

2012

Commercial Nearshore Fishery Summary



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Introduction and Background

Oregon's commercial nearshore fishery first developed as an open access fishery in the early 1990's and transitioned to a limited entry system, regulated by annual harvest and landing caps, in 2004. Fishers in this fishery target finfish species including black rockfish (*Sebastes melanops*); blue rockfish (*Sebastes mystinus*); the "other nearshore rockfish" complex, cabezon (*Scorpaneichthys marmoratus*), and kelp greenling (Table 1). The commercial nearshore fleet is composed of small vessels, averaging 25 ft., and these vessels target shallow (≤ 180 ft.) nearshore rocky reefs in state of Oregon marine waters. Each fishing "season" consists of the calendar year, with boats fishing year-round as weather allows. Vessels use mostly hook and line or bottom longline fishing gear, but fish pots may also be utilized if a Developmental Fisheries Permit for nearshore species for this gear type was issued in 2003. A small amount of nearshore species is harvested as bycatch from fisheries using troll and trawl gear. Fish caught in the commercial nearshore fishery supply both live and fresh (dead) fish markets.

Table 1. Nearshore fish species targeted in the commercial nearshore fishery.

Common Name	Scientific Binomial Name
Black rockfish	<i>Sebastes melanops</i>
Blue rockfish	<i>Sebastes mystinus</i>
Other nearshore rockfish complex	
Kelp rockfish	<i>Sebastes atrovirens</i>
Brown rockfish	<i>Sebastes auriculatus</i>
Gopher rockfish	<i>Sebastes carnatus</i>
Copper rockfish	<i>Sebastes caurinus</i>
Black and yellow rockfish	<i>Sebastes chrysomelas</i>
Calico rockfish	<i>Sebastes dalli</i>
Quillback rockfish	<i>Sebastes maliger</i>
China rockfish	<i>Sebastes nebulosus</i>
Grass rockfish	<i>Sebastes rastrelliger</i>
Olive rockfish	<i>Sebastes serranoides</i>
Treefish	<i>Sebastes serripes</i>
Cabezon	<i>Scorpaneichthys marmoratus</i>
Kelp greenling	<i>Hexagrammos decagrammus</i>

Two separate permit types exist for the limited-entry commercial nearshore fishery. The first permit type, the black and blue rockfish permit, allows for the harvest of black and blue rockfish in amounts up to cumulative bi-monthly period trip limits (hereafter, bi-monthly limits) set by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC), while allowing for only incidental harvest of 15 lbs. per day of other nearshore fish species. The second permit type, the black and blue rockfish permit with a nearshore endorsement, allows for the harvest of all nearshore species up to the bi-monthly limits specified by the OFWC. Limits to daily commercial harvest of black rockfish are in effect in specific geographic areas where extensive recreational harvest occurs (Oregon Administrative Rule 625-004-0365).

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This document summarizes commercial nearshore fishery management goals, harvest specifications, fishing effort, landed poundage, landing values, data collection efforts, and logbook compliance for 2012 as of June 2013. Additionally, the harvest specifications for the 2013 season are detailed. To maintain confidentiality, data from Garibaldi and Astoria are combined in the Garibaldi port group; data from Depoe Bay and Newport are combined in the Newport port group; and data from Winchester Bay, Charleston and Bandon are combined in the Bandon port group. Additionally, landings in this document are summarized by the primary gear type used to harvest fish on any given trip.

Fishery Management

Managers of the commercial nearshore fishery set specific management goals at the outset of the year to maintain both sustainable resources and a sustainable socio-economic fishery. The primary goal for 2012 was to provide fishing opportunities to the industry throughout the calendar year without exceeding either the annual landing caps or the allowable impacts to prohibited species that have been declared overfished, primarily yelloweye rockfish. Fishery landing caps were managed by implementing six bi-monthly periods (Table 2) and setting maximum harvest limits (bi-monthly limits) for permit holders during each of these time periods. Public input regarding bi-monthly limit specifications for 2012 was sought both at the annual commercial nearshore fishery meetings held in late September 2011 and at the December 2011 Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) meeting. Based on both this input and on recommendations from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the OFWC adopted bi-monthly limits for 2012 in December 2011. These bi-monthly limits, put into effect at the outset of the 2012 season, were intended to require few or no in-season changes and to provide predictable bi-monthly limits, season lengths, and market supply. However, the bi-monthly limits were adjusted up or down, in-season, to allow greater opportunity for reaching the annual landing caps or to slow harvest to stay within the caps, as needed.

Table 2. Bi-monthly cumulative period trip limit durations.

Period	Cumulative Trip Limit Duration
1	January - February
2	March - April
3	May - June
4	July - August
5	September - October
6	November - December

The ODFW actively collected data on the commercial nearshore fishery in 2012 to understand how these resources were utilized. Fish landed were sorted by species, and the landed poundage was recorded on fish receiving tickets submitted to the ODFW by fish buyers. Port biologists and samplers collected data on landed catch through species composition and biological sampling.

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Nearshore managers also collected information on fishing effort, harvest locations, harvest methods, and discards from the fishery through the nearshore logbook program.

Harvest Specifications

Landing caps for the commercial nearshore fishery have changed on multiple occasions since the beginning of the limited entry fishery, but remained at 2011 levels for 2012, with the exception of the cabezon landing cap (Table 3). The 2012 cabezon landing cap dropped from 69,004 lb (31.3 mt) in 2011 to 67,240 lbs. (30.5 mt) in 2012 because of the reduced federal annual catch limit (ACL) for this stock.

Table 3. Landing caps (mt) for nearshore species complexes for 2003 - 2013.

	Black & Blue Rockfish	Other Nearshore Rockfish	Cabezon	Greenling
2003	112.9	11.4	31.3	19.5
2004	111.9 (108.0)*	12.0	31.3	23.4
2005	108.7 (104.8)*	12.0	31.3	23.4
2006	106.5 (102.5)*	13.5	31.3	23.4
2007	104.6 (100.6)*	12.0	31.3	23.4
2008	104.6 (100.6)*	12.0	31.3	23.4
2009	141.9 (137.9)*	14.3	31.3	23.4
2010	141.9 (137.9)*	14.3	31.3	23.4
2011	141.9 (137.9)*	14.3	31.3	23.4
2012	141.9 (137.9)*	14.3	30.5	23.4
2013	141.9 (137.9)*	14.3	30.0	23.4

* - values in parentheses are landing caps for black rockfish, alone.

For 2012, bi-monthly limits for all species complexes were set at levels identical to the outset of 2011 (Table 4). However, ODFW resource managers raised bi-monthly limits for black and blue rockfish in-season, for periods 4 - 6, and raised the bi-monthly limits for greenling in periods 5 - 6 to provide opportunities for attaining a larger percentage of the landing cap (Table 4). Also, the cabezon period 6 bi-monthly limit was dropped to 100 lbs. to prevent harvest from exceeding the annual landing cap.

Table 4. Bi-monthly limits for commercial nearshore species complexes at the outset of 2011 - 2013. 2012 in-season management changes are also depicted, indicated by italics.

Species Complex	Limit Duration	2011 (outset)	2012 (outset)	2012 (with in-season changes)	2013 (outset)
Black & Blue Rockfish	Jan. - Feb.	800	800	800	1,000
	Mar. - Apr.	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200
	May - Jun.	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,700
	Jul. - Aug.	1,400	1,400	<i>1,800</i>	1,600
	Sep. - Oct.	1,000	1,000	<i>2,100</i>	1,200
	Nov. - Dec.	800	800	<i>2,100</i>	1,000
Other Nearshore Rockfish	All year	700	700	700	700
Greenling	All year*	250	250	250 (Periods 5 - 6 = <i>400</i>)*	300
Cabezon	All year*	1,500	1,500	1500 (Period 6 = <i>100</i>)*	1,500

* Trip limits presented apply to the whole year except when changes, in parentheses, were made.

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Commercial Nearshore Permits

One hundred and twenty three limited-entry commercial nearshore fishery permits were issued for 2012; 70 black and blue rockfish permits with nearshore endorsements, and 53 permits without nearshore endorsements. Two black and blue rockfish vessel permits were lost from the 2011 total of 72 permits because two vessels did not meet the permit renewal requirement of 5 commercial landings in any fishery in 2011. Of the permits issued in 2012, 66 (94.3%) with nearshore endorsements and 50 (94.3%) of the permits without nearshore endorsement were active in the fishery. Port Orford was the home port of the most total permits (49), and the home port of the most permits with nearshore endorsements (39; Figure 1). Pacific City was the home port of the most permits without nearshore endorsements (13).

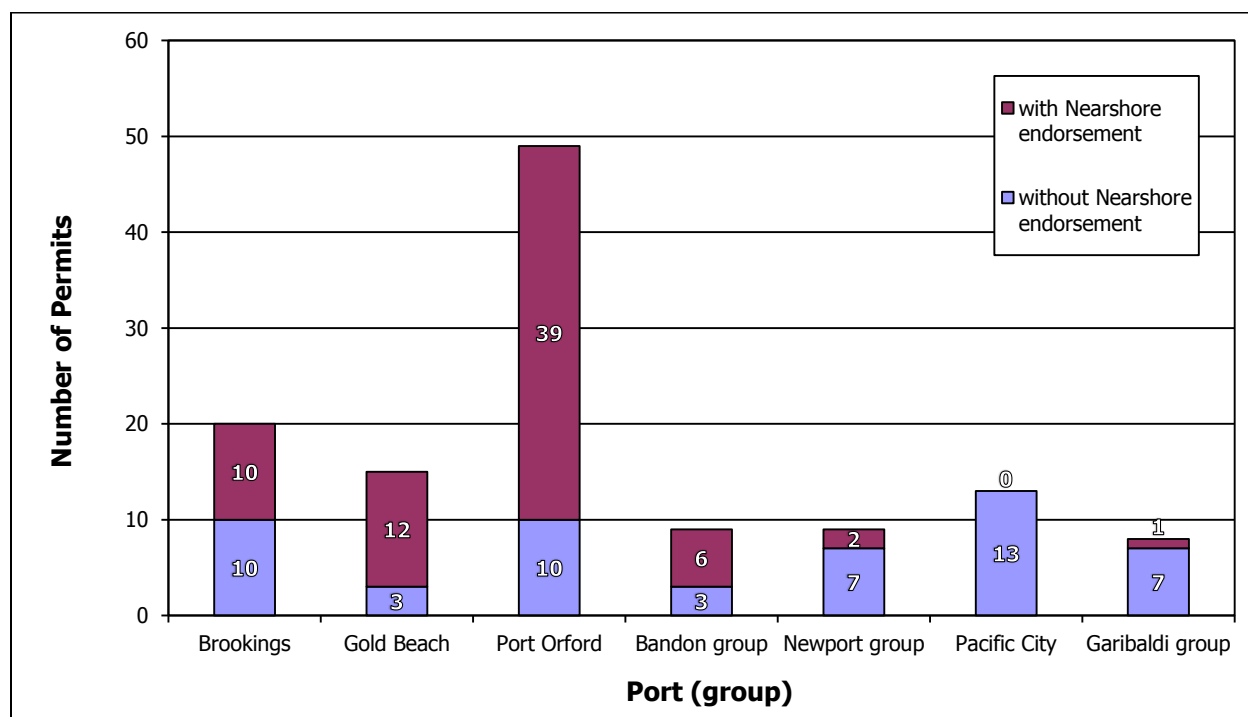


Figure 1. Nearshore black and blue rockfish permits by port group. Total permits per port are separated out by those with a nearshore endorsement and those without a nearshore endorsement.

2012 Effort

Total commercial nearshore fishery landing events (# of trips landing nearshore species) numbered 2,522 in 2012 (Figure 2). This number of landings was 3.7% greater than the five-year average when excluding the high outlier year of 2009, and 0.8% greater than the average number of landings for all years from 2006 - 2011. Period 3 had the most landings (706) while period 1 had the fewest (137; Table 5). Fishers using hook and line gear made 2,130 landings (84.4%),

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fishers using longline gear made 243 landings (9.6%), trolling fishers made 88 landings (3.5%), and the remaining 62 (2.5%) landings were made by a combination of other gear types.

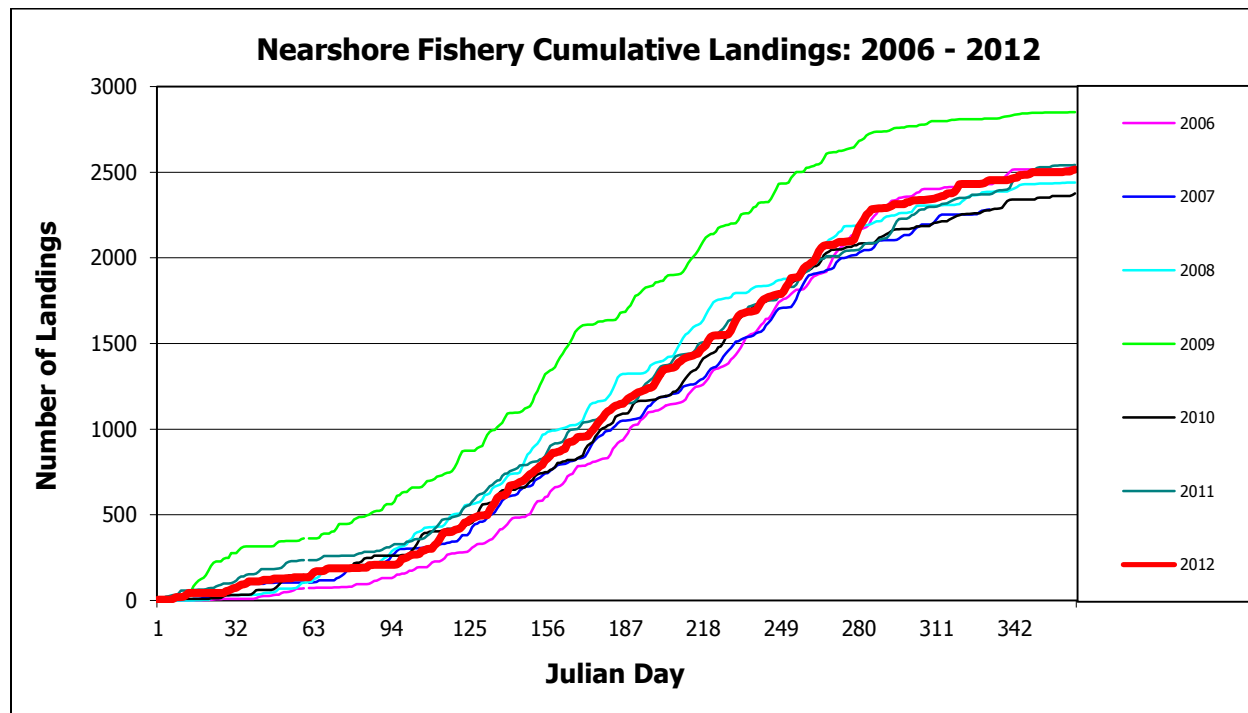


Figure 2. 2012 cumulative landing events (# of trips landing nearshore species) compared to effort from 2006 - 2011.

Table 5. Number of commercial nearshore fishery landing events and poundage landed by bi-monthly period and species complex in 2012. Periods with highest totals are in *italics*.

Period	Duration	Number of Landings	Black & Blue Rockfish	Other Nearshore Rockfish	Greenling	Cabezon
1	Jan.-Feb.	135	4,661	1,610	3,739	5,218
2	Mar.-Apr.	284	22,263	2,529	6,175	8,542
3	May-Jun.	706	73,209	6,519	10,124	19,525
4	Jul.-Aug.	641	61,742	5,906	8,115	14,369
5	Sep.-Oct.	566	50,494	8,140	10,772	13,555
6	Nov.-Dec.	190	15,626	1,853	2,945	2,403
Total		2,522	227,985	26,567	41,870	63,612
% Attainment of landing cap			72.9%	84.3%	81.2%	94.6%

Black and Blue Rockfish Landings

In 2012, black and blue rockfish landings totaled 227,995 lbs. (103.3 mt), constituting 72.9% attainment of the landing cap (Table 5). Total landings were highest in period 3 (73,209 lbs.) and lowest in period 1 (4,661 lbs.). Black rockfish landings alone totaled 214,284 lbs. (97.2 mt), for 70.5% attainment of the black rockfish landing cap. The total poundage of black and blue rockfish landed in 2012 was down 0.6% from 2011. Although the landing cap for this complex has changed multiple times since 2004, landings in 2012 (Figure 3) were down 6.1% from the eight year average of 242,807 lbs. Live markets purchased 62.7% of black and blue rockfish landings, with 37.3% going to the fresh fish market. The total value of black and blue rockfish landed in 2012 was \$507,594, with weighted average values of \$2.60/lb for live fish and \$1.60/lb for fresh fish (Table 6). Prices for live black rockfish ranged from \$1.50/lb to \$6.30/lb, and prices for fresh black rockfish ranged from \$0.50/lb to \$3.25/lb. Prices for live blue rockfish ranged from \$1.50 to \$3.00, and prices for fresh blue rockfish ranged from \$0.50/lb to \$2.35/lb. Vessels delivering to Port Orford landed 101,101 lbs., followed by 45,749 lbs. landed in Gold Beach, and 23,178 lbs. landed by the Garibaldi group (Figure 4). Of the black and blue rockfish landed in the 2012 commercial fishery, 91.8% (209,319 lbs.) were taken with hook and line gear, 7.2% (16,244 lbs.) were taken with longline gear, while the remaining 1.0% (2,422 lbs.) were taken by all other gear types combined (Figure 5).

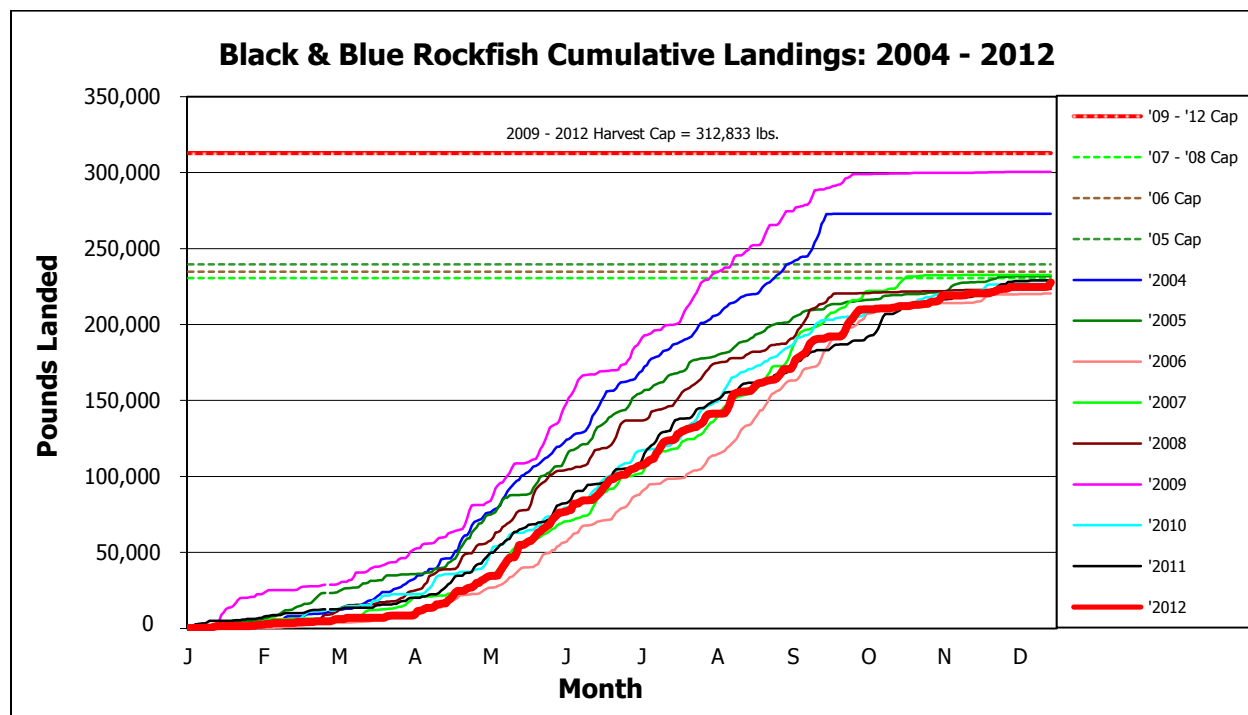


Figure 3. 2012 cumulative black and blue rockfish landings time series compared to landings from 2004 - 2011. Horizontal lines represent annual harvest caps.

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Table 6. Total poundage landed, total value, and average prices of live and fresh landings by species and species complex in 2012.

Species	Live lbs. (Fresh lbs.)	Live Value (Fresh Value)	Avg. Live Price / lb. (Fresh)*
Black & Blue Rockfish	142,966 (85,029)	\$371,767.93 (\$135,842.57)	\$2.60 (\$1.60)
Black	142,500 (71,784)	\$370,797.55 (\$118,489.45)	\$2.60 (\$1.65)
Blue	466 (13,235)	\$989.50 (\$17,317.15)	\$2.29 (\$1.30)
Other Nearshore Rockfish	21,566 (4,991)	\$136,697.64 (\$5,569.86)	\$6.34 (\$1.15)
China	16,345 (2,936)	\$111,491.59 (\$3,268.41)	\$6.82 (\$1.11)
Quillback	2,871 (1,463)	\$14,012.98 (\$1,605.03)	\$4.88 (\$1.10)
Copper	1,983 (531)	\$8,946.71 (\$630.25)	\$4.51 (\$1.19)
Grass	231 (18)	\$1,617.00 (\$27.25)	\$7.00 (\$1.51)
Gopher	86 (11)	\$407.00 (\$13.35)	\$4.73 (\$1.21)
Black & Yellow	19 (5)	\$99.75 (\$6.85)	\$5.25 (\$1.37)
Brown	31 (27)	\$124.25 (\$17.75)	\$4.01 (\$0.65)
Calico	-	-	-
Kelp	-	-	-
Olive	-	-	-
Treefish	-	-	-
Greenling	40,858 (922)	\$191,735.00 (\$849)	\$4.68 (\$0.92)
Cabezon	60,585 (3,027)	\$221,270.00 (\$2,696.00)	\$3.65 (\$0.89)
Total	265,977 (93,957)	\$921,470.57 (\$144,940.93)	\$3.46 (\$1.54)

* - average prices per pound are weighted averages

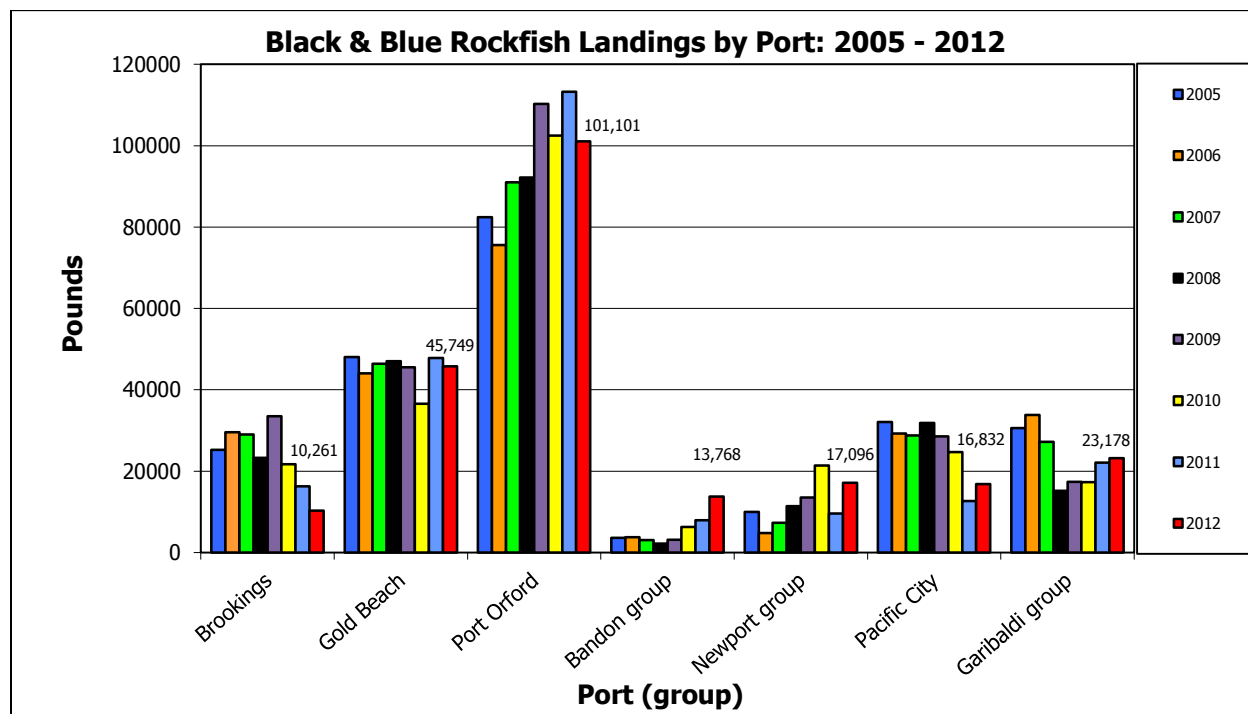


Figure 4. Black and blue rockfish landings by port group; 2004 - 2012. 2012 values are labeled.

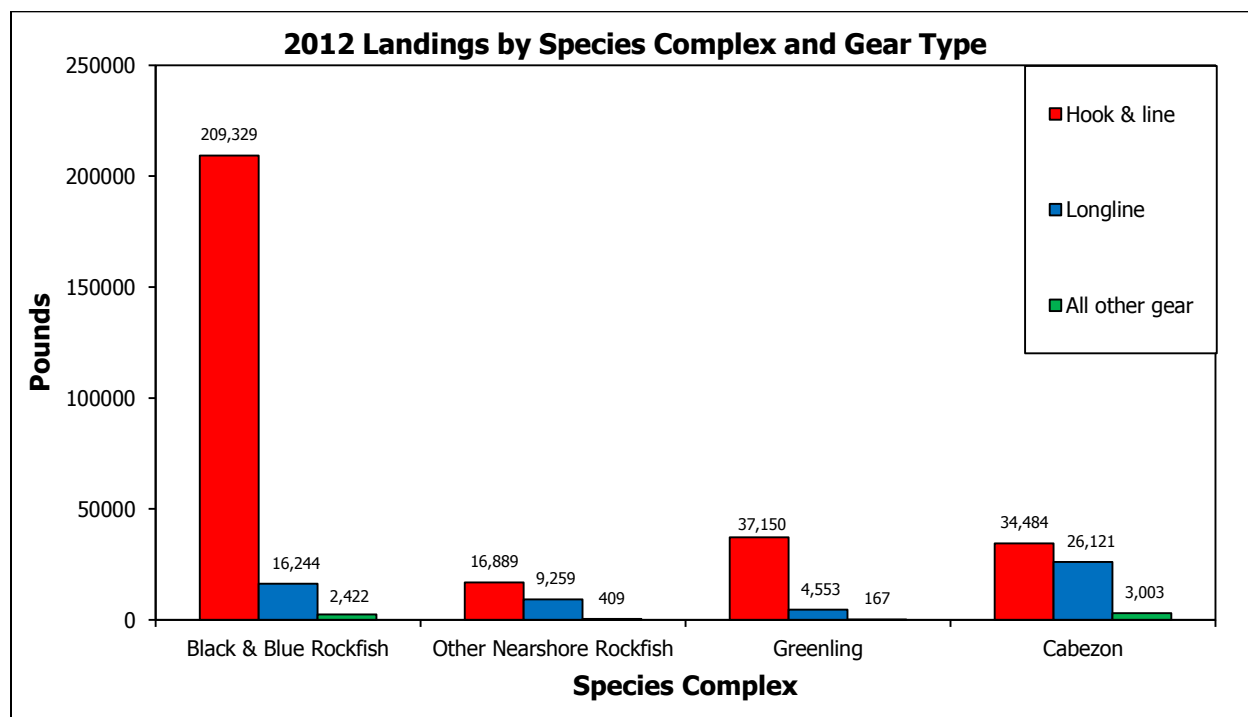


Figure 5. 2012 nearshore commercial fishery landings by species complex and gear type.

Other Nearshore Rockfish Landings

Other nearshore rockfish landings for 2012 totaled 26,557 lbs. (12.0 mt) constituting 84.3% attainment of the landing cap (Table 5). This was the highest annual amount on record, up 5.3% from 2011 total landings (Figure 6) and up 22.0% from the eight year average of 20,707 lbs. Landings were highest in period 5 (8,140 lbs.) and lowest in period 1 (1,610 lbs.; Table 5). China rockfish composed the majority of other nearshore rockfish catch (72.6%) followed by quillback rockfish (16.3%) and copper rockfish (9.5%; Figure 7a). This species composition is similar to the composition of other nearshore rockfish landed from 2008 - 2011 (Figure 7b), the duration for which these species have been individually recorded on fish receiving tickets. Live markets purchased 81.1% of other nearshore rockfish landings, with 18.9% going to the fresh fish market. The total value of the other nearshore rockfish landed in 2012 was \$142,284 with weighted average values of \$6.34/lb for live fish and \$1.15/lb for fresh fish (Table 6). Prices for live other nearshore rockfish ranged from \$3.25/lb to \$10.00/lb, and prices for fresh fish ranged from \$0.32/lb to \$3.00/lb. Species specific landings, landing values, and average prices are detailed in Table 6. Vessels delivering to Port Orford landed 20,596 lbs. of other nearshore rockfish, followed by 2,855 lbs. and 1,673 lbs. landed in Gold Beach and by the Bandon group, respectively (Figure 8). Of the other nearshore rockfish landed, 63.6% (16,899 lbs.) were taken with hook and line gear, 34.9% (9,259 lbs.) were taken with longline gear, while the remaining 1.5% (409 lbs.) were taken by all other gear types combined (Figure 5).

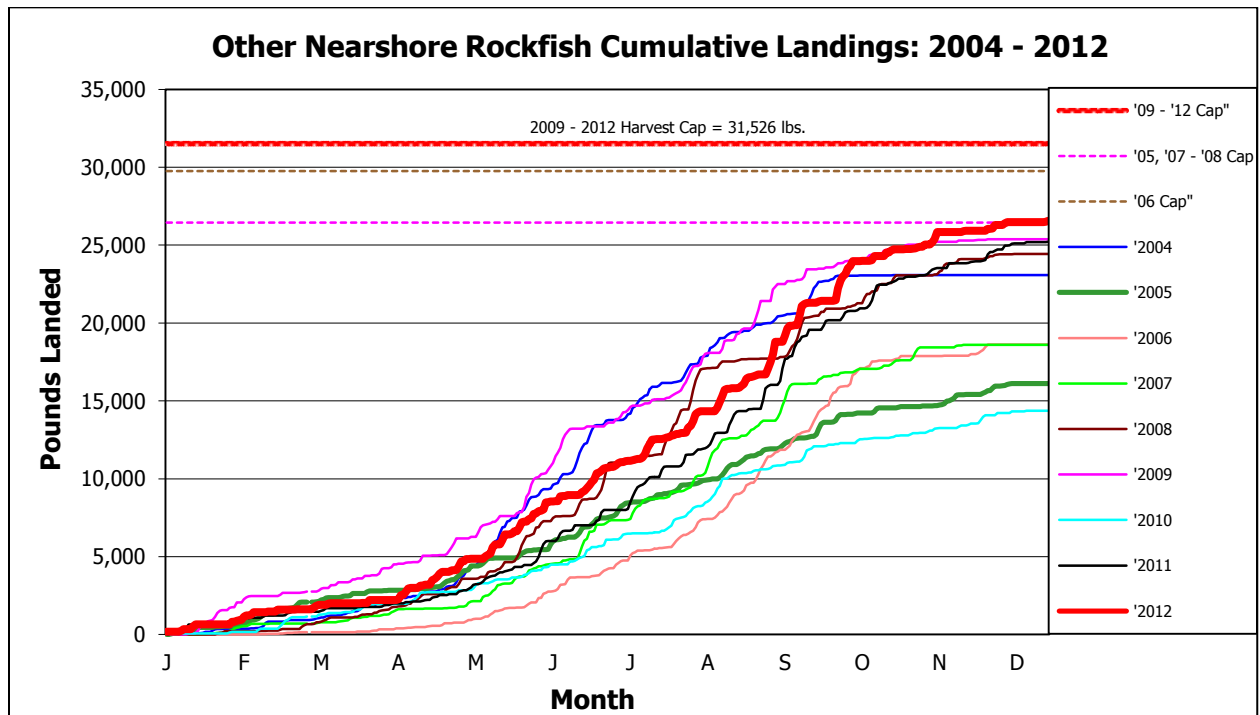
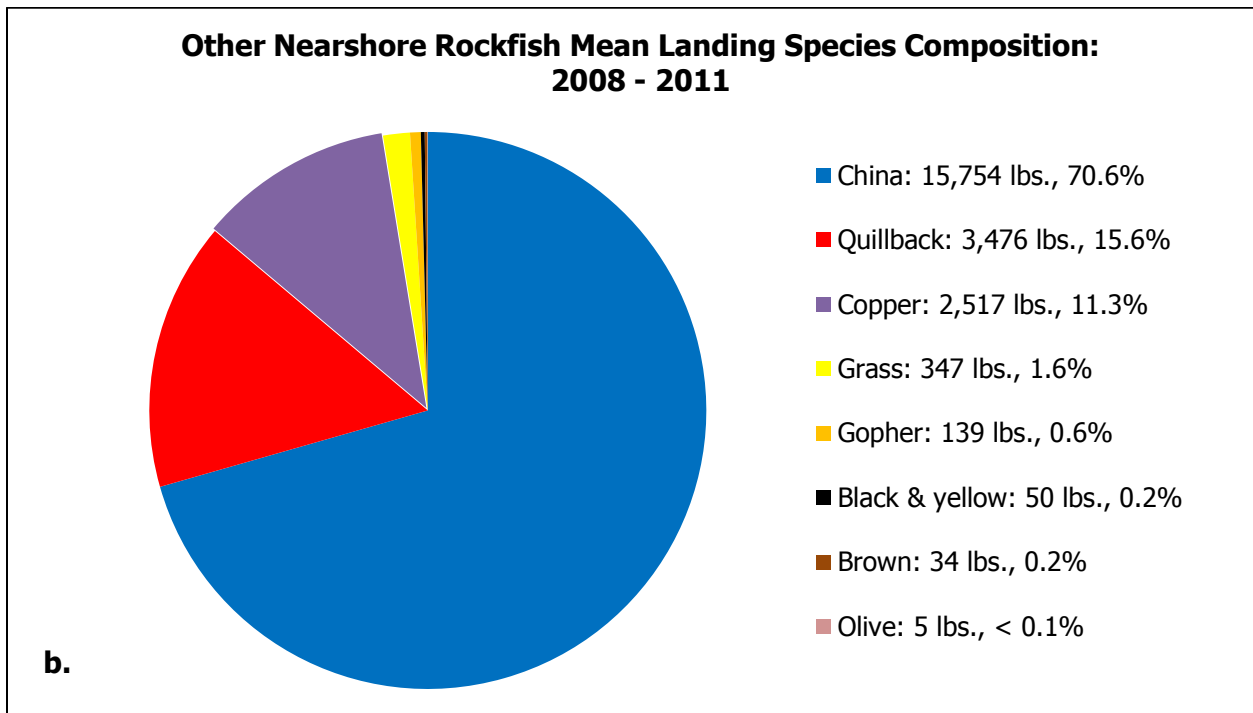
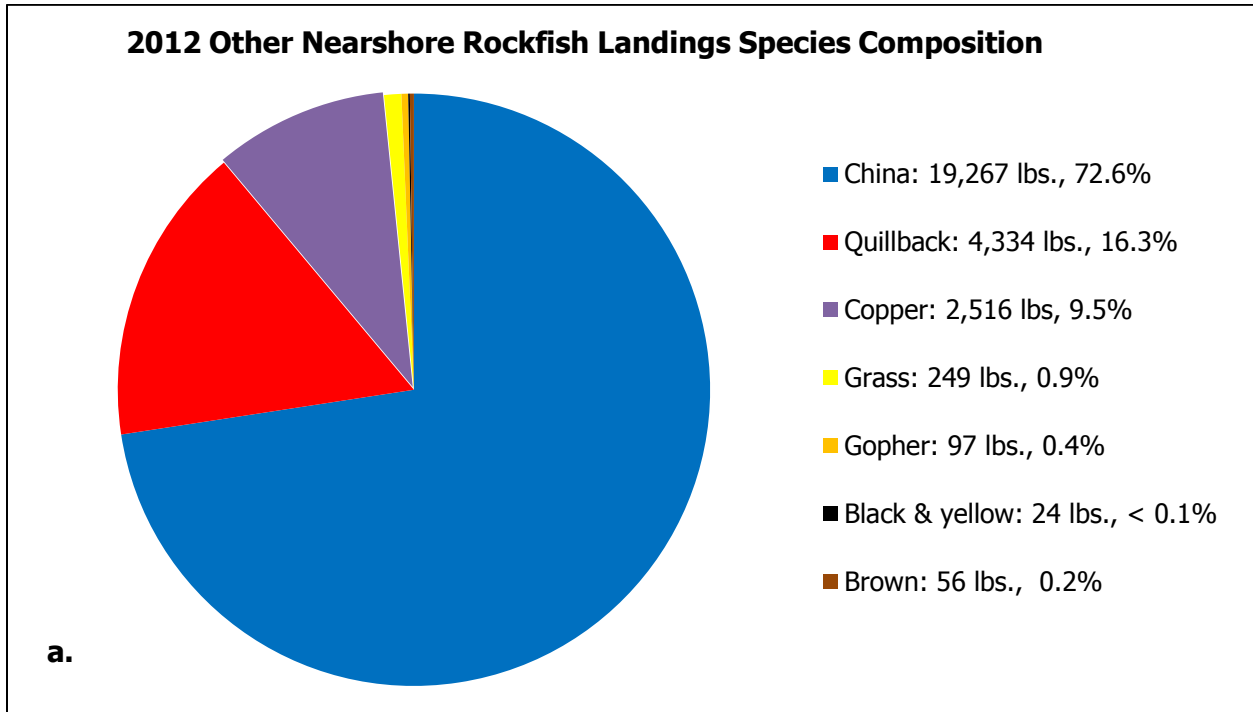


Figure 6. 2012 cumulative other nearshore rockfish landings time series compared to landings from 2004 - 2011. Horizontal lines represent annual harvest caps.



Figures 7a & b. 2012 species composition of rockfish landed from the “other nearshore” complex (top) compared to the mean annual species composition of fish landed from 2008 - 2011 (bottom).

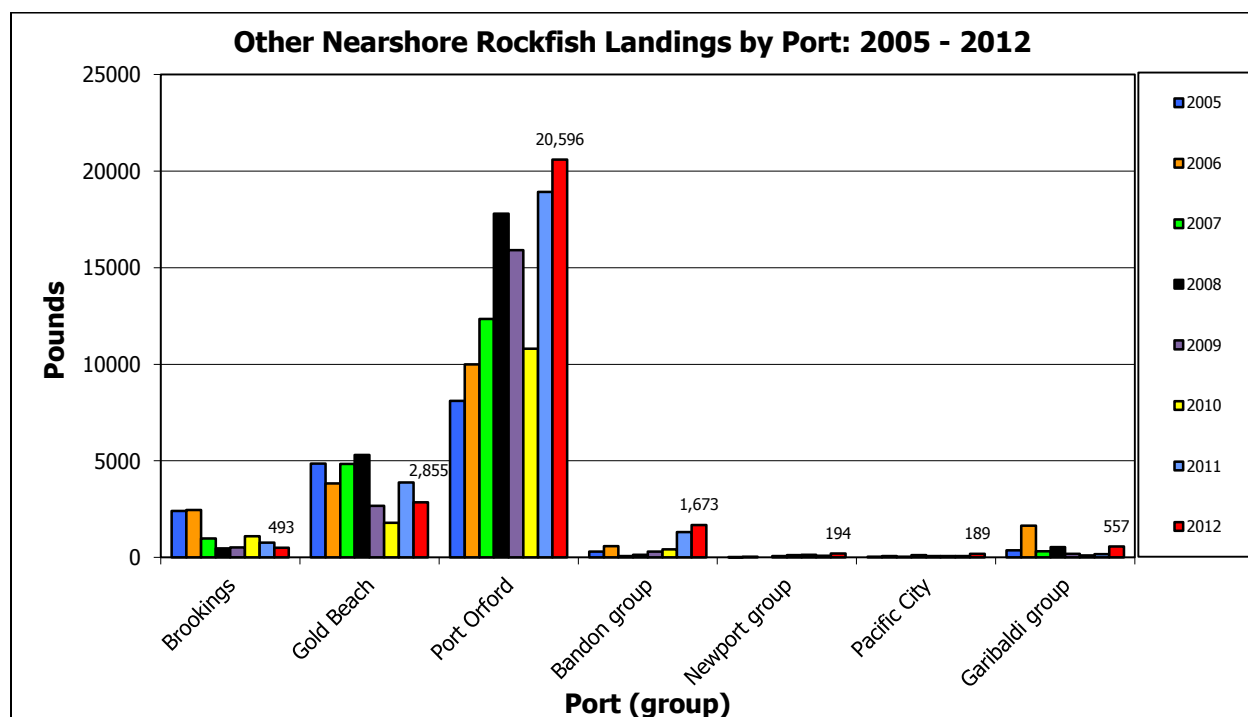


Figure 8. Other nearshore rockfish landings by port group; 2004 - 2012. 2012 values are labeled.

Greenling Landings

Greenling landings for 2012 totaled 41,870 lbs. (19.0 mt) constituting 81.2% attainment of the landing cap (Table 5). The total poundage of greenling landed in 2012 (Figure 9) was up 0.1% from the 2011 total of 41,854 lbs., and down 4.5% from the eight year average of 43,750 lbs. Total landings were highest in period 5 (10,772 lbs.) and lowest in period 6 (2,945 lbs.; Table 5). Live markets purchased 97.6% of the greenling landed in 2012. The total value of greenling landed this past year was \$192,584 for weighted average values of \$4.68/lb for live fish and \$0.92/lb for fresh fish (Table 6). Prices for live greenling ranged from \$1.50/lb to \$5.75/lb, and prices for fresh greenling ranged from \$0.40/lb to \$3.50/lb. Vessels delivering to Port Orford landed 26,433 lbs. of greenling, followed by 10,950 lbs. and 2,498 lbs. landed in Gold Beach and Brookings, respectively (Figure 10). Of the greenling landed in 2012, 88.7% (37,150 lbs.) were taken with hook and line gear, 10.9% (4,553 lbs.) were taken with longline gear, while the remaining 0.4% (167 lbs.) were taken by all other gear types combined (Figure 5).

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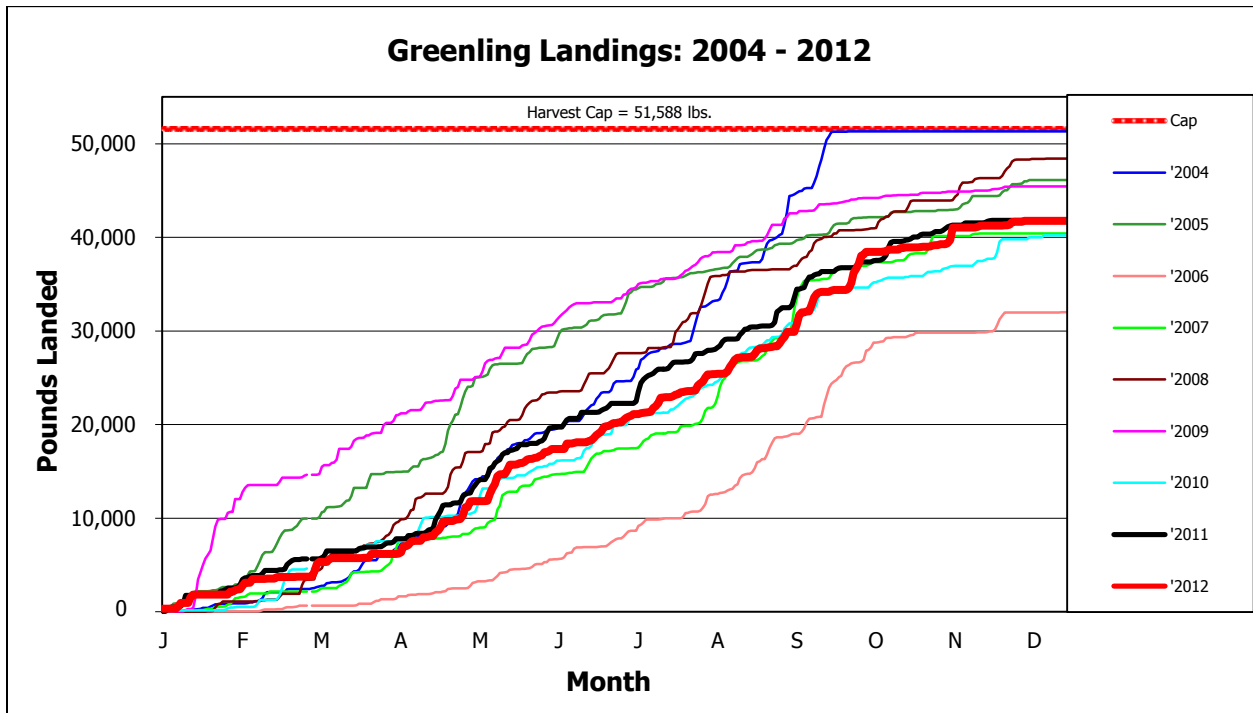


Figure 9. 2012 cumulative greenlings landings time series compared to landings from 2004 - 2011. Horizontal lines represent annual harvest caps.

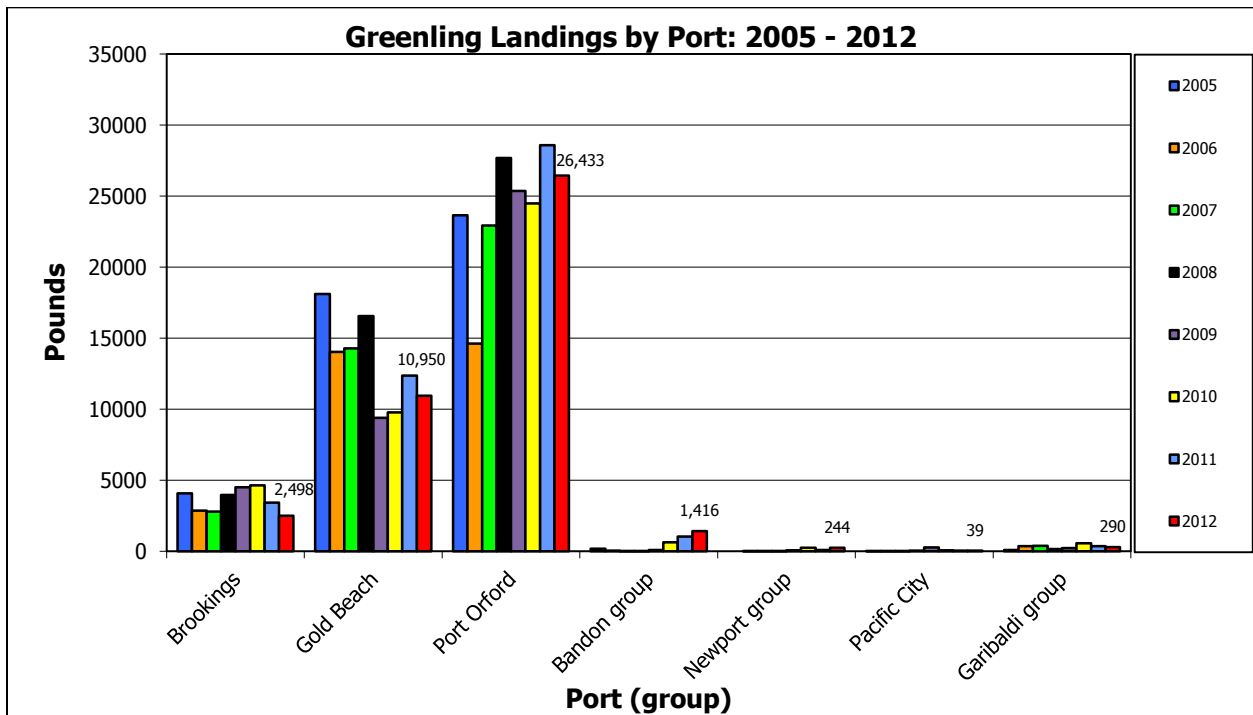


Figure 10. Greenling landings by port group; 2004 - 2012. 2012 values are labeled.

Cabezon Landings

Cabezon landings for 2012 totaled 63,612 lbs. (28.9 mt) constituting 94.6% attainment of the landing cap (Table 5). The total poundage of cabezon landed in 2012 (Figure 11) was down 2.2% from the 2011 total of 65,013 lbs., but up 10.7% from the eight year average of 57,449 lbs. Total landings were highest in period 3 (19,525 lbs.) and lowest in period 6 (2,403 lbs.; Table 5). Live markets purchased 95.2% of the cabezon landings. The total value of cabezon landed this past year was \$223,966, with weighted average values of \$3.65/lb for live fish and \$0.89 for fresh fish (Table 6). Prices for live cabezon ranged from \$1.50/lb to \$6.75/lb, and prices for fresh cabezon ranged from \$0.40/lb to \$4.50/lb. Vessels delivering to Port Orford landed 47,243 lbs. of cabezon, followed by 5,624 lbs. and 3,961 lbs. landed in Gold Beach and Brookings, respectively (Figure 8). Of the cabezon landed in 2012, 54.2% (34,484 lbs) were taken with hook and line gear, 41.1% (26,121 lbs.) were taken with longline gear, while the remaining 4.7% (3,003) were taken by all other gear types combined (Figure 5).

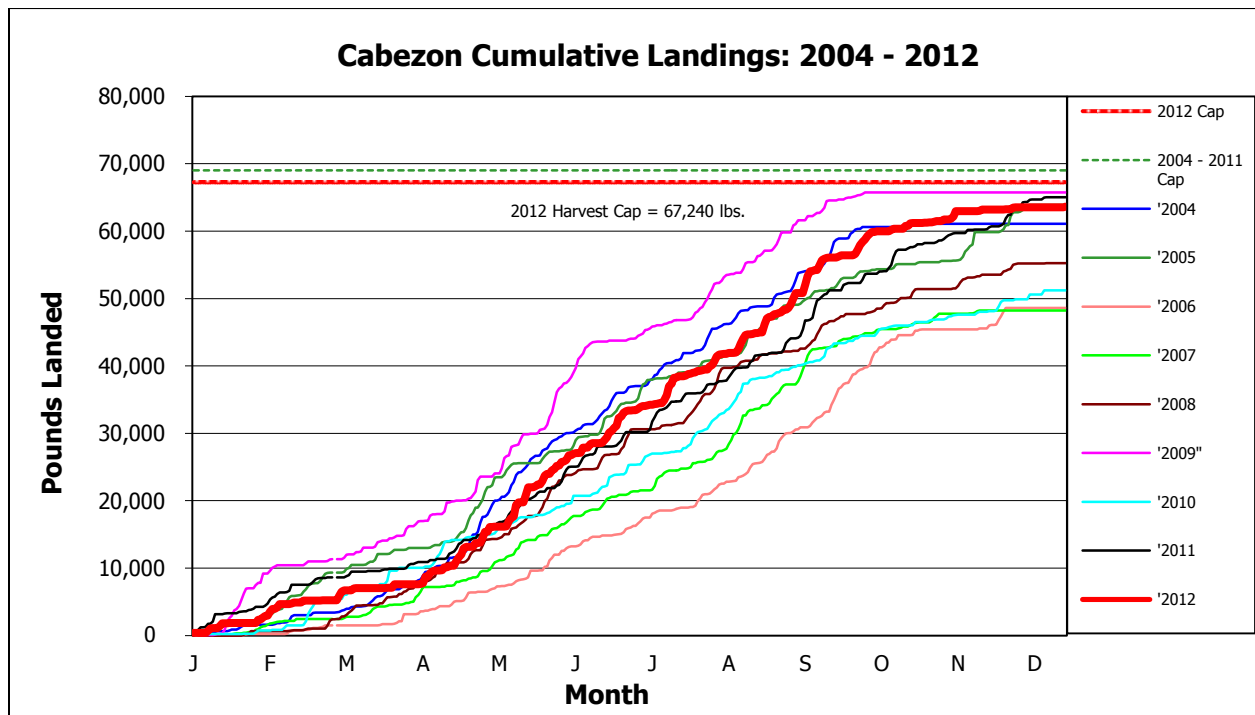


Figure 11. 2012 cumulative cabezon landings time series compared to landings from 2004 - 2011. Horizontal lines represent annual harvest caps.

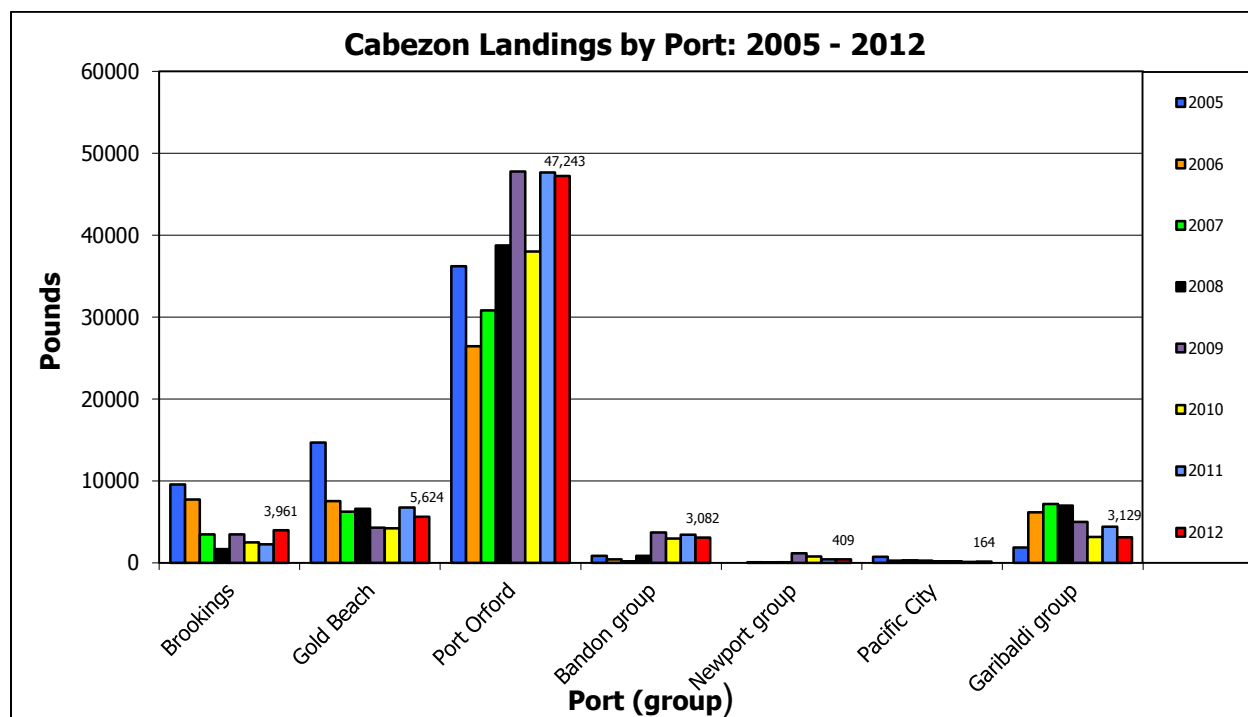


Figure 12. Cabezon landings by port group; 2004 - 2012. 2012 values are labeled.

Nearshore Logbook Compliance

Participants in the commercial nearshore fishery, along with those who fish in the open access lingcod fishery, are required to maintain a logbook record of fishing activities for each fishing trip (Oregon Revised Statute 508.953, Oregon Administrative Rule 635-004-0290). Logbooks contain fisher's estimated weights (hails) of both landed fish and released fish. Fishers also record a nearshore grid block(s) that indicates where they fished during the trip. Each grid block is approximately 0.7 square nautical miles. The detailed and spatially-explicit nature of logbook data is utilized both in the management of the fishery and to answer other related questions of interest. Compliance with logbook submission requirements for 2012 was tracked by the ODFW. In early 2013, letters were sent to all permit holders that detailed any logbooks that had not been received. Many permit holders subsequently submitted missing logbooks. For the purposes of this report the compliance rates in 2012 are summarized by port or port group after the late logbooks were received, and this summary includes open access trips that landed lingcod (Table 7). Statewide, nearshore fishers submitted logbooks for 95% of their 2012 fishing trips with recorded landings. The ports of Brookings and Gold Beach shared the highest compliance rate (97%) while the Bandon group had the lowest compliance rate (84%).

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Table 7. Summary of 2012 nearshore landings (including lingcod) by port indicating logbook compliance rates.

Port	Number of Landings	Landings Without	Compliance (%)
Brookings	147	4	97
Gold Beach	471	12	97
Port Orford	1,189	58	95
Bandon group	154	25	84
Newport group	206	20	90
Pacific City	200	12	94
Garibaldi group	191	9	95
Total	2,558	140	95

2013 Fishery Management

All landing caps for the 2013 season will remain at 2012 levels with the exception of the cabezon landing cap which has been lowered by 0.5 mt to 30.0 mt as a result of the lower 2013 federal annual catch limit for this species (Table 1).

Bi-monthly limits for black and blue rockfish for all periods in 2013 were raised from the initial 2012 levels due to the low attainment (72.6%) of 2012. Additionally, greenling bi-monthly limits were raised from 250 lbs. per period to 300 lbs. per period. These increases were intended to provide greater opportunity for resource users to harvest these species complexes at levels closer to the landing caps to maximize the socio-economic benefits of this fishery.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Troy Buell for review of an earlier version of this document and thoughtful suggestions for improvement. Ted Calavan provided weekly updates on catch of nearshore species that form the basis for many of the graphs of catch data in this report. Nadine Hurtado ensured all fish ticket data were accurate and up-to-date. Port biologists and samplers spent long hours in the field collecting species composition samples and logbook pages. A final thank you goes out to all the commercial fishermen for their efforts in the nearshore fishery.