

**Concise Explanatory Statement (CES)
Amending Coastal Recreational Bottomfish Rules**

Rules amended as part of this rule making:

WAC 220-314-020 Possession limits—Bottomfish

A. Reasons for adopting the rules:

The purpose of this rule change is to amend a rule affecting the coastal recreational bottomfish fishery so that it is consistent with regulations adopted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

The rule change will prohibit the possession of copper rockfish, quillback rockfish, and vermilion rockfish during May, June, and July in the coastal recreational bottomfish fishery, i.e., in Marine Areas 1 through 4, to reduce total catch consistent with reductions in state specific harvest guidelines for 2023. The coastal recreational bottomfish fishery season opens the second Saturday in March and closes the third Saturday in October and retention of these species will remain lawful in the other months of the season to support biological data collection needed for scientific population assessments.

This rule change conforms state regulations to regulations adopted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and implemented into federal regulation by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Stakeholder input from Washington recreational anglers was considered during the PFMC public hearing process and through meetings sponsored by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

B. Difference between the text of the proposed rules and the text of the rules as adopted:

None

C. Summary of comments and WDFW response and consideration for the comments:

No public comment was received.