



**NOAA FISHERIES**

# West Coast Recreational Fisheries

**CALIFORNIA • OREGON • WASHINGTON**

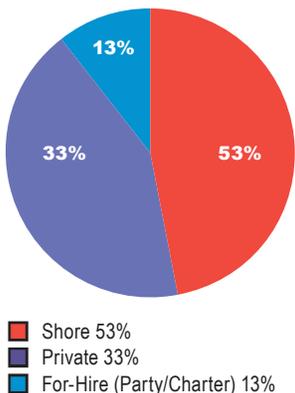
The West Coast offers diverse fishing opportunities for saltwater recreational anglers. Out on the water, anglers aboard private and for-hire vessels can wet their lines in pursuit of tuna, salmon, and many groundfish such as rockfish and lingcod. Along the shore and on piers, anglers can try their hand at state-managed species like surfperches, kelp bass, bonito, and barracuda. 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.



## POPULAR RECREATIONAL SPECIES

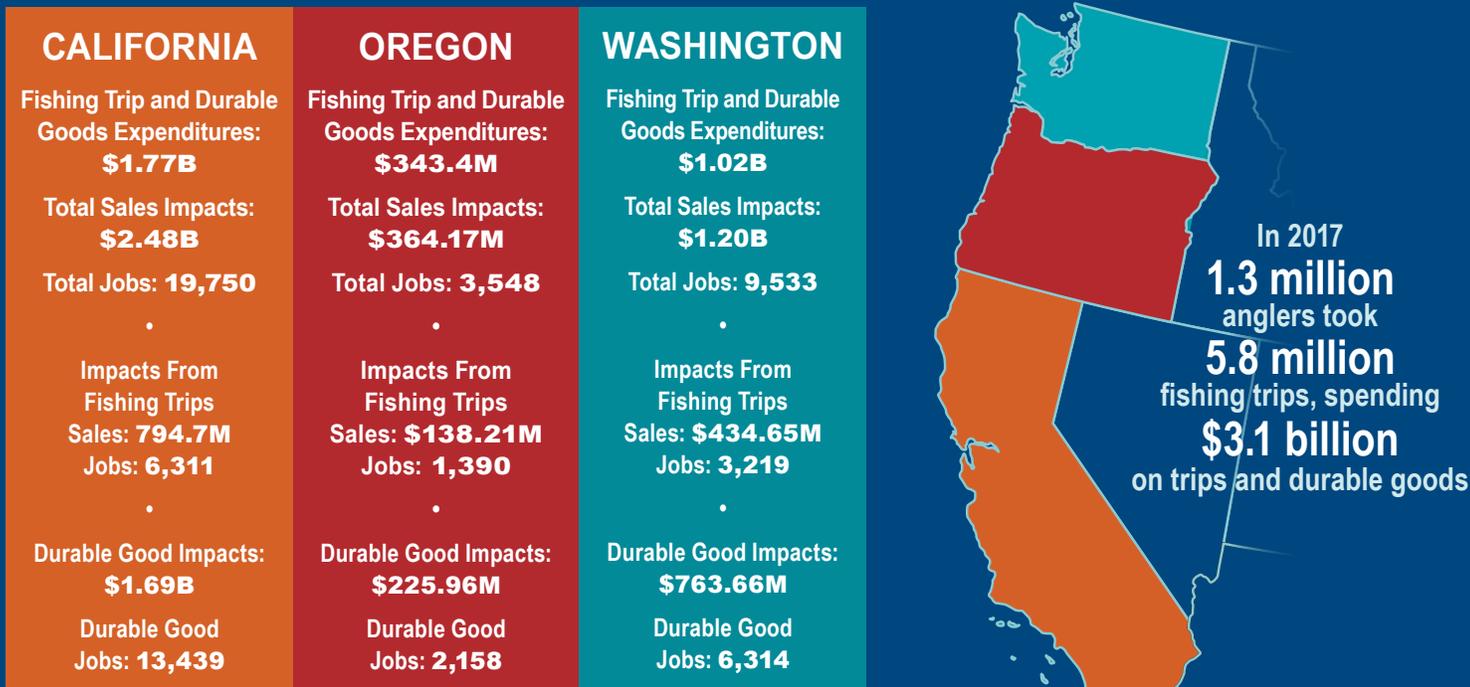
State	2017 Species	HARVESTED RELEASED	Total Catch (number of fish)
CALIFORNIA	Vermilion rockfish		605,000
	Lingcod		554,000
	Chinook salmon		67,000
	Yellowfin tuna		14,000
	Bluefin tuna		11,000
OREGON	Black rockfish		445,000
	Coho salmon		40,000
	Albacore		16,000
	Pacific Halibut		14,000
	Chinook salmon		6,000
WASHINGTON	Black rockfish		212,000
	Coho salmon		84,000
	Chinook salmon		38,000
	Albacore		30,000
	Pacific Halibut		12,000

## FISHING TRIPS BY MODE ON THE WEST COAST



Source: FEUS 2017

## Economic Impacts of Recreational Fishing



Source: FEUS, 2017

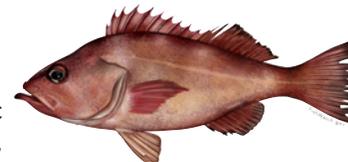


Angler with vermilion rockfish

### Diving Deeper

#### PACIFIC ROCKFISH: OUT OF THE DEPTHS

In recent decades, recreational anglers targeting Pacific rockfish have been constrained by depth-based closures, reduced bag limits, seasonal closures, and other limitations due to severely low rockfish populations. Long life histories and late maturity meant that rockfish species required longer times to rebuild. As these species rebuilt, new methods were pioneered by recreational anglers to target healthy stocks while avoiding rebuilding stocks (e.g., long-leader gear) and to increase the use of descending devices to increase survivability of released rockfish. These joint efforts between the recreational fishing community and managers have helped rockfish populations rebuild faster than previously projected, and anglers are now reaping the rewards. Depth-based closures have been reduced or eliminated, seasons are longer, and bag limits have been increased. With continued science-based management, and collaboration and cooperation among the angling community, the future of these rockfish populations and opportunities for angling are bright. Learn more about catch and release best practices by visiting <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/resources-fishing/catch-and-release-best-practices>.



#### LEARN MORE

For more information visit: [www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast)

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