



Joining the California Groundfish Collective

Interested in joining the collaborative group of fishermen who have come together to improve their catch, benefit their community, and protect ocean health? Here's what you need to know:

What is the CGC?

The California Groundfish Collective (CGC) is an agreement between fishing organizations that partner with The Nature Conservancy to address challenges in the Pacific Coast groundfish Individual Fishing Quota fishery. The goal of the CGC is to maximize economic and conservation opportunities and retain local access to fish.

The CGC operates a mutual insurance pool, called a risk pool, that creates a reserve of quota for overfished species. The objective is to ensure fishermen have access to overfished species quota, while actively managing risk and fishing activity to meet conservation objectives like reducing catch of overfished species and protecting important habitat.

Each year the CGC is formed by an annual agreement in which fishermen members agree to pool their overfished species quota pound allocations, create and enforce regional risk-based fishing plans, and collect and share catch information to adapt fishing plans. In return, members are covered for catches of overfished species. The annual agreement and fishing plans are approved and enforced by the CGC Advisory Committee, which meets approximately twice a month and is made up of representatives from each fishing association.

Benefits of joining the CGC

- CGC provides collective voice and takes active role in informing the management of the fishery
- Use of "Green/Best Choice" sustainability rankings for CGC seafood from the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch Program
- Receive immediate quota coverage for catches of overfished species that comply with fishing plans
- Access to simplified quota leasing through CGC network
- Easily track, share and view spatial catch information
- Access to business and marketing toolkits, including CGC brand, and information on regulations, licenses, permits, and more
- Access to exempted fishing permit studies and collaborative fisheries research projects



What is required to join and participate in the CGC?

- Fishers must have access to a limited entry trawl permit and operate in the shoreside Pacific Coast groundfish Individual Fishing Quota fishery
- Fishers must assist in developing the terms of the annual agreement and regional fishing plans and comply with all requirements
- Fishers must agree to collect and share certain catch data and may be required to use an electronic logbook application

How to Apply

For fishers interested in joining the CGC, please submit a statement of interest to Michelle Norvell at mnorvell@mcn.org

The statement of interest can be brief, but should include the following information:

- Name of applicant, or primary point of contact
- Contact information for applicant
- Name of permit holder, if different from the applicant
- Name of vessel
- Home port of vessel
- Primary gear type used

For Associations interested in joining the CGC, please include the following additional information:

- Name of Association, address, lead contact information (name, phone, email), President of Association, date of formation, mission, number of vessels active and vessel name(s)
- Whether the association formed under the Fish Marketing Act of California
- Fishing gear deployed by members
- Number of First Receivers in the Association
- Additional fisheries targeted by members
- Strategies used to communicate with members



For more information please contact • Kate Kauer: kate.kauer@tnc.org • Michelle Norvell: mnorvell@mcn.org •

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Or visit www.cagroundfish.org

