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

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

Source: FEUS 2017

**FISHING TRIPS BY MODE ON THE WEST COAST**

- Shore 53%
- Private 33%
- For-Hire (Party/Charter) 13%
Economic Impacts of Recreational Fishing

**CALIFORNIA**
- Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: $1.77B
- Total Sales Impacts: $2.48B
- Total Jobs: 19,750
- Impacts From Fishing Trips
  - Sales: $794.7M
  - Jobs: 6,311
- Durable Good Impacts: $1.69B
- Durable Good Jobs: 13,439

**OREGON**
- Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: $343.4M
- Total Sales Impacts: $364.17M
- Total Jobs: 3,548
- Impacts From Fishing Trips
  - Sales: $138.21M
  - Jobs: 1,390
- Durable Good Impacts: $225.96M
- Durable Good Jobs: 2,158

**WASHINGTON**
- Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: $1.02B
- Total Sales Impacts: $1.20B
- Total Jobs: 9,533
- Impacts From Fishing Trips
  - Sales: $434.65M
  - Jobs: 3,219
- Durable Good Impacts: $763.66M
- Durable Good Jobs: 6,314

Source: FEUS, 2017

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](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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