

What regulations exist in the lobster fishery?

*Seasonal closures from March-October. Size limit to no less than 3.25 inch carapace length. Recreational lobster fishermen can only use their hands to capture lobsters and are allowed to capture 7 lobsters/person until the caught lobsters are consumed or given away. All traps must have “escape ports”. The number of lobster fishing boats is limited.*

Interesting Side Note that I found on lobsters and MPAs

How MPAs May Help:

Reserves could protect the shallow surf grass beds that are the required nursery areas for juvenile lobster. Trophy-size lobster of both sexes, which are also the most fecund, are becoming scarce, and a network of reserves would protect these individuals and allow them to reproduce. The absence of these large adults also has ecosystem effects, as they are predators on species like mussels and urchins. Lobster have extremely long and complex larval stages. It is thought, based on plankton surveys and ocean currents, that most of the lobster settling in California are produced in Mexico. Thus it is unclear whether lobster within MPAs in California would add to the population outside MPAs.

Which of these fish species are becoming more abundant? Which species are declining?  
*Some fish species, including rockfish, lingcod, and California sheephead, are seriously depleted. While these fish are less abundant and smaller than they were 10 years ago, thanks to more careful monitoring they are very slowly rebuilding their populations. On the other hand, fish such as yellowtail, white seabass, and albacore seem more abundant now than in previous years.*

From: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/condition/cinms/state.html>

By these definitions and NOAA Fisheries research, none of the federally managed fisheries in the area of the sanctuary are subject to overfishing, and only four Pacific groundfish species remain in an overfished status. These four remaining overfished species – cowcod, bocaccio, dark-blotched rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish – are all covered by rebuilding plans and are making progress at meeting their rebuilding targets (NOAA Fisheries 2008).