



Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers Inc.

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FEIN #61-1575751

May 26, 2016

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Dorothy Lowman, Chair
7700NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

RE: Pacific Halibut Catch Share Plan (CSP) Scoping for 2017

Dear Chair Lowman and Council Members:

The Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers, Inc. (HASA) appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the Scoping of Pacific Halibut Catch Share Plan (CSP) Allocation Changes (Agenda Item E1). HASA has over 300 members, and continues to support important science and economic studies to better inform Pacific halibut management in California. The Pacific halibut fishery off of the Northern California coast is an increasingly important component of our overall fishery resource. As we have endured three years of drought in California, the corresponding reduction in salmon fishing opportunities has increased the importance of the Pacific halibut fishery to our members and our local economy.

Based on the recent IPHC surveys in California, it is clear that California's contribution of Pacific halibut production to the Total Constant Exploitable Yield is greater than previously thought. Accordingly, the IPHC has recognized this contribution, and has increased Area 2A allocation in 2016 by 170,000 pounds, which has benefitted anglers in California, Oregon, and Washington in 2016. In addition, California continues to implement (and HASA supports) rigorous in-season harvest management to ensure that California harvest stays within our CSP allocation each year.

We support PFMC scoping of the CSP allocation, and respectfully request that the PFMC consider CSP alternatives that have California allocations in future years that are commensurate with the improved estimates of California's contribution of Area 2A Total Constant Exploitable Yield. We request that the PFMC approves scoping of the CSP allocation, and consider CSP allocation alternatives that have California allocations that range from 6% to 12% of Area 2A allocation. HASA acknowledges and appreciates the efforts that the PFMC and GAP, commercial fishermen, and the states of Oregon and Washington that have helped the transition towards a more fair and equitable distribution of the CSP over the past few years. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public input on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Scott McBain,
President, Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers, Inc.