

<p>To:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Planning and Research <i>U.S. Mail:</i> PO Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044</p> <p><i>Street Address:</i> 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113 Sacramento, CA 95814</p> <p>County Clerk n/a County of: Address:</p>	<p>From:</p> <p>California Fish and Game Commission PO Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090</p> <p>Contact: Melissa Miller-Henson Phone: (916) 653-4899</p> <p>Lead Agency (if different from above): n/a Address: Contact: Phone:</p>
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SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number: 2026010192

Project Title: Proposed Amendments to Recreational Fishing Regulations for Rockfish, Cabezon, Greenling (RCG), and Lingcod, Title 14, California Code of Regulations

Project Applicant: California Fish and Game Commission

Project Location: Statewide

Project Description:

The proposed regulations would continue to restore access to fishing depths that have been closed since 2023 to recreational fishing for RCG and lingcod to avoid encounters with quillback rockfish. To maintain catch of certain species within federally set allowable take levels, a sub-bag limit for canary rockfish, and inclusion of the cryptic-species sunset rockfish continue to be necessary to limit conservation risk. The Commission routinely adopts regulations for recreational RCG and lingcod for consistency with federal regulations, including those designed to keep catches within harvest limits.

The purpose of the proposed project is to restore access to fishing grounds based upon updated scientific stock assessment information for the quillback rockfish stock off California. The current unwarranted restrictions highly constrain and concentrate recreational fishing access and efforts to a limited area of the state’s waters. The proposed regulations would continue to remove these unneeded constraints, thereby alleviating this risk of redirection of recreational fishing efforts and pressure on RCG and lingcod stock in both federal and state waters.

Additionally, adoption of scientifically based seasons, depth constraints, and other management measures provides protection for quillback rockfish and other RCG species and lingcod to ensure their continued existence. The proposed (certificate of compliance) action will also continue to implement a sub-bag limit for canary rockfish and maintain sunset rockfish limits that also serve to protect these rockfish species.

This is to advise that the California Fish and Game Commission (Lead Agency) has approved the above-described project on February 11, 2026 and has made the following determinations regarding the project:

1. The project **will not** have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A negative declaration **was** prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures **were not** made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan **was not** adopted for this project.

5. A statement of overriding considerations **was not** adopted for this project.
6. Findings **were** made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the negative declaration is available to the general public at 715 P Street, 16th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 or by request at FGC@fgc.ca.gov

Signature:  **Title:** Executive Director

Date: February 20, 2026 **Date Received for filing at OPR:**