PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CATCH SHARING PLAN AND ANNUAL REGULATIONS

Under its standard process, the Council solicits proposed changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) 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 CSP. Attachment 1 is a copy of the 2006 CSP.

For the 2007 season, the Council is considering changes to the management of recreational fisheries in Washington, as well as closed areas for commercial and recreational fisheries to protect depressed yelloweye rockfish. The proposed changes resulted from recommendations provided by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), after holding public meetings, and from Council discussion and public testimony received at the September 2006 Council meeting.

The Council solicited public input on the changes on its website and in the Council News Brief article from October 2006 (Attachment 2). Public hearings were also held by WDFW to solicit input, which are summarized in Agenda Item G.1.b, WDFW Report.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has also proposed some housekeeping changes in the CSP addressing: 1) closed area and subarea coordinates and definitions; 2) outdated terminology for incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery and directed halibut fishery, and; 3) possession limits in the California recreational fishery (Agenda Item G.1.b, NMFS Report).

Based on the input received since the September 2006 Council meeting, the states, NMFS, and tribes will present their final proposals for regulatory changes in the halibut fishery at this meeting.

**Council Action:**

Within the scope of the September 2006 proposals (Attachment 2) and public input; adopt Council recommendations for implementing proposed changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for 2007.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 1: 2006 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
4. Agenda Item G.1.b, NMFS Report: NMFS proposed technical changes to the 2007 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
5. Agenda Item G.1.d, Public comment.
**Agenda Order:**

a. Agenda Item Overview
b. Agency and Tribal Recommendations and Comments
c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
d. Public Comment
e. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Proposed Changes for 2007

PFMC
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