

FINAL ANNUAL REGULATION AND 2A CATCH SHARING PLAN CHANGES

As described in Council Operating Procedure 9, the Council solicits proposed changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A (CSP) (Agenda Item E.1, Attachments 1 and 2) and annual fishery regulations at its September meeting. At the November meeting, the Council is scheduled to take final action, after reviewing public and agency comments.

At the September 2017 meeting, the Council adopted for public review proposed changes to the Washington and Oregon recreational fisheries. No changes were proposed for California recreational fisheries.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposed four changes for public review:

1. Retain the current statewide season structure (i.e. manage the North Coast, South Coast and Puget Sound subareas under a common season) with either:
 - a) Status quo management where each subarea has its own quota and is managed to remain within that individual quota, or
 - b) Shared quota management, where the three sub-areas would be managed under a shared quota to provide for a minimum of four days of a statewide season and then the balance of the shared quota would be distributed to the subareas as usual.
2. Revise the catch sharing calculations for incidental halibut retention in the sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis so that when the Area 2A total allowable catch is less than 1.5 million pounds, the status quo formula would apply for up to a maximum allocation of 50,000 lbs. When the Area 2A total allowable catch allocation is 1.5 million pounds or more, the maximum allocation would increase to 70,000 lbs.
3. Analyze alternatives for annual bag limits ranging from two to six fish per angler.
4. For the Columbia River subarea - change the days open for the all-depth fishery from Thursday through Sunday (4 days) to Thursday, Friday, and Sunday (3 days).

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) proposed one change for public review:

Manage the current Central Oregon Coast Subarea (Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain) with either:

- Status quo management: Central Oregon Coast Subarea remains a single unit, or
- Split the Central Coast Subarea into a north and south subarea, creating two new subareas that would be allocated and managed separately. The north/south split would be at the North Florence Jetty (44° 01' 08" N lat.). Three Alternatives were described that would share the allocation between north and south:
 - a. 91 percent north, 9 percent south
 - b. 92 percent north, 8 percent south
 - c. 90.2 percent north, 9.8 percent south

Although no changes to the non-tribal commercial directed halibut fishery were proposed at the September Council meeting, the Council did ask the States and the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) to continue investigating options that would move the fishery away from a derby-style fishery. The Council will review analysis and alternatives brought forward at the November meeting, but is not anticipating changes for the 2018 fishery. Council staff has also provided a report, as assigned, to illustrate the three levels of potential Council involvement in the

management of the non-tribal directed commercial halibut fishery. This scoping exercise also attempts to briefly describe how other management factors may change with each level, and where potential fishery structures may fall relative to the three levels (Agenda Item E.1. Attachment 3). The report contains hypothetical scenarios and is intended for scoping purposes only.

IPHC has not prepared a report for this agenda item, but will have staff in attendance who are available to discuss Pacific halibut topics as needed. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has provided information on catch-to-date of Pacific halibut in 2017 (Agenda Item E.1.a, NMFS Report 1). WDFW and ODFW solicited public input on the proposed changes and subsequently prepared agency recommendations for Council consideration (Agenda Item E.1.a, WDFW Report 1 and Agenda Item E.1.a, ODFW Report 1).

The Council should consider the available information, as well as any advisory body and public comment, and adopt the final 2018 CSP and annual fishery regulations. Regarding the non-tribal commercial directed halibut fishery, and consideration to transition away from the current structure of this fishery, the Council should request any additional analysis and stakeholder input be conducted within a reasonable time frame to help advance the issue.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt final changes to the 2018 Pacific halibut CSP, as necessary.**
- 2. Adopt final changes to the 2018 annual fishery regulations, as necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.1, Attachment 1: 2017 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
2. Agenda Item E.1, Attachment 2: Visual Representation of the 2017 Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan for Pacific Halibut.
3. Agenda Item E.1, Attachment 3: Non-Indian Directed Pacific Halibut Fishery Management-Scoping Exercise.
4. Agenda Item E.1.a, NMFS Report 1: Report on the 2017 Pacific Halibut Fisheries in Area 2A.
5. Agenda Item E.1.a, WDFW Report 1: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the Catch Sharing Plan and 2018 Annual Regulations.
6. Agenda Item E.1.a, ODFW Report 1: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for the 2018 Fishery.
7. Agenda Item E.1.b, Public Comment 1.

Agenda Order:

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| E.1 | Final Annual Regulation and 2A Catch Sharing Plan Changes | Robin Ehlke |
| a. | Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| b. | Public Comment | |
| c. | Council Action: Adopt Final Changes for the 2018 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Fishery Regulations and Provide Guidance on Further Consideration of Options to Address Derby Fisheries | |