

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE RECREATIONAL CATCH SHARING PLAN
AND ANNUAL REGULATIONS FOR 2003

Situation: Under its standard process, the Council solicits proposed changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan at its September meeting, and adopts any changes in November after reviewing public and agency comments. Generally, changes are limited to adjustments in the annual regulations and minor modifications to the Catch Sharing Plan.

For the 2003 season, the Council is considering minor changes to the management of the recreational fisheries in the Washington Coast, Columbia River, and Oregon Central Coast subareas, and the commercial sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington. Attachment 1 is a copy of the 2002 Catch Sharing Plan. The proposed changes resulted from recommendations provided by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife after holding public meetings and from Council discussion and public testimony received at the September 2002 Council Meeting. The Council solicited public input on the changes in the Council Newsletter Article released October, 2002 (Attachment 2). The National Marine Fisheries Service has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed changes to the Catch Sharing Plan to provide the Council with additional information on the likely effects or the proposals (Supplemental Attachment 3).

Based on the input received since the September Council meeting, the states will present their final proposals for regulatory changes in the halibut fishery at this meeting.

A brief summary of 2002 Area 2A halibut fisheries to date will be provided.

Council Action:

1. **Within the scope of the September proposals (Attachment 2), the EA (Supplemental Attachment 3), and public input; adopt Council recommendations for implementation of proposed changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for 2003.**

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit E.1, Attachment 1, *2002 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.*
2. Exhibit E.1, Attachment 2, *Council Newsletter Article on Proposed changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan.*
3. Exhibit E.1, Supplemental Attachment 3, *Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Impact Review of Changes to the Catch Sharing Plan for Pacific Halibut in Area 2A.*

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Fishery Report for 2002
- c. State Proposals
- d. Tribal Proposal and Comments
- e. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- f. Public Comment
- g. **Council Action:** Adopt Proposed Regulation Changes for 2003

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