

U.S. NATIONAL BYCATCH REPORT



Fast Facts:

- A total of 25 commercial fisheries are included in this report for the Southwest Region.
- Landings from all Southwest Region fisheries were valued at approximately \$116 million in 2005.
- Four FMPs regulate the harvest of federally managed species in the Southwest Region.
- Observer programs are in place for 10 of the 25 fisheries.
- Protected species bycatch estimates are available for 3 fisheries and 9 species or species groups.
- Fish bycatch estimates were not available for the Southwest Region when this report was developed (estimates will be included in the next edition of the National Bycatch Report).

Bycatch of Southwest Region Key Stocks in 2005

Protected species	Bycatch estimate (individuals) ^a
Blue whale	*
Bowhead whale	*
California sea lion	51
Common dolphin, long-beaked, CA/OR/WA	9
Fin whale	*
Guadalupe fur seal	*
Harbor seal, California	*
Humpback whale	*
Killer whale, Southern Resident	*
Northern right whale dolphin, CA/OR/WA	18
Sea otter, California	*
Sei whale	*
Short-finned pilot whale, CA/OR/WA	1
Sperm whale	*

Protected species	Bycatch estimate (individuals) ^a
Green sea turtle	*
Leatherback sea turtle	*
Loggerhead sea turtle	*
Olive ridley sea turtle (two stocks)	1
Ashy storm-petrel	*
Brown pelican, except US Atlantic coast, Florida	*
California least tern	*
Hawaiian dark-rumped petrel	*
Least tern, interior population	*
Marbled murrelet, CA/OR/WA	*
Newell's Townsend's shearwater	*
Short-tailed albatross	*

^a Estimates have been rounded.

* Indicates that no bycatch was observed, or that bycatch estimates are not available. See Section 4.5 for details.

Note: bycatch estimates of rare-event species may incorporate a range of years.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Southwest Region Key Fish Stocks

Fish and invertebrates
Albacore, N. Pacific
Albacore, S. Pacific
Arrowtooth flounder
Bank rockfish
Basking shark
Bigeye tuna, Pacific
Black rockfish, Pacific Coast, N.
Blackgill rockfish
Blue rockfish
Blue shark, N. Pacific
Bluefin tuna, Pacific
Bocaccio
Brown rockfish
Cabazon
California scorpionfish
Canary rockfish
Chilipepper rockfish
Chinook salmon (nine DPSs)
Coho salmon (three DPSs)
Chum salmon (two DPSs)
Cowcod
Darkblotched rockfish
Dolphinfish, Pacific
Dover sole
English sole
Giant sea bass
Gopher rockfish
Indo-Pacific blue marlin, Pacific
Jack mackerel
Kawakawa, tropical Pacific
Kelp greenling
Lingcod
Longnose skate
Longspine thornyhead
Market squid
Megamouth shark
Northern anchovy, central subpopulation

Fish and invertebrates
Northern anchovy, northern subpopulation
Opah, Pacific
Pacific chub mackerel
Pacific cod
Pacific grenadier
Pacific hake
Pacific ocean perch
Pacific sanddab
Pacific sardine
Petrale sole
Rex sole
Rougheye rockfish
Sablefish
Sand sole
Shortbelly rockfish
Shortbill spearfish, Pacific
Shortspine thornyhead
Skipjack tuna, central western Pacific
Skipjack tuna, eastern Pacific
Sockeye salmon (two DPSs)
Spiny dogfish
Splitnose rockfish
Starry flounder
Steelhead (ten DPSs)
Striped marlin, central Western Pacific
Striped marlin, eastern Pacific
Swordfish, N. Pacific
Totoaba
Vermilion rockfish
Wahoo, Pacific
White shark
Widow rockfish
Yelloweye rockfish
Yellowfin tuna, central western Pacific
Yellowfin tuna, eastern Pacific
Yellowtail rockfish

DPS = Distinct Population Segment.

Note: Because bycatch estimates were not available when the report was produced, all stocks with management importance are considered key stocks. See Section 4.5 for details.

Bycatch Reduction Success Stories (2005 to present):

- Use of acoustic pingers in the California/Oregon drift gillnet fishery has reduced cetacean (whales, dolphin, and porpoises) bycatch by approximately 50% since pinger use began in 1996. There have been no observed beaked whales taken since the use of pingers was mandated through implementation of the Pacific Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Plan in 1997.
- Time and area closures are used in regional gillnet fisheries to protect leatherback and loggerhead sea turtles.
- Designation of a cowcod conservation area in California has successfully reduced bycatch and allowed rebuilding of cowcod, an overfished rockfish.