Saltwater Recreational Fisheries on the West Coast

CALIFORNIA
OREGON
WASHINGTON

Popular Recreational Species on the West Coast

State	2015 Species	Total Catch NUMBERS OF FISH	Harvested / Released
CALIFORNIA	Barred surfperch	1,281,000	
	Vermilion rockfish	400,000	
	Yellowtail	156,000	
	Chinook salmon*	37,000	NA
	Bluefin Tuna	14,000	
OREGON	Blue rockfish	57,000	
	Coho salmon	55,000	
	Albacore	35,000	
	Pacific Halibut	12,000	
	Chinook salmon	12,000	
WASHINGTON	Black rockfish	303,000	
	Coho salmon	141,000	
	Albacore	79,000	
	Chinook salmon	69,000	
	Pacific Halibut	11,000	

Source: Marine Recreational Information Program and the *Pacific Fishery Management Council (2015).
Harvest/release data are not available for Chinook salmon. Estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand.

The West Coast offers diverse fishing opportunities for saltwater recreational anglers. Out on the water, anglers aboard private and for-hire vessels can wet their lines in pursuit of tuna, salmon, and many groundfish such as rockfish and lingcod. Along the shore, anglers can try their hand at state-managed species like surfperches, kelp bass, bonito, barracuda, and the Pacific chub mackerel. Most West Coast fishing trips take place at beaches, banks, and jetties along the shore, where anglers catch a variety of inshore and coastal pelagic species. Fishing trips targeting tuna and other offshore species play an important role in supporting coastal economies across the West Coast. NOAA Fisheries works closely with the Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and their member states to provide diverse and sustainable recreational fishing opportunities now and into the future.

FISHING TRIPS ON THE WEST COAST

53% Shore

32% Private

15% For-Hire Boats (Party/Charter)

NOAA FISHERIES

2015 Economic Impacts on the West Coast

CALIFORNIA	OREGON	WASHINGTON
Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: $1.48B	Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: $305.5M	Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: $687.30M
Total Sales Impacts: $2.08B	Total Sales Impacts: $315.56M	Total Sales Impacts: $774.74M
Total Jobs: 16,451	Total Jobs: 3,185	Total Jobs: 6,499
From Fishing Trips Sales: $662.12M Jobs: 4,389	From Fishing Trips Sales: $92.71M Jobs: 864	From Fishing Trips Sales: $206.16M Jobs: 1,278
From Durable Good Expenditures Sales: $1.42B Jobs: 12,062	From Durable Good Expenditures Sales: $220.85M Jobs: 2,321	From Durable Good Expenditures Sales: $568.58M Jobs: 5,221

Source: FEUS 2015

DIVING DEEPER

Pacific Salmon

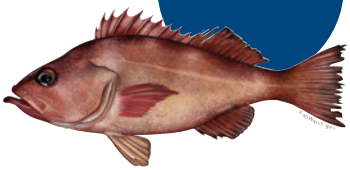
Forecasting returns using ocean indicators

Salmon dominate sportfishing in the Pacific Northwest, but the number of returning salmon available to anglers varies widely from year to year. Ocean conditions can push the numbers up or down. NOAA Fisheries scientists have increasingly found that factors such as ocean temperatures, salinity, and even the type of plankton floating through the water can provide clues about future salmon returns. These "ocean indicators" add to more traditional counts of early returning fish called "jacks" in helping to forecast upcoming salmon returns. Such forecasts help fisheries managers set harvest levels to ensure sustainable fishing year after year.

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Pacific Rockfish

The role of anglers in conservation



Recreational anglers have played an important role in the conservation of West Coast rockfish species by protecting the fish from barotrauma. When anglers reel in deep-water fish, gases inside the fish can expand and damage their tissues, causing injury or death. Many recreational fishermen now use descending devices that quickly return the fish to deep water, where they rapidly recover. NOAA Fisheries, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, states, fishing clubs and associations, and the for-hire industry have worked together to distribute the devices and explain how to use them. Descending devices have saved countless rockfish, helping conserve these species for future anglers.

LEARN MORE

For more information visit NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region website.

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