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Rockfish barotrauma and management implications

- SWFSC research conducted onboard SAC vessels has demonstrated effectiveness of descender devices for increasing survivorship of rockfish released at depth.
- NOAA Fisheries working with PSMFC, fishing organizations, and state co-managers to increase device use through a "giveaway" program and targeted outreach.



<https://swfsc.noaa.gov/barotrauma>



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Questions?

