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California Fish and Game Commission Schedules Emergency Teleconference Call

The California Fish and Game Commission has scheduled an emergency teleconference call for 2 p.m. , Tuesday, Nov.18 to consider conforming California's 2003 sport fishing regulations with the recently amended federal recreational groundfish rules scheduled to take effect on Nov. 21, 2003.

The Commission will also consider closing the recreational fishery for ocean whitefish through the end of the year. This action is needed to help avoid the incidental take and discard (dead) of over-fished rockfish species should anglers attempt to specifically target ocean whitefish during the rockfish closures.

Tuesday's teleconference call will originate from the 13th Floor Conference Room, Room 1320, in the Resources Building, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento. Commission President Michael Flores will be at the Sacramento location. Commissioners Mike Chrisman, Sam Schuchat, Jim Kellogg and Bob Hattoy will be at their respective offices.

The statewide federal closures were adopted on Nov. 5 by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). The PFMC's actions prohibit recreational and commercial fishing for groundfish in most waters off of California's coastline. For detailed information on the PFMC's actions, log on the www.pcouncil.org. A Department of Fish and Game news release can be found at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/news/news03/03107.html>.