RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HALIBUT ALL-DEPTH FISHERY

1. a. Sixty-five percent of all-depth allocation be set aside for the May fishery for those vessels that hold International Pacific Halibut Commission licenses.

b. Thirty-five percent be set aside for private boat owners who do not have IPHC licenses. This fishery to be in August when the weather is much more favorable for smaller vessels. IPHC license holders will not be allowed to fish in the August all-depth fishery.

c. Keep the 30 fathom curve fishery open all summer long, as it now exists.

2. Make halibut allocation a port allocation and not a geographic division of ocean waters. IPHC does not require geographic divisions for area 2-A. If your port is open for landing halibut, then you should be able to fish anywhere in 2-A and land your fish in your home port, if it is open, the same as commercial fishing regulations.

3. Inconsistencies in regulations between halibut and salmon landing regulations at present: You can fish in an area that’s open for coho and land these fish in an area that’s closed, i.e., Garibaldi and Tillamook fishes in the Columbia area and land coho in their closed area for coho. At present, this is legal. But, if Tillamook is open for halibut and the Columbia River area port is closed, you cannot fish in the Tillamook area and land your halibut in the Columbia. Make it one way or the other!

4. Columbia River Halibut Allocation: In 2001, Oregon contributed 43% of the poundage and Washington 57%. Total allocation: 10,487 pounds. Washington anglers harvested 89% of the catch and closed the area June 14. Contributions by Oregon need to be landed in Oregon. Anglers, this year,
were only able to harvest a mere 11% by June 14. This allocation was originally for incidental catch intended to last most of the summer. Ilwaco Charter Association championed this scenario and Oregon concurred. Now, Ilwaco anglers target the halibut and have taken 89% of the allocation.

I strongly recommend Oregon’s contribution has to be landed in Oregon.