

**STATUS OF 2005 COUNCIL MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
PACIFIC HALIBUT**

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) held its annual meeting January 18-21, 2005, in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. At that meeting, the IPHC set an Area 2A (waters off Washington, Oregon, and California) total allowable catch (TAC) of 1,330,000 pounds, a 10% decrease over the 2004 Area 2A TAC.

Area 2A TAC Comparison, 2004 & 2005 (in pounds)		
	2004	2005
Treaty Indian	543,000	490,500
Commercial	523,600	452,500
Ceremonial & Subsistence	19,400	38,000
Non-Indian	937,000	839,500
Commercial	367,029	336,122
Directed	252,475	226,203
Salmon Troll Incidental	44,554	39,918
Sablefish Incidental	70,000	70,000
Recreational	569,971	503,379
WA Sport	272,942	237,257
OR/CA Sport	297,029	266,122
WA Inside Waters	76,220	64,800
WA North Coast	126,857	115,437
WA South Coast	61,565	50,146
Columbia River	14,241	13,747
OR Central, Inside 40 fm	22,574	20,101
OR Central (Spring)	194,703	173,372
OR Central (Summer)	64,901	57,791
South of Humbug Mt.	8,911	7,984
TOTAL	1,480,000	1,330,000

In November 2004, the Council had recommended:

1. For the Oregon Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. all-depth recreational spring fishery (May through July), add Thursdays to all openings and for the summer fishery (August to October), add Sundays to all openings.
2. For the Oregon Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. all depth recreational summer fishery, additional fishery openings will be scheduled when necessary to provide more angler opportunity to harvest the entire season subarea quota.
3. In setting the recreational quota for the Leadbetter Point, Washington to Cape Falcon, Oregon, subarea , the State of Oregon will match the pounds allocated to this area by the State of Washington to determine the total quota.

4. For all recreational subareas south of Leadbetter Point, Washington, eliminate the minimum length requirement.
5. For all-depth recreational fisheries south of Leadbetter Point, Washington, prohibit retention of groundfish except sablefish (when allowed by groundfish regulations) while fishing for halibut.
6. Adopt a “yelloweye rockfish conservation” five-sided closure area located on Stonewall Bank to be closed to recreational halibut fishing, and defined by the following coordinates in the order listed:
 - 1) 44° 37.46 N. latitude; 124° 24.92 W. longitude;
 - 2) 44° 37.46 N. latitude; 124° 23.63 W. longitude;
 - 3) 44° 28.71 N. latitude; 124° 21.80 W. longitude;
 - 4) 44° 28.71 N. latitude; 124° 24.10 W. longitude;
 - 5) 44° 31.42 N. latitude; 124° 25.47 W. longitude;
 - 6) and connecting back to 44° 37.46 N latitude; 124° 24.92 W longitude
7. For the Oregon Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. Recreational subarea, add language that allows quota projected to be unused to be transferred to the Columbia River subarea;
8. For the Washington south coast recreational subarea, add language allowing remaining quota to be used to accommodate incidental catch in the northern nearshore fishery.

On February 7, 2005 (70 FR 6395,) NMFS published a proposed rule to implement the 2005 TAC and the Council’s recommended changes to the Catch Sharing Plan, and to solicit public comment on two options proposed for implementing number 5 (above) in the Columbia River subarea. Regarding number 5 (above), the Council will make a further recommendation on how to implement the proposal in the Columbia River subarea at its March meeting (See Agenda Item D.1, March 2005). NMFS expects that rule to be finalized in early April, prior to the start of the Area 2A recreational fisheries.

PFMC
02/17/05