

2012 PACIFIC HALIBUT REGULATIONS

Under its standard process, the Council solicits proposed changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) (Agenda Item D.1.a, Attachment 1) 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. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has prepared an inseason update on 2011 halibut catch in Area 2A with the assistance of state and tribal managers to provide perspective on the performance of the current CSP (Agenda Item D.1.b, NMFS Report).

For the 2012 season, the Council is considering changes to the management of recreational fisheries in Washington, Oregon, and California. The proposed changes resulted from recommendations provided by the Washington and Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW and ODFW, respectively) after holding public meetings, from the International Pacific Halibut Commission, and from Council discussion and public testimony received at the September 2011 Council meeting.

The Council solicited public input on the changes on its website and in the Council Newsletter article from October 2011 (Agenda Item d.1.a, Attachment 2). ODFW and WDFW also solicited public input, including public hearings on September 26-30, and subsequently prepared agency recommendations for regulatory changes in 2012 (Agenda Item D.1.b, ODFW Report and Agenda Item D.1.b, WDFW Report).

Based on the input received since the September 2011 Council meeting, the Council will take final action on regulatory changes in the halibut fishery at this meeting.

Council Action:

- 1. Within the scope of the September 2011 proposals (D.1.a, Attachment 2) and public input, adopt Council recommendations for implementing proposed changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and annual regulations for 2012.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.1.a, Attachment 1: 2011 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan For Area 2A.
2. Agenda Item D.1.a, Attachment 2: Fall 2011 Newsletter Excerpt.
3. Agenda Item D.1.b, NMFS Report: Report on the 2011 Pacific Halibut Fisheries in Area 2A.
4. Agenda Item D.1.b, ODFW Report: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for the 2012 Fishery.
5. Agenda Item D.1.b, WDFW Report: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and 2012 Annual Regulations.
6. Agenda Item D.1.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Chuck Tracy
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Proposed Changes to the 2012 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Fishery Regulations.

PFMC
10/13/11